



# WHAT ARE MEN FOR?

**recovering godly masculinity**

spring 2021 | vital life course

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

— Genesis 2:15–18

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

—1 Corinthians 16:13-14

## **On Masculine Virtue**

*Elijah: Fear of the LORD*

1 Kings 18:20-40

So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken." Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it." And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name," and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time." And they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it a third time. And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day

that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.” And Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape.” And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

The fear of the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

The fear of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ opposition

It \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to them

The fear of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

The fear of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2 Chronicles 16:9a — Asa and the Syrians

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. (NASB - “completely his”)

#### Philippians 1:27–30

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The need: men who fear the Lord above \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

## WHAT IS A MAN?

### What the world says

What do you observe?

What are you hearing?

### Authority & Oppression: Feminism & “The Patriarchy”

Emasculate

Feminize/sensitize

Passivity

On feeling ashamed vs. thanking God

Fear of man – “The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe” (Prov 29:25)

The *impossibility* of inoffensiveness (gentleman or coward?)  
Prov 29:27 (look it up!)

On speaking the truth in love (and being nice)

James 5:19-20 – “My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings

back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

## Expressive Individualism

Looking within

Psychological happiness

On feelings

Sex as your deepest identity

Narcissus’ folly

“The break with the past that modernity represents is decisive, for it cuts us off from any agreed-on transcendent metaphysical order by which our culture might justify itself.”<sup>1</sup>

“The framework for identity in wider society is deep rooted, powerful, and fundamentally antithetical to the kind of identity promoted as basic in the Bible.”<sup>2</sup>

Is there any transcendent standard, any human nature, any masculine nature, to which we should submit, aspire, and ascend?

### **Has God really said...?**

Does Scripture give us any guidance for biblical masculinity?

Gen 1:1 “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...”

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<sup>1</sup> Carl Trueman, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*, 388.

<sup>2</sup> Trueman, 393.

**Genesis 1:26-31** (*a first reading*)

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

What is human nature?

*Imago Dei*

Unique among creation

All persons everywhere (Gen 1:26-28; 9:6)

Creator-creature

*Sensus divinitatis*

Rom 1:18-20 – “...for what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them...his invisible attributes...So they are without excuse.”

“To call human beings God’s image is to say that the human person is God’s likeness, his portrait in miniature, his imprint, effigy, or ectype. The image of God is the human similarity to God whereby we display, in our own creaturely way, the highest perfection of God.

The image of God, therefore, exists:

1. In the essence of our humanity: with soul and body as substrate;
2. In the capacities and abilities of that essence: knowing, feeling, willing, and acting;
3. In the properties and gifts of that essence and their capabilities: holiness, knowledge, righteousness.”<sup>3</sup>

Q: What does our culture think of human nature?

Embodied souls

Q: What does our culture do with bodies? With souls?

Federal headship

“in Adam”

“in Christ”

Q: What does our culture make of headship?

Exercise dominion

Vice-regency

The nature of culture

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<sup>3</sup> Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Ethics*, 36.



“We cannot know proper dominion over nature apart from God and his revelation.”<sup>4</sup>

Q: What does our culture value and celebrate?

Be fruitful and multiply?

Fill the earth and subdue it

Extending the garden, through image bearers

Q: How does our culture view children?

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<sup>4</sup> Bavinck, 42-43.

## TO WORK IT AND KEEP IT

### On Masculine Virtue

*Jonathan: Courage & Initiative*

One day Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, “Come, let us go over to the Philistine garrison on the other side.” But he did not tell his father...

Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the LORD will work for us, for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few.” And his armor-bearer said to him, “Do all that is in your heart. Do as you wish. Behold, I am with you heart and soul.” Then Jonathan said, “Behold, we will cross over to the men, and we will show ourselves to them. If they say to us, ‘Wait until we come to you,’ then we will stand still in our place, and we will not go up to them. But if they say, ‘Come up to us,’ then we will go up, for the LORD has given them into our hand. And this shall be the sign to us.” So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, “Look, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves.” And the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor-bearer and said, “Come up to us, and we will show you a thing.” And Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, “Come up after me, for the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel.” Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, and his armor-bearer after him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed them after him. And that first strike, which Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, killed about twenty men within as it were half a furrow’s length in an acre of land. And there was a panic in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and even the raiders trembled, the earth quaked, and it became a very great panic.

