



## Disciplines of a Godly Man

*R. Kent Hughes*

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"Discipline is a subject about which the Scriptures say much—but contemporary authors have been peculiarly silent. Kent Hughes fills a gaping void with this superb volume.... If there is a spark of spiritual desire in your soul, this book will surely kindle it into a blazing passion for godly discipline."

**-John MacArthur**, pastor and best-selling author

"This is a book for men who are eager to learn how to be more effective. It comes from the pen of one who has learned to serve as he has led and who is able to provide the reader with many practical applications of eternal truth."

**-C. William Pollard**, Chairman and CEO, The ServiceMaster Company

"To open this book and find someone taking seriously the biblical call of 'agonizing to enter the kingdom' and... boxing and sweating like a champion to get victory over sin is the most refreshing thing I could have set my eyes on."

**-John Piper**, pastor and popular author

"An outstanding volume for men and women alike!... Over 250 pages devoted to the practical outworking of discipline on subjects like purity, marriage, prayer, the tongue, the mind, our work, leadership, ministry, and many, many more. I guarantee: Digest this book and you will bid the blahs farewell."

**-Charles Swindoll**, pastor and best-selling author

"I enjoyed reading Disciplines of a Godly Man because it challenged my spirit. I highly recommend it to men who are not

thin-skinned."

**-Mike Singletary**, Hall of Fame linebacker for the Chicago Bears

"An inspiring and practical guide for men who seek to reflect God's glory in their lives. This book is a challenging text for personal devotions as well as for assisting young followers of Christ to grow in their walk with God."

**-Lieutenant General Howard D. Graves** (U.S. Army, Retired), Former Superintendent, United States Military Academy (West Point, NY)

## **Disciplines of a Godly Man Details**

Date : Published October 26th 2011 by Crossway Books (first published June 30th 1991)

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## From Reader Review Disciplines of a Godly Man for online ebook

### **Jacob Stevens says**

This is a very good book for men looking to live out what it means to be a Godly man. It stresses that it takes work and lots of it. It's a discipline that isn't going to just happen. Hughes covers home life to church life to work life. My only dislike of the book was that some of the practical steps sounded more like rules to follow to be a "good" Christian. I don't think that this was his purpose at all, but some came off that way. This is good read for any man.

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### **Rick Owens says**

Simply excellent!

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### **Josh Broccolo says**

Challenging and encouraging. I was surprised by the amount of meat in the book (each chapter feels like Hughes could have written a separate book on the subject) and it's focus on actually doing what the book requires, instead of simply gaining knowledge. The last chapter is basically an action plan. While "man" is in the title, I think women will be challenged by this book as well, so long as they understand the writer's perspective.

Highly recommended for anyone looking to live out their Christianity on a daily basis.

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### **Shea Schrepf says**

"Legalism says, 'I will do this thing to gain merit with God,' while discipline says, 'I will do this because I love God and want to please Him.' Legalism is man-centered; discipline is God-centered"

I feel like this sums up the goal and intent of this book. It isn't written from some list of do's and don'ts. It does provide practical advice as to how you can become more Godly and disciplined in the areas of: Purity, Marriage, Fatherhood, Friendship, Mind, Devotion, Prayer, Worship, Integrity, Tongue, Work, Church, Leadership, Giving, Witness, and Ministry. These things are the things he argues define Biblical masculinity, and I can agree.

Hughes also backs up his book with plenty of Biblical support for each topic, and again as I have mentioned provides incredibly sound and challenging advice to a world that needs it so desperately. I grew up for a majority of my life without a father, and so these are the exact things I wish had been imparted to me earlier in life.

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## **Todd Bryant says**

Superb...challenging...convicting.

Our men's Sunday School class just read through this book together. I cannot recommend it more. It is greatly challenging--urging men to be mature and complete Christians in all facets of life. Every male Christian needs to read this book. Then, read it again.

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## **Hudson Christmas says**

In today's culture, discipline is an art form that is rarely seen in the modern man. As Kent Hughes explains in the beginning of his book, *Disciplines of a Godly Man*, in today's culture there is an alarming lack of spiritual leadership in today's evangelical churches. In his book, Kent Hughes seeks to address this problem at its starting point, the area of spiritual discipline for the average Christian man. Through a series of short, yet accurate chapters on a variety of areas that pertain to Christian men, Hughes drives home the point that spiritual discipline is a necessary part of the believer's life. To grow spiritually requires hard work, and men are not to withdraw from it.

