

**DOUGLAS BOND**

FATHERS & SONS

**HOLD  
FAST**

IN A BROKEN WORLD



# CONTENTS

---

## **Young Men: Leaders and Servants**

1. Learn to Stand and Hold Fast (Hebrews 3:6, 14)
2. Learn to Worship (Isaiah 58:13–14)
3. Learn Freedom (Galatians 5:1, 13–14; 1 Corinthians 8:9–13; 9:19–23)
4. Learn Spiritual Warfare—Ron Boydston (Psalm 91; Ephesians 6:10–18)
5. Learn to Lead (Titus 1:5–9; 2:2, 6–8)
6. Learn to Be a Daniel—Bob Case (Daniel 1)
7. Learn to Work (Ephesians 6:5–9; Colossians 3:22–24)
8. Learn to Serve—Dan Steere (Mark 16:15)

## **Young Men: Culture and Art**

9. Culture and Warfare (Hebrews 11)
10. Culture, Worldliness, and Christ (1 Corinthians 1:18–31)
11. The Death of Art (Psalm 27)
12. The Dead White Males (Daniel 1:17; Acts 17:28; Numbers 21:27)

## **Young Men: Culture, Humanity, Truth, and Lies**

13. Culture Deconstructed (John 14:6)
14. Male and Female Deconstructed (1 Peter 3:7)

## CONTENTS

15. Marriage Deconstructed—Steve O’Ban (Genesis 2:19–25; Ephesians 5:31–32)
16. Deliver Us from Evil—John Chaffee (Psalm 139:13–18)

### **Young Men: Death, Suffering, and Heaven**

17. Dads, Sons, and Death (Psalm 90)
18. Life and Death—Ralph McLin (Genesis 18:25)
19. To Curse or Not to Curse? (Job 1:1–2:10)
20. Hand-on-Mouth Worship (Job 40–42)
21. Emmanuel’s Land (Revelation 22)

Select Bibliography

A Young Man’s Hymnal, Volume 2

# 1

## LEARN TO STAND AND HOLD FAST

---

Hebrews 3:6, 14

### Off the Track

Seth, a downhill skier, told me about a race in college where he found himself, at the last minute, requisitioned to fill in for an injured Nordic ski racer.

"I was a pretty good downhill skier," he told me, "but I'd never cross-country-skied in my life." But he was nineteen and invincible. "How hard could cross-country skiing be?" he thought as he latched on the narrow skis. The Nordic 10K freestyle race was the last event of the day, and the winning skier would cross the finish line in around fifteen minutes.

Seth figured that he'd show these wöenie Nordic skiers a thing or two about real skiing. But a fraction of a second after the start gun, he

began to realize that he might have miscalculated. Lean, spandex-clad Nordic skiers skated off the start, leaving Seth in a heap. But he was a competitor and staggered to his feet, lurching after them as he tried to imitate their powerful stride—a thing growing rapidly more difficult as they disappeared in front of him.

"10K of this?" he thought.

The last skier of the pack crossed the finish line half an hour later, but there was no sign of Seth. Granted, it was getting hard to see; night falls rapidly in the Cascade Mountains in winter. Forty-five minutes—still no Seth. Now it was fully dark.

Hopelessly far behind the other skiers, Seth had gotten off the track. Alone, he'd lost his way in the darkness. He spent the next two and a half hours staggering around in the cold and snow, trying to make his way back to the start line. He's never been cross-country skiing since.

The race of life has a particularly "icy, slippery way," in it called *youth*. Don't underestimate the difficulties. Add cultural enticements lying in wait around every corner, and youth becomes a skid road to disaster. Therefore, you must learn to hold fast, or you will lose your way.

## Truth

War correspondent Stephen Crane wrote a perceptive verse about life that begins, "The wayfarer, perceiving the pathway to truth." Though he perceives the pathway, he immediately faces an obstacle. The path to truth was "thickly grown with weeds"; few travelers were going to the trouble to take that road. Little wonder. It's a pathway that looks painful, one that is sure to be hard on the feet. At the last, Crane's persona concludes, "Doubtless there are other roads."

The world offers you a smorgasbord approach to life. Blaring at you from every pop-cultural signpost are messages urging you to find your own path, to make your own way in the world, to take one of the "other roads." But there's a problem. "To live after the course of the

world," wrote Samuel Rutherford in a letter to Ninian Mure, a young Scottish man, "will not bring you to heaven."

The path of truth is singular; it is absolutely exclusive. And yes, Crane was right; the pathway to truth can be hard on the feet. But only one pathway leads to heaven. So how does a young man stay in that way; how does he hold fast to his course when the path is littered with sharp obstacles?

