

Armor of God

Lord, right now by faith, I put on my armor. I put on the belt of truth. I will walk in integrity today. Falsehood and lies will be kept far from me. I will speak the truth today. I put on the breastplate of righteousness. My heart will be protected today. I will not be moved into action by my feelings but by your will. I will not let my emotions rule. I will let the mighty hand of God alone rule my life and my actions. I put on the shoes of peace. I will walk in your perfect peace today. I will not stir up strife against others and strife will not be stirred up against me. I will walk in your perfect peace – the peace that passes all understanding. I take up the shield of faith. With it I will extinguish the fiery darts of my adversary. I will not be moved to act by my circumstances. I will trust in God and stand firm in Him. I put on the helmet of salvation. My mind will be protected. My thoughts will be protected today. I will tear down every thought and imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. I take up the sword of the Spirit and I will use it both offensively and defensively today. I will use it to be conviction, correction and encouragement to my sisters and brothers; and I will use it to bring the truth to those who do not know You. I stand fully dressed in my armor, ready to stand against the enemy. I am covered by the blood and stand in the authority of the name of Jesus Christ. I will not take off my armor.

I am Committed

I am a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have stepped over the line; the decision has been made. I will not look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed; my present makes sense; my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, position or popularity. I don't have to be right; I don't have to be first; I don't have to be recognized; I don't have to be praised; I don't have to be regarded; I don't have to be rewarded I am committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. I now live by faith. I lean on His presence. I walk with patience. I live by prayer. I labor in love. My face is set. My road is narrow. My way is rough. My companions may be few but my guide is reliable. My mission is clear. I cannot be bought, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice. I will not hesitate in the presence of adversity. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy. I will not meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up. I won't shut up. I won't let up until I've stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up and preached up for the cause of Jesus Christ. I am a disciple of the Lord Jesus. I will go 'til He comes. I will give 'til I drop. I will preach 'til all know" I will work 'til He stops me and when He comes, He will find faith and commitment in my life. He will have no problem recognizing me. In Jesus name, Lord use me. Amen.

THE SIX GENERAL THEMES

1. REALISTIC

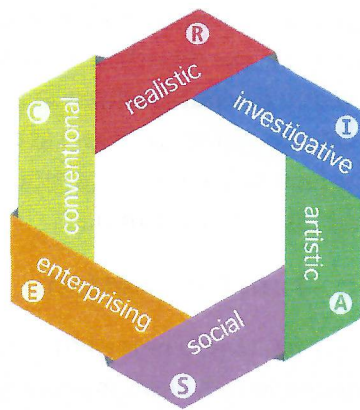
This theme represents practical, physically oriented type of person. They prefer activities such as electrical, mechanical, agricultural, and outdoor endeavors. They are typically conservative and aggressive and generally prefer being alone. They work well with their hands and around tools and machinery. They are most comfortable with objects.

2. INVESTIGATIVE

This theme represents people who emphasize thinking rather than acting out. They typically are involved with the sciences and tend to enjoy analyzing and problem solving. They also prefer to be alone. This type would usually focus on abstract, logical and scientific thought. They are most comfortable working with ideas and concepts.

6. CONVENTIONAL

This theme represents the type of person who prefers to follow and who is very conscientious about rules and expectations. They are orderly and organized and function best in structured, well-defined situations. While they admire and respect power, they do not seek it. Economic returns, dependability, and conservatism are primary values. They are self-controlled and not usually self-initiating. They are most comfortable working with people and especially when they are in a position to follow.



3. ARTISTIC

This theme represents the emotional, sensitive, creative type of person. Their interests and talents typically are in the arts. They are highly original and prefer to be alone. They focus primarily on abstract thought and self-expression through artistic means. They are typically nonconformists. They are most comfortable working with creative objects and concepts.

5. ENTERPRISING

This theme represents the verbal, dominating type of person. They typically excel as conversationalist and public speakers. They are self-confident, persuasive and prefer leadership. They place high value on economic returns, prestige and power. They prefer communicating over intellectual endeavors and typically have strong achievement needs. They are most comfortable working with people, especially when they are in a dominating role.

