



Battle Briefing February 2021

We are living in and through divisive times, even in the body of Christ. I'm talking about folks in the same church bickering with each other over various issues that surely don't deserve the time or energy we give them. This is Satan at work. Let us pray as Jesus prayed, **"that they may be one even as we are one,"** John 17:11, 21 and 22.

We are all unique, created in the image of God but with distinct characteristics, personalities, stories and experiences. These lead to individualized perspectives and preferences. If we trust Christ for salvation, we are one with Him and each other. **Our differences don't have to divide us.** The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

Guys, lets take the lead in working on unity. **Here are a few thoughts.**

A friend often says, **"Let's seek common ground so we can move to higher ground."** Men, practice looking for areas where you agree with others vs. where you disagree.

Paul longed to visit Christ followers in Rome, **"that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."** Romans 1:12 Find ways to engage conversations for the express purpose of encouraging each other in the faith.

I'm simply suggesting that we do our best to live as Jesus prayed... **"so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."** John 17:23

I think we agree that what the world really needs is Jesus. **Let's make sure they can see His work in the way we live, love and lead.**

Serving Adventurously,

Mike Young

will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹²that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, ³ that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you, as well as among

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BUILDING MEN

If we say we need to build men strategically and intentionally, then we need to have an idea for what that looks like - or perhaps what it doesn't look like.

Recently, in our **1 Quick Question**, we asked men if their church has a strategic plan to disciple men. 60% replied no, and out of the 40% who say yes, their comments indicate that the plan provides fellowship but lacks long-term strategy for discipleship.

The Noble Man Podcast Episode 44 guest, Dr. Joe Martin of Real Men Connect, drives home the fact that building men must go beyond fellowship into brotherhood, discipleship, then disciple-making.



"Good men don't become great men without the help of godly men."

Men also responded to our survey saying that one of the top areas of equipping they desire is discipling others. Guys are hungry to invest, mentor, and disciple, but they are not necessarily sure where to begin.

So Who Will Go?

After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the Lord, **"Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?"** Judges 1:1

When it comes to men's ministry, if we aren't advancing in sanctification and growing to be more Christlike, it's just men getting together. **Thank you for leading the charge with us in strategically and intentionally building men.**

Pray with us...

- ▶ That every man in the church will connect with the purpose of spiritual growth.
- ▶ That we follow the example of Jesus in strategic, reproductive disciple-making.





BY THE NUMBERS...

The Noble Man Podcast continues to extend the reach of the ministry with some exciting milestones!

5000 downloads as of December

103 downloads in one day when we released Episode 42: *Why Men?* featuring a panel of ladies

794 downloads for the month of January - a new record

219 downloads of the most downloaded podcast, Episode 2: *Leading Through the Coronavirus Season*

Other top episodes include, *The Noble Man Knows He's in a Purity Battle* and *The Noble Man is Encouraged by His Wife*.

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Monthly Email for Ladies as they Encourage & Love their Men Well



Bimonthly Email with Blog Articles, Podcast Episodes, Events and Resources



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BABY YOUNG is due on March 21 so **TIM AND CAROLINE** are preparing the nursery! How about a Hawaiian surfing theme?

ZACH is back in Blacksburg for his final semester. His branch assignment is Aviation. One day, he'll be flying helicopters! He and other seniors are participating in a **BetterMan** group in Blacksburg

BEN is back to Raleigh, taking Politics and Religion in addition to Chemistry and Paper Science courses. He's already accepted a summer internship at the Rocket Center in WV.

HANNAH is happy to have her parents and the upstairs bathroom to herself. She is 16 now and counting down the days to her driver's license.

MIKE AND STACY are moving at warp speed toward new roles as grandparents. We still haven't settled on grandparent names. We both tested positive for COVID right before Christmas, so Tim and Caroline had to scuttle their visit with us. We are anxious to see them after the baby arrives!

FAMILY UPDATE