By taking heed to the Word of God. Young men who know the truth, who are determined to hold fast to truth, to stay in the pathway, must be daily students of the divine travel guide, the Bible, the only perfectly reliable guidebook, devoid of error.

The "other roads" require you to stop thinking. But the Word and the Spirit renew your fallen reason, so that by God's grace you can think aright. A young man who stands fast for truth, who holds fast against error, must become a skillful thinker. He must cultivate sanctified thoughts, thoughts reined in and kept on a leash, thoughts full of awe and wonder at Christ.

And he will do this early. "I entreat you," wrote Rutherford, "now in the morning of your life, seek the Lord and his face." Wise young men seek early, like King Uzziah, who learned the fear of the Lord as a boy. Then, as a sixteen-year-old king, "he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD" (2 Chron. 26:4).

## Pride

Until he became proud. It was Uzziah's undoing, and it will be yours, if you don't hold fast to humility. Pride always has gone and always will go before a fall, yet so few young men take the crushingly destructive power of pride seriously.

I was reminded of just how early pride sets its hook in young men while reading about the latest golf prodigy, Riese Matthew Campbell Murphy, from Newmills, Scotland. Hold this kid's childhood golf record up next to Tiger Woods's, and he's impressive, including not one, but two holes in one so far. In an interview, he was asked whether he

wanted to be a great golfer someday. He looked askance at the reporter and replied in his baby brogue, "I'm already a great golfer."

He's only six years old!

Many things fuel men's pride, but sports ranks highest for most young men. You want to win. You want to be the greatest. You want to run the fastest, jump the highest, hit the hardest. You want to crush your opponent, and get all the credit for doing it. All this is pride, and though the Scriptures clearly warn us that God resists the proud man but gives grace to the humble man, we persist in our pride.

With athletics, you can easily find yourself running the wrong race. Instead of fixing your eyes on Jesus, instead of straining every spiritual muscle on the course of truth and life, the only path that leads to heaven, you can easily sell your soul to the god of the gridiron, the almighty of athletics. You must beware of pride. You must put it to death. By the grace of God, you must do it now.

### Idols

Men are "idol-making factories," John Calvin termed us, and one of the greatest idols that men create for themselves in the modern world is money. "Money! Nothing worse in our lives, so current, so rampant, so corrupting." Come to think of it, maybe it's not just modern man's problem. Sophocles, the paragon of Greek tragedy, penned these words twenty-five hundred years ago: "Money—you demolish cities, root men from their homes; you train and twist good minds and set them on to the most atrocious schemes. No limit, you make them adept at every kind of outrage, every godless crime—money!"

Christian young men must beware of the love of money, of worshipping at the shrine of wealth, of pitching their hopes on material prosperity—and so forfeiting their souls. Sell your soul for thirty pieces of silver or thirty million pieces, it makes no difference in hell.

There are other kinds of idols, ones of the heart and imagination. Lustful thoughts after the body of an attractive young woman become

FATHERS & SONS, Vol. 1: *Stand Fast in the Way of Truth*

FATHERS & SONS, Vol. 2: *Hold Fast in a Broken World*

"Douglas Bond doesn't write for the faint-hearted. This is for men who want the next generation—including their very own sons—to be more stalwart than they were themselves. . . ."

—JOEL BELZ, founder, *World* magazine

With clarity and piercing insight, *Fathers and Sons*:

- + alerts young men to the dangers that face them
- + teaches them how to put away sin and worship God
- + prepares them to be leaders and fathers
- + helps them be in culture but not of culture

In this second of two volumes, author Douglas Bond emphasizes:

- + biblical living in a post-Christian culture
- + being salt and light in a dark world
- + masculinity in a feminine culture
- + church and worship
- + being a man of faith in life and in death

**DOUGLAS BOND** heads the English department at Covenant High School in Tacoma, Washington, and is a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in America. Bond lives with his wife, two daughters, and four sons in Washington State. Visit his website at [www.bondbooks.net](http://www.bondbooks.net).

"Douglas Bond's engaging study will help us as men know how to think about our world and our responsibilities as sons and fathers and leaders."

—BENTLEY B. RAYBURN, Major General USAF (Retired)

Cover design: Tobiasz Outerwear for Books  
Cover image: CoriStock Images / Jupiter

[www.prpbooks.com](http://www.prpbooks.com)

**PRP**

PUBLISHING

PROUDLY PRINTED AND MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPIRITUAL GROWTH / YOUNG MEN

ISBN: 978-1-59038-077-6

ISBN



5 1499

9 781590 380776