This book was incredible to read. Convicting, yet encouraging in the best ways, Hughes' book is a war cry for the Christian man. So many helpful pieces of advice, delivered in a way that feels personal, but also rings with spiritual and Biblical truth; *Disciplines of a Godly Man* is a powerful book, and one that every Christian male should read as they seek to grow more like Christ and honor Him.

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## **Matthew Schrock says**

Very good reading, with a lot of "nuggets".

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## **Daniel says**

Update: When I originally read this book, it was a book I thought would be beneficial to re-read every 2 years. Well, it's taken me over 4 to come back to it, but it once again was a great challenge, full of practical insight, and covering a broad range of life. About 2/3rd of the way through, it was hard to keep going - perhaps because it offers so much to work on that it feels a bit overwhelming. But, reading it regularly and taking a few things at a time to work on I think is very much merited and beneficial.

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Original Review: Feb 24, 2012

There are some books on what it means to be a Christian man that feel more like they are fueled by popular movies and books (such books shall remain unnamed. :-) Hughes' call to men is something entirely different. He takes both the essential aspects of what it means to follow God (prayer, Scripture, etc.) and also takes the practical calls of our lives (fatherhood, relationships, thinking) and in both bases the call to discipline (or "holy sweat" - it's not discipline if you're not sweating as you work to develop it in your life) in God's words in Scripture and then practically applies it to live, giving challenging, yet appropriate, ways of developing

these key disciplines in our lives as we seek to love God and those he has put us in relationship with here on earth. I really enjoyed Hughes' blend of Scripture, practical, personal examples and literature, poetry and other stories from the culture around us.

In one of the Amazon reviews of this book, a reviewer mentions that he comes back to the book every year as a "check up". I don't know if I'll return to it every year, but I do know it's one I expect to return to frequently over the course of my life - and one I see myself sharing with other guys and using as a starting place in bible studies and mentoring.

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### **Mike says**

Every man ought to read a good devotional book from time to time. This book sees the passages about viewing the Christian life as a war, battle, race, athletic event and takes them seriously. He understands the need for men to wake up and realize that being godly is not something that happens to a man without hard, diligent, and focused work. This is one of those books I think men should read every couple of years, just to get their heads and hearts adjusted again.

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### **Gregory says**

Kent Hughes presents an excellent primer for men on living the Christian life. He extends his challenge to all of life, examining how grace-motivated discipline is vital to growth and godliness. Most chapters fall in the formula of "The Discipline of [X:]," and cover topics such as purity, discipline of mind, marriage, parenting, work, giving, witness, and ministry. Acting as a spiritual coach, Hughes lifts up the calls of Scripture, challenging men to be the leaders at home and in the church, and echoes the athletic analogies of the Apostle Paul in exhorting us to run in a way so as to win the prize. It's a book for every Christian man who is willing to take a concentrated look at his own life and take the call of discipleship more seriously. Time for some spiritual sweat.

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### **Mark Evans says**

Kent Hughes is a pastor and a prolific writer. He has been writing books for decades, and he continues to contribute to a popular commentary series. In the introduction to the book Hughes identifies two reasons for the purpose of the book; he writes, "in today's world and church the, disciplined lives are the exception not the rule... men are so much less spiritually inclined and spiritually disciplined than women." (P.15) Throughout the book it is clear that Hughes maintains his opinion regarding men as he continues to challenge men to step up. It is clear that there exists a lack of discipline in the lives of Christians in general. I would like to know how many people developed discipline as a result of reading this book.

Hughes begins the book by explaining what discipline is and then he breaks the book into five categories, Relationships, Soul, Character, Ministry and Discipline. In the section on relationships Hughes breaks it down even further to Purity, Marriage, Fatherhood and Friendship. In the discussion of purity he gives sad statistics of men's failure in this area. He explains how media has desensitized Christians to immoral sin. Our society is very sexual and sensual and the world encourages this immorality through television, movies, internet, and social networking. Hugh made a comment that was quite notable, he writes, "satan does not fill

us with the hatred of God, but, with forgetfulness of God.” Leland Ryken made the last comment in his book, *The Liberated Imagination: Thinking Christianly About the Arts*. We often forget about God and His presence within us. This truth should motivate us to be more mindful of how we allow our minds to wander, what we look at, what we say and our attitude.

