



do-right man

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A GOOD CHRISTIAN GUY?

A common date ad might list qualifications like, "He must open doors, pull out chairs and love his mama." While these are good qualities for a man to have, Pastor Will Owens of New Beginning Missionary Baptist Church in Oxford, Miss., believes there's more to being a good man—a good Christian man.

"According to the Bible, a good Christian man is one who is filled with the Holy Spirit and has the respect of people and of God," he says. "He's humble and meek with the sincere passion of God to care for all people—whether they're Christian or not."

Additionally, Edward Keyton, senior minister of Bouldercrest Church of Christ in Atlanta, says a good man has to be a leader for his family.

"The Bible makes the man head of the woman, and if the two live in the same house—then he's head of the household," he says, further explaining that as the protector, the provider and decision maker, a good man should be involved in all things that will affect his family.

While Keyton preaches traditional Christian roles where men rule the marital home, Owens takes a more contemporary view.

"I think a lot of times when the word 'man' is used in the Bible, it's not referring to gender, but more so to the human race," he says. "A good man is going to be open to accepting the woman as his helpmate. It's time for men and women to become equal partners in church and in society."

Owens adds that a good man should also help to provide financial, emotional and spiritual support for his family. But that doesn't mean he has to be the sole provider, say Johnny and Fay Brassell, also of Oxford, who have been married for 26 years and have three children.

"The way I see it, if the man has a good job where he can take care of everything, then the woman doesn't have to work, but if he doesn't have the means, then the woman can help him out," says Johnny.

Keyton agrees that men and women can and should share in running the household—albeit with different duties that complement each other. "Men are physically stronger, and women are better at nurturing the children." He adds that a good Christian man must also actively protect the welfare of society as well as the home by obeying the law.

Another credential for a good man, according to the Brassells, who attend church regularly, is setting a positive example. Johnny proudly states that his children have never seen him drink, smoke, gamble or curse.

"A person can be in the church and still be carnal because he hasn't grown [spiritually]," says Johnny.

But Keyton offers that doesn't necessarily make him bad. "A good man is going to treat you in such a way that he would want to be treated—with empathy, compassion and good character. This doesn't mean he doesn't have flaws, but he's still a good man."

The Brassells conclude that a good Christian man is really one who obeys the Word of God. "Trusting in the Lord to help make your family better is so unique because we can't function without His direction anyway."

—Ciara Walker