



MASCULINE LEADERSHIP

stability in an anxious age

february 2024 | men's seminar

I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man . . .

— 1 Kings 2:2

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

—1 Corinthians 16:13

O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;
who does not slander with his tongue
and does no evil to his neighbor,
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
in whose eyes a vile person is despised,
but who honors those who fear the LORD;
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
who does not put out his money at interest
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved.

—Psalm 15

The Sources of Our Anxiety

Introduction

3 Sessions: *What is wrong and what can we do about it?*

1. The Problem: The Sources of Our Anxiety
2. The Solution: The Quality of Our Masculinity
3. The Way Forward: The Pursuits of Stability

Will Rogers “There are three kinds of men:

The one that learns by _____.

The few who learn by _____.

The rest of them have to _____ for themselves.”¹

Five Signs of God’s Judgment in the Bible

1. _____

Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Ezekiel 22:4, 27 You have become guilty by the blood that you have shed, and defiled by the idols that you have made, and you have brought your days near, the appointed time of your years has come. Therefore I have made you a reproach to the nations, and a mockery to all the countries Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain.

2. _____

Deuteronomy 28:15–24 But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

The LORD will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me. The LORD will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. The LORD will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish. And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

Amos 3:6b Does disaster come to a city, unless the Lord has done it?

¹ <https://twitter.com/NoJesuitTricks/status/1756084760776962404>

3. _____
Isaiah 5:20–23 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight! Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!

Ezekiel 22:29 The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the sojourner without justice.

4. _____
Isaiah 28:11 “For by people of strange lips and with a foreign tongue the LORD will speak to this people”

Jeremiah 5:5 Behold, I am bringing against you a nation from afar, O house of Israel, declares the LORD. It is an enduring nation; it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language you do not know, nor can you understand what they say.

5. _____
Deuteronomy 22:5 A woman shall not wear a man’s garment, nor shall a man put on a woman’s cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God.

Nahum 3:13 Behold, your troops are women in your midst. The gates of your land are wide open to your enemies; fire has devoured your bars.

Romans 1:24–27 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Rejection of God → Fragility

Proverbs 28:1 “The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”

Q: Why has the church largely been compromised and ineffective? What has been revealed about the church?

Radical NT discontinuity

1. No natural law (nature, *telos*)
2. No dominion (stewardship)
3. No manhood (egalitarianism and singleness)
4. No national obligation (secular neutrality)
5. No vocation & mission (only great commission)

Five Sources of Our Anxiety _____

1. Disintegrated _____

On Integrity

Narcissism

Lack of transcendence

Gal 2:10 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2. Triumph of the _____

Freud's great replacement

Feelings

"I feel like" vs. "I think"

Effeminized Justice (Penitentiaries)

CS Lewis *The Abolition of Man*

3. _____ Egalitarianism

The Myth of the Servant-Leader (HGU) — John 13:1-17

Peaceableness and Winsomeness

Proverbs 29:27 "An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, but one whose way is straight is an abomination to the wicked."

Teaching at women's meetings

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.

4. _____ Theories

Deconstructive Neo-Marxism

Anti-authority

Bestial state

Hippie Jesus

5. Competitive _____

Teflon

Irresponsibility

Cowardice

What is the solution to our anxiety? Godly masculinity (vs. worldly solutions: big gov't, global, ed)

1 Chronicles 12:32 Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command.

Acts 17:11 Now these Jews [Bereans] were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

“True Christianity is a struggle, a fight, and a warfare. He that pretends to condemn ‘fighting’ and teaches that we ought to sit still and ‘yield ourselves to God’, appears to me to misunderstand his Bible, and to make a great mistake.”

—JC Ryle, *Holiness*

“I hated war, but strangely enough, I loved it, too. I’d find myself wishing I were back overseas while driving alone, or in the midst of a crowded party. Things were simpler. People understood me. I had deep relationships. Granted, there was no running water, and I defecated in a barrel on a regular basis. But the laughter was real, the friends were real, and the experience felt more real than ordering a coffee at Starbucks while a woman in athleisure berated the barista for getting her order wrong.”

—Benjamin Sledge, “Sometimes I Miss War”

Church _____ v. Church Triumphant

The Quality of Our Masculinity

The Problem of Definition

Do we know what we are?

The Promise and Problem of Complementarianism

Danvers Statement²

Affirmations

Based on our understanding of Biblical teachings, we affirm the following:

1. Both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood (Gen 1:26-27, 2:18).
2. Distinctions in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order, and should find an echo in every human heart (Gen 2:18, 21-24; 1 Cor 11:7-9; 1 Tim 2:12-14).
3. Adam's headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall, and was not a result of sin (Gen 2:16-18, 21-24, 3:1-13; 1 Cor 11:7-9).
4. The Fall introduced distortions into the relationships between men and women (Gen 3:1-7, 12, 16).
 1. In the home, the husband's loving, humble headship tends to be replaced by domination or passivity; the wife's intelligent, willing submission tends to be replaced by usurpation or servility.
 2. In the church, sin inclines men toward a worldly love of power or an abdication of spiritual responsibility, and inclines women to resist limitations on their roles or to neglect the use of their gifts in appropriate ministries.
5. The Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, manifests the equally high value and dignity which God attached to the roles of both men and women (Gen 1:26-27, 2:18; Gal 3:28). Both Old and New Testaments also affirm the principle of male headship in the family and in the covenant community (Gen 2:18; Eph 5:21-33; