

“The Prison System 101”

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While all modern societies have a "**crime**" problem, the United States stands virtually alone in relying solely on expanding its punitive incarceration system to address the problem.

The prison population has grown, not because of a growth in crime, but because of a complete systemic failure to prevent people already in the system from **re-offending**.

I believe young men with a purpose is much more likely to avoid behavior such as dropping out of school, become abusive in relationships, sell or use drugs, engage in criminal activity, become prone to violence, *and most importantly, end up serving time in the penal (prison) system.*

I believe there are many layers to understanding and addressing the needs of the male population. There is a growing number of the male population serving time in the penal system and a declining number of the male population enrolled in a college or university.

The act of incarceration has consequences for the inmate, as well as family members and the community at large.

I believe an over-reliance on the penal system to reduce crime and rehabilitate inmates are not as effective as EARLY prevention programs, parental involvement, spiritual guidance from houses of worship, community involvement by concerned citizens, and mentoring programs.

Doing something is better than doing nothing!

We live in a society where young men are growing up without strong positive guidance from the adult population and the results have been nothing short of a community disaster.

These young men need the firm and loving guidance where they are taught how to take personal responsibility for the direction of their lives, as well as being taught love, trust, and involvement in their local community.

The Tender Warrior Association sets the tone with young men by teaching them to respect other people, honor authority, respect other people's property and privacy, as well as to honor the law.

My basic belief is – **BOYS BECOME MEN IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHER MEN.**

I encourage all of us to master the ability to:

READ-WRITE-LISTEN-ANALYZE & SPEAK WELL.

I believe there are **Five (5) phases of Godly Manhood** and to living an authentic, complete, and satisfying life.

Stage (1) Boyhood – The characteristics and behavior associated with this phase are care free living and exploring the sights and sounds around them. At this stage in life, much supervision is needed because during the boyhood years, boy likes to experiment with different things. For this very reason, young boys need “much supervision” by adults.

Stage (2) Adolescence – This is the stage of life where the young man starts to focus on his own self-centeredness and his “immediate” desires. He begins to discover his hormones and comes face to face with his real sexual desires and pleasures. He begins to discover his desire to establish his own identity and his independence.

Stage (3) Manhood – This stage is where the man begins to understand and live out the true meaning of manhood. He accepts responsibility in every area of his life and does not blame others for his shortcomings.

Stage (4) Mentor – This is a man who guides young boys who need to step through adolescence, teenagers who need to step up to manhood. A mentor does not take the role of the parent, but he is able to effectively establish a unique relationship with his protégé, conducted over a prolonged period of time, for the purpose of providing consistent support, guidance, and advice to prepare the individual for adulthood.

Stage (5) Patriarch – This is an elderly man who is known for his wisdom and insight. He teaches younger men how to shield, defend, and to provide love, understanding, and to extend compassion when necessary.