—1 Samuel 14:1, 6–15

Godly courage and initiative is grounded in \_\_\_\_\_ .

Godly courage and initiative are \_\_\_\_\_, but they are not \_\_\_\_\_ .

Godly courage and initiative are concerned for \_\_\_\_\_, not our own.

## A few words about Foundations...

Revelation & authority

A \_\_\_\_\_ view of masculinity

General & Special (and Inerrancy)

The nature of truth & theology

Not because you \_\_\_\_\_ it, but because it's \_\_\_\_\_

We are all \_\_\_\_\_. It's just a matter of quality.

Submission & starting again

Acts 2:37-39

On being unashamed & unapologetic

Phil 1:27-30

Building well

1 Cor 3:10-15 (cf. 1 Pet 1:6-7)

## Rehearsing Genesis 1

*What did we see?*

You were \_\_\_\_\_ by God:

to \_\_\_\_\_ him as his vice-regent

to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ over the earth

to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ with his image-bearers

The relation of men and women is \_\_\_\_\_

## Genesis 2:5-9, 15-18

When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

Adam was \_\_\_\_\_ by God

On mission

On Eve’s role

Adam was \_\_\_\_\_

Why does that matter?

1 Timothy 2:12-13

The inescapability (and goodness) of hierarchy

The sin of effeminacy

Nahum 3:13

1 Cor 6:9 (*malakoi*)

Deut 22:5

The sin of macho-masculinity

Gen 3:16

Adam \_\_\_\_\_ a helper

Why does that matter?

Companion-ed

1 Cor 11:8-9

Prov 18:22

The Three P's of Masculinity

Protect

Provide

Procreate

All under the heading of \_\_\_\_\_

Once more on Responsibility

Where's your focus?

Its relation to authority

## TO WORK IT...

### On Masculine Virtue

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: Stalwart Faith*

Daniel 3:1-30

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

—Daniel 3:16–18

Stalwart faith \_\_\_\_\_

Stalwart faith \_\_\_\_\_ for the outcome

Stalwart faith values \_\_\_\_\_

It is willing to bear the \_\_\_\_\_

It trusts God with the \_\_\_\_\_

cf. Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11:13–16

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

## Hebrews 11:35b–38

Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

### **On Work**

Brief review: God created man and put him in the Garden *to work it and keep it*. He commissioned him and gave him commands before he created the woman.

### Definitions

Work—to labor to make things grow (nurture, cultivate, tend, build up, guide, rule)

To \_\_\_\_\_ in accomplishing things of value

Keep—to protect and sustain the progress already achieved (guard, keep safe, watch over, care for, maintain)

To \_\_\_\_\_ for the well-being of our charges

Masculine Mandate—to be spiritual men placed in real-world, God-defined relationships, as lords and servants under God, to bear God's fruit by serving and leading.

Masculinity—authority, sacrifice, responsibility, & initiation

Femininity—submission, obedience, gratitude, & responsiveness



## The Nature of Work

### Man

- Exercise \_\_\_\_\_ and subdue \_\_\_\_\_
- N\_\_\_\_\_, T\_\_\_\_\_, D\_\_\_\_\_, R\_\_\_\_\_
- To t\_\_\_\_\_ the ground, and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the earth

Days 1-3

### Woman

- Be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ the earth
- F\_\_\_\_\_, G\_\_\_\_\_, G\_\_\_\_\_, Establish c\_\_\_\_\_
- Bring forth \_\_\_\_\_
- Bring \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ through union

Days 4-6

*Imago dei*—we were designed to bear God's \_\_\_\_\_ in the world by accomplishing God's \_\_\_\_\_.