In Hughes discussion of marriage, he reminds us that we are to love and sacrifice just as Christ does/did. It was interesting that Hughes pointed out that the longer we live with our spouse we will learn that she is like us, a sinner. (P. 37) As a husband, I often forget that in some cases my wife acts as she does because she is a sinner, but more importantly, so am I. In the chapter on fatherhood I was challenged by the comment, “we can either grace our children, or damn them with unrequited wounds which never seem to heal.” (P. 47) I was pleased to see that Hughes wrote a chapter on friendship. He writes, “listen well, and you will be pronounced a “brilliant” conversationalist! What’s more, people will discover they are important to you, which is the key to any friendship.” (P. 65) I appreciate the way Hughes organized the book, by discussing the importance of right relationship. He helps us to see the significance that we play in each others life. We can help each other to be more disciplined, more sanctified, and godly.

In the section designated as “Soul” Hughes divides his thoughts into four points, Mind, Devotion, Prayer, and Worship. In this division Hughes writes about our relationship to God. Regarding the mind Hughes writes, “God calls us in His Word to a massive and positive discipline of the mind. This can only happen through a profound exposure to and continual immersion in God’s Word, accompanied by the illumination of the Holy Spirit – an exposure that within the reach of all literate and semiliterate Christians.” (P. 77) The only way for Christians to bring every thought into captivity is by maintaining constant communication with God. Meditating on God’s Word not only allows Christians to be convicted of sin and receive instruction from the Holy Spirit, but there will also be a greater appreciation for God and a greater awareness of the awesomeness of God. Hughes reminds readers that “continual prayer is God’s will for every Christian. no exception... we must always be looking up.” (P. 98) There is no task too great or day too busy that should prevent our constant communication with God. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a continual conversation with God will also motivate Christians to keep the proper attitude toward others and circumstances. Hughes reminds men that when we worship “we should come with great expectation — for we will experience just what we expect... we need to fill ourselves with God’s truths our worship will be electrified with proper reality!” (P. 114) Great advice reminding us that when we approach worship we must do so with the proper attitude which can only occur after proper meditation.

The section on Character has been divided into four chapters, Integrity, Tongue, Work, and Perseverance. This section covers the way that we relate to the world around us. Unlike our close relationships discussed in the first few chapters these important disciplines affect our testimony and affect how we relate to others who are not close friends and family. As we work to improve these disciplines our character can influence others and as a result we may have opportunity to promote the gospel of Christ.

The last section of Ministry is divided into five parts, Church, Leadership, Giving, Witness, and Ministry. This section discusses the role that we play in the body of Christ. Belonging to the body of Christ requires the discipline to engage in all that the Lord provides for us through His church. The last chapter Grace of Discipline concludes with a challenge to thoughtfully respond to what has been read.

Hughes organized his book very well. I always appreciate it when an author divides his thoughts into points and sub-points with titles. This method helps readers to identify and find specific topics quickly. The book includes many great resources such as book lists, reading plans, and a lengthy bibliography with notes. The book provided some fresh insights and several reminders concerning biblical principles and truth. Hughes fulfilled his purpose in writing the book; he gave me plenty of things to think about.

### **Danny Deaubé says**

This book by Kent Hughes, literally changed my life of prayer and and daily scripture reading. It has been over six months since I began reading this book in a men's bible study group. I have prayed and read daily since I began this study, and I have group so much closer to God and the Lord Jesus Christ! I recommend this book on discipline to any man who wants to break out from the norm and truly worship God through a consistent prayer life and and a closer understanding of the word of God.

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### **Jeff Short says**

Challenging and convicting throughout. Kent Hughes has written an extremely practical book about living the Christian life as a man. I like the challenge he issues to men and the encouragement to holy sweat. We can sit around whining about our "issues" and our "struggles" or we can roll up our sleeves and get to work. Paul would have us to quit ourselves like men and be strong, to put away childish things, and to gird up our loins like men. In other words, get to work.

I realize a book like this can be dangerous. Some will use it to ply works righteousness and legalism. Unfortunately, they do the same with the Scripture. Hughes does bring it all together at the end under grace. It would have been better to have grace sprinkled a little more throughout and not saved so much for the end. Nevertheless, it is of grace and we need grace-driven effort, as D. A. Carson put it.

I highly recommend this book to Christian men and particularly those who have a good grasp of justification by faith and the operation of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

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### **Bill says**

Rigorous and relentless! A helpful challenge for me to live up the biblical commands for Christian men across the whole of life. A good mix of cultural commentary, biblical exposition and practical wisdom. At times I wished Mr R. Kent Hughes had mixed a little more gospel encouragement in amidst the brutal exhortations.

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### **John Rimmer says**

Helpful book, but can be a bit overwhelming. Much preferred to the classic "Celebration of Discipline" by Richard Foster, which I found to be a good bit too much like a vague spirituality buffet with a dash of Christianity on the top.

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