



WORDS FROM *Pastor Randy*

Dennis Swanberg along with Ron Smith recently published a book called “**The Man Code.**” In it, they used the combination numbers on our old high school lockers to unlock the 5 relationships that God intended for every man to have. These keys are found in the string of 5 numbers that form a simple code:

1 – 3 – 12 – 120 – 3000

What does this combination of numbers mean?

#1 is the most important number in any man’s life and it signifies our need for a one-to-one relationship with the God Who created us. We are wired to relate to Someone far bigger than our self. Within our deepest heart is a need to personally know and experience God.

This code begins a relationship of fellowship with our Heavenly Father and it establishes His ultimate control in our lives.

#3 signifies three friends that a man can completely trust. Every man needs a few guys who will be there for him in the good times and the bad. This small group of trusted friends watches his back and holds him accountable. They are so comfortable with each other that they hold each other responsible for his actions. They always tell you the truth and call you on the carpet when necessary. They know you and still love you no matter what.

#12 is the number for a larger circle of friends and supporters that every man needs. You remember that Jesus chose 12 companions in His earthly ministry. The exact number is not the important thing, but having other men around you is. These are guys who enjoy each other’s company. They can golf, fish, travel, eat, worship, and just hang out together.

#120 stands for the church. This number is pictured by the 120 believers who gathered to pray in an upper room in Jerusalem. Every man needs a band of believers to which he can identify. This is his local church. We need our church more than our church needs us. The local church is at the very center of God’s plan for our world. When men get involved in their church they engage themselves in accomplishing God’s will on earth.

#3000 is the number of people who responded to Peter’s message at Pentecost. This number reminds men of the great need to reach out to our community and to our world with the message of Jesus. It speaks of the great things that God can do and wants to do through us.

The balanced life of the Christian man according to Swanberg & Smith begins with our one-on-one relationship with God. Then, we find 3 trusted friends who are solid brothers in Christ. Next, the number increases to a dozen or so buddies to whom we can relate as friends. Finally, we are engaging our world beginning with our community, reaching and serving the needs of those around us.

So here’s 5 numbers that every man needs to know . . . **1 – 3 – 12 – 120 – 3000**. They just might serve as secrets for cracking the code to become what God has planned for us to be . . . real men relating in a real world.

See you in church!

Pastor Randy

Trivia That Isn't Trivial

1. What does the word "Bible" mean?
2. By how many authors were the 66 books of the Bible written?
3. What Bible owned by the United States Government, and constantly on display at the Library of Congress, is valued at above one million dollars?

ANSWERS

1. Translated from the Greek word, "*biblia*," it means "the books"
2. Above 40
3. A copy of the first printed Gutenberg Bible