This is a \_\_\_\_\_ endeavor

### Hard Work

“\_\_\_\_\_ days you shall work...” (Exod 20:8-11; cf. Gen 2:2-3)

Reward—Matt 25:21

### Laziness

Proverbs—a perennial problem; a path to prospering

10:4-5

12:14

14:23

24:30-34

## Good Works

Anything we do in \_\_\_\_\_ and for God's \_\_\_\_\_

Eph 2:10; Col 1:10

Finding our roles (*voccare* and questions)

Does this work glorify God?

Benefit my fellow man?

Provide for material needs?

Permit me to lead a godly and balance life?

Am I called and/or do it well/find enjoyment?

## Authority and Office

On Responsibility

Accountability

Authority (and office)

Busybodyness

Abdication

Gilder: constructive or destructive \_\_\_\_\_

Achievement

Respect

Prov 12:24

Achievement

Prov 22:29

2 Thess 3:10

It is right to \_\_\_\_\_ someone by their work

Rest

Sabbath and the Lord's Day

## Wealth, Contentment, and Generosity

1 Tim 6:6-10, 17-19

Proverbs 30:8-9

Remove far from me falsehood and lying;  
give me neither poverty nor riches;  
feed me with the food that is needful for me,  
lest I be full and deny you  
and say, "Who is the LORD?"  
or lest I be poor and steal  
and profane the name of my God.

## Vocation

*Voccare*

1 Cor 10:31

Loving our neighbors

Recognizing the invisible hand of Providence

*What are your roles and responsibilities?*

## ...AND KEEP IT

### On Masculine Virtue

*David & Jonathan: Godly Friendship*

1 Samuel 18:1-5; (1 Samuel 20); 2 Samuel 1; 2 Samuel 9:1

As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

2 Samuel 1:26

I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;  
very pleasant have you been to me;  
your love to me was extraordinary,  
surpassing the love of women.

2 Samuel 9:1

And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

Godly friendship \_\_\_\_\_ and loves \_\_\_\_\_

Godly friendship \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ of the other

Godly friendship \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ in adversity

Godly men are drawn to godly men (and so are godly women...)

## On Keeping

What is it?

Being aware of and engaged with \_\_\_\_\_

“the glad embrace of sacrificial responsibility”

According to our God-given vocations

Not \_\_\_\_\_ our own risks...

...but protecting others from theirs

On fighting and strength

Christianity is not \_\_\_\_\_

Martial imagery in Scripture

1 Tim 6:12; Eph 6:10-20

Whose glory?

Fathers must prepare their sons for \_\_\_\_\_

Knowing our enemies

The world

The flesh

The devil

The Deliverer

Kill the \_\_\_\_\_, win the \_\_\_\_\_

Under God—Psalm 19:7-11

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;  
the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;  
the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;  
the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.  
Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

So we must \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God's word

Lest we be truly \_\_\_\_\_

This is the pursuit of a \_\_\_\_\_

## THE WOMAN

### On Masculine Virtue

*Jesus Christ: the loving Husband*

Ephesians 5:25–33

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

A loving husband \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Christ

A loving husband \_\_\_\_\_ his wife \_\_\_\_\_ others

A loving husband works for his wife’s \_\_\_\_\_

A loving husband \_\_\_\_\_ himself for his \_\_\_\_\_

In all of this, he is \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_

“...but he shall rule over you.” (Gen 3:16)

Similarly, a wife’s \_\_\_\_\_ undoes the curse (vv. 21-24)

“your desire shall be for (contrary to) your husband...”

Gospel marriage is thus a demonstration of redemption from the curse



## On Woman

What is a woman? What are women *for*?

Gen 1:26-28

Genesis 2:18–25

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man.”

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 3:20

The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Without Eve, Adam could not \_\_\_\_\_ his mandate

She is both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to him

## On limitation

“Art is limitation; the essence of every picture is the frame. If you draw a giraffe, you must draw him with a long neck. If in your bold creative way you hold yourself free to draw a giraffe with a short neck, you will really find that you are not free to draw a giraffe.”<sup>5</sup>

Freedom offers the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_ within \_\_\_\_\_

Again, looking within or looking without?

## Four Feminine Qualities

1 Subdue

2 Fill

Her name: the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Her design: to create and nurture life

Bodily realities

Protective necessities

The point of attack: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

To liberate women from \_\_\_\_\_

3 Help

She submits to and obeys \_\_\_\_\_ husband, an \_\_\_\_\_

What man has God given her and how does she help *him*?

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<sup>5</sup> GK Chesterton, *Orthodoxy* (Chicago: Moody, 2009): 64.

## 4 Glorify

aka, fruitfulness

### Application: On Marriage & Singleness

Marriage is \_\_\_\_\_, though affected by the fall

Unwanted singleness is an \_\_\_\_\_

There is no \_\_\_\_\_ of singleness, but of \_\_\_\_\_ (willing and faithful sexual purity)

Jesus & Paul both speak of some who are \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of the kingdom (Matt 19: 1 Cor 7).

“Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.”

Therefore, we ought to be raising our sons to be husbands, while leaving open the other categories as possibilities

Even if a man never marries, he still must exhibit mature masculinity in his relationships and responsibilities.

If a man does not have the gift of chastity, then he ought to be preparing himself to be an attractive husband and considering what woman to pursue.

### Her Home

Titus 2:3–5

Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

A woman's priority is her \_\_\_\_\_ and her \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 31—on household productivity (the center of economic activity)

Running a home well is an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ role that requires skill, competence, ingenuity, and expertise.

What tasks does God give and what does excellence look like?

Food, clothes, the house, children

Economic gain, helping her husband

I'm not addressing single women; though just like single men, they ought to display mature femininity in their relationships and responsibilities.

## CHILDREN

How does the Bible view children?

Genesis 1:26–28

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Psalm 127:3–5

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,  
the fruit of the womb a reward.  
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
are the children of one’s youth.  
Blessed is the man  
who fills his quiver with them!  
He shall not be put to shame  
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Malachi 2:13–15

And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD’s altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did

he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

Proverbs 17:6

Grandchildren are the crown of the aged,  
and the glory of children is their fathers.

For those who are married children are \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_

They are a design feature of marriage

Sadly, the fall often makes child-bearing very difficult: infertility, miscarriage

This ought not to surprise us because of the curse; but it is still tragic

Genesis 3:16 – To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children.”

The overall tenor of Scripture favors \_\_\_\_\_ families, if possible

Having children in a fallen world is an expression of faith in God

Ps 127:3-5 (above)—“...who fills his quiver...”

Not a \_\_\_\_\_ to be managed, but a \_\_\_\_\_ to be embraced

Raising children is \_\_\_\_\_, but also \_\_\_\_\_

The more children you have, the greater your responsibilities: providing, instructing, protecting, loving, disciplining, caring, educating, etc.

Stepping into the responsibilities of marriage and children is the primary way that God matures and sanctifies most men, and it is for our good to know that others are depending on us and looking to us.

“Counterfeit masculinity excels at making excuses...A refusal to make excuses is right at the heart of a scriptural masculinity.”<sup>6</sup>

“Godly parenting is a function of becoming more like Jesus in the presence of little ones who are also in the process of becoming more like Jesus.”<sup>7</sup>

We must model working hard for our children, and our diligence and excellence as husbands and fathers is our single greatest opportunity to do so.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the #1 cause of poverty

“Boys can usually work much harder than they say they can.”<sup>8</sup>

What do you expect from your children?

What do you allow?

What do you reward?

Ephesians 6:1–4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Proverbs 23:24–25

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice;  
he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.  
Let your father and mother be glad;  
let her who bore you rejoice.

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<sup>6</sup> Douglas Wilson, *Future Men*, 22.

<sup>7</sup> Douglas Wilson, *Why Children Matter*, 80.