4. SOCIAL

This theme represents humanitarian, outgoing types. They place high priorities on contributing to the welfare of others. They enjoy close, interpersonal relationships and tend to be popular and optimistic. They are affectionate and sympathetic and function best when they are with other people. They focus on feelings more than thoughts and usually express themselves well. They are most comfortable working with people, particularly in a helping fashion.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SIX GENERAL THEMES

The following paragraphs represent a theoretical description of Dr. Holland's six vocational orientations.

REALISTIC—This theme represents practical, physically oriented type of person. They prefer activities such as electrical, mechanical, agricultural, and outdoor endeavors. They are typically conservative and aggressive and generally prefer being alone. They work well with their hands and around tools and machinery. They are most comfortable with objects.

INVESTIGATIVE—This theme represents people who emphasize thinking rather than acting out. They typically are involved with the sciences and tend to enjoy analyzing and problem solving. They also prefer to be alone. This type would usually focus on abstract, logical and scientific thought. They are most comfortable working with ideas and concepts.

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CONVENTIONAL—This theme represents the type of person who prefers to follow and who is very conscientious about rules and expectations. They are orderly and organized and function best in structured, well-defined situations. While they admire and respect power, they do not seek it. Economic returns, dependability, and conservatism are primary values. They are self-controlled and not usually self-initiating. They are most comfortable working with people and especially when they are in a position to follow.

PERSONAL GROWTH GOALS

Physical

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Intellectual

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Emotional

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Social

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Spiritual

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
-

THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES*

The Inward Disciplines

- Meditation
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Study

The Outward Disciplines

- Simplicity
- Solitude
- Submission
- Service

The Corporate Disciplines

- Confession
- Worship
- Guidance
- Celebration

*Adapted from Richard J. Foster's, *Celebration of Discipline*



The Path Toward Addiction

- 1. CURIOUS:** "A desire to learn about things that do not properly concern one."
- 2. EXPERIMENTING:** "Acting to find out whether something is effective or workable."
- 3. REGULAR:** "Recurring at set times."
- 4. HABITUAL:** "Acquired by continual use."
- 5. ADDICTED:** "Given oneself up to some strong habit."

Definitions are from Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, Second College Edition. David B. Gurañnik, Editor-in-Chief, New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc. 1985

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Ten Commandments of Advice for Ministry Parents

By Donald A. Lichi, PhD
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Research suggests both risks and rewards of growing up in a ministry home. The rewards include well developed social skills, opportunities for interaction with spiritual leaders, and resiliency. On the other hand, it is well documented that minister's children are under a microscope and often held to higher standards than other children. Based upon God's commands to Moses, here are some guidelines for the pastor in the role of parent:

- You shall not place your ministry or church as a higher priority than God and your family. Instead, you shall remember that your first call is to be a minister to your family as a spouse and as a parent.
- You shall not make idols for yourself. Remember to "use" things and "love" people... not the other way around. This will model for your children a healthy perspective on material things as well as placing a higher value on relationships.
- You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Instead, you shall model for your children a healthy submission to God's authority and submission to other constituted authorities. Children will learn that we are all under authority. This structure is God's provision for our guidance and safety.
- You shall keep a day of the week as your day off. This "Sabbath" day is a day to rest, refresh, renew and recreate. Model for your children that the world (and ministry) goes on without you and that a Sabbath rest is a wonderful gift of God.
- You shall honor your own parents. This models for your children a healthy inter-generational perspective of care and sacrificial living.
- You shall not murder. In practical ways you shall model for your children how to bless those who curse you, do good to those who spitefully use you and speak well of those who speak ill of you. Further you shall model a forgiving spirit.
- You shall not commit adultery. You shall model for your children that you are still madly in love with your spouse. This includes loving eye contact and gestures, affirming words, thoughtfulness and couple time away from the children.
- You shall not steal. You shall model for your children a spirit of generosity, giving and serving.
- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall model the value of building trusting relationships and nurturing several close friendships.
- You shall not covet. You shall model a lifestyle that is devoid of complain and one that exemplifies contentment with God's provision.