

**SEARCHING FOR SUPERMAN –
WHY WE NEED HEROES**

As we remember the sacrifice of our veterans on Memorial Day, what better time to ask, "What is a true hero?"

¹³[Jesus said,] "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

I. What Is a Hero?

- *A Typical Definition:* Anyone who is extraordinary that we _____ and imitate.
- Then our heroes will be based on the values we ultimately _____ the most.



1. A true hero commits uncommon & extraordinary acts of courage and self-sacrifice for the welfare of _____ or higher ideals.
 2. Anyone who models consistent Christian character in spite of pressures to do otherwise and the subsequent personal cost - these are those that we should admire and imitate.

¹⁵Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶Therefore I urge you to imitate me (Paul). I Corinthians 4:15-16

II. Why We Need Heroes

- *Heroes "flesh out" abstract ideals for better* _____.
- *Heroes excite and* _____ *us* to try to live our ideals.
- *Heroes give us an example to* _____.
- *Some hate heroes because they don't want to be* _____ to live better lives.
- *Some cynics attack heroes because of their* _____ *view* on life and people.
- *Heroes are not* _____. *They have flaws.* We can't expect them to be perfect but we can expect them to rise above their human flaws with greater attributes and accomplishments than what would be normally expected. Ex. Simon Peter.
- *Heroes are* _____, but not to be "idolized."



Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to Your Word. Psalm 119:37

III. Watch Out for Fake Heroes

- *"Beautiful people"* who are rich or famous, based on their:
 - 1) Talent,
 - 2) Good looks,
 - 3) Entertainment ability,
 - 4) _____ status.
- *Their "hero status" is based on self-centered, _____, meaningless, or corrupt values* that our "flesh" (sinful nature) appeals to. If we consider fake heroes to be heroes, it tells us a lot about our own character & values.
- *Fake Heroes* – Those whose secular image says "hero", but the reality or their motives say "_____"; III John 11.
- *Caution: There should be cautious* _____ with the right hero criteria before hero status is given.

To this you are called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. I Peter 2:21

IV. How to Spot a True Hero

- *Since we can be easily fooled by fame or fakes, why not let _____ help us determine true heroes through the standard & example of Jesus?*

True heroes will show these spiritual qualities of Jesus Christ (in Philippians 2:5-11):

Sacrifice	Service	Love
Courage	Endurance	Humility
Forgiveness	Serving others	



- *The world's greatest hero, _____.*
- *Jesus, as our hero, challenges and motivates us, and is our example to _____.*
- *Because Jesus is to be our example, we must strive to become heroes in our _____ unique lives.*
- *Because of Jesus, Christian heroism is not only possible, but is _____.*
Because evil is enormous and ever-present, we must fight against untruth, suffering, injustice and hatred in the outside world, and against self-deception, pride, hypocrisy and selfishness within ourselves:
- *When we discover Christian heroes, our ultimate focus is on _____ within them,* rather than the heroes themselves. Ex. Jesus was great in Billy Graham.
- **Obstacles to Heroism:**
1) _____, 2) fear, 3) selfishness, 4) self-satisfaction.
- *I am ordinary, how can I be a hero?* Be an "**ordinary hero**" – living your ordinary life _____ by imitating Christ and fulfilling your missions and ministries faithfully with spiritual excellence.

Who Are Your Personal Heroes?

Answers: I. Admire; cherish; others. II. Understanding; motivate; imitate; challenged; negative; perfect; examples. III. Celebrity; superficial; personal gain; evaluation. IV. God; Jesus Christ; imitate; own; expected; Jesus; laziness; extraordinarily.

Decision Time

- 1) Have you confused celebrity with hero?
- 2) Do you agree with the definition of hero? Why or why not?
- 3) Do you agree that Jesus is the world's greatest hero? If so, have you decided to follow Him as Lord and Savior?
- 4) Who are your personal heroes? Do they meet the definition of hero & the characteristics of Christ, the world's greatest hero?
- 5) Name some ordinary heroes and spiritual heroes in your life. Let them know they are a hero to you.