<sup>8</sup> Douglas Wilson, *Future Men*, 88.

Proverbs 15:20

A wise son makes a glad father,  
but a foolish man despises his mother.

### **3 Essentials Qualities of Fatherhood**

#### 1) Love

Matthew 3:16–17

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Proverbs 23:26

My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

#### 2) Instruct

Ephesians 6:1–4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:1–9

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O



Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Constantly

Imitatively (1 Cor 11:1)

Integratively

“Parenting is the process of transferring our worldview to the next generation.”<sup>9</sup>

### 3) Discipline

“Being a father figure means imposing your will on your children by the force of your personality and authority.”<sup>10</sup>

Hebrews 12:5–11

And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.  
For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

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<sup>9</sup> William Farley, *Gospel-Powered Parenting*, 42.

<sup>10</sup> Richard Phillips, *The Masculine Mandate*, 113.

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Fathers are responsible for the misbehavior of their children. Fathers set the tone in the home of love and discipline, and of obedience. If any of those elements are missing, the father is responsible and must take action (begin by confessing...).

APP: Are your children whiny and demanding?

Rebellious children can come from \_\_\_\_\_, but they can also come from \_\_\_\_\_. A father who does *not* discipline his children does not love them; as does a father who *only* directs/ disciplines/instructs/corrects.

Fathers need to know, love, and engage with the gospel if they are going to be able to offer it to their children, and to parent within it.

Consistently

Few rules, consistently enforced

On deception & disrespect

Lovingly

Do your children know your love before, during, and after discipline?

With faith

Looking to law, or gospel?

Angry (exasperated), or patient?

“When you discipline your children correctly, *you are loving your grandchildren.*”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Douglas Wilson, *Why Children Matter*, 89.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

### Questions

*How do I know when and how to stand for righteousness in my workplace or in the public square?*

Do you have a \_\_\_\_\_?  
Is it \_\_\_\_\_?  
Are you prepared to \_\_\_\_\_ for it?

*What does it mean to live with my wife in an understanding way and not abdicating leadership (1 Pet 3:7)?*

Understanding way = \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Show honor (weaker vessel) = undoing Gen 3:16; valuing (to her and the kids)

Co-heirs = recognizing and strengthening her \_\_\_\_\_

If not, your \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_

It will affect God's \_\_\_\_\_ toward you.  
She's his \_\_\_\_\_

*What does it look like to faithfully pursue a wife? And what's the difference between a biblical approach and a foolish one?*

Understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of the office

Pursue growth in every way

Provide  
Protect  
Nurture

Seek the Lord

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.

## Concluding Thoughts

*How do I grow in biblical masculinity?*

The essence of biblical masculinity is the glad embrace of sacrificial responsibility—so step into responsibility.

This may be a new responsibility, like winning a wife

Or it may be an existing responsibility that you have neglected, like:

Most importantly, spiritual growth in \_\_\_\_\_

Theological and Scriptural knowledge

“A man who is weak in the Word of God will be of little use for service, for we cannot truly serve God effectively in our own knowledge and strength.”<sup>12</sup>

Job promotion and skills acquisition

Your wife’s sanctification

Resolving lingering conflicts

It is likely that stepping into this responsibility will involve the recognition that we have sinfully neglected or failed in the past.

Thus, the first step of owning responsibility is often to identify our sins, to confess them to the Lord, and to receive his forgiveness and cleansing.

Then, we ask him to give us the grace, wisdom, courage, etc necessary for us to carry out our responsibilities in faith.

Finally, we persevere, by his grace, with faith and humility. We continue to cry out to him throughout the process to meet and sustain us, to work through us.

Above all, \_\_\_\_\_ . Cry out to God for his grace and fight.

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<sup>12</sup> Richard Phillips, *The Masculine Mandate*, 137.

Hebrews 12:12–14

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

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### Audio

An interview with Richard Phillips on the Masculine Mandate:  
<https://reformedforum.org/podcasts/ctc87/>

*\*inclusion on this list does not imply agreement with all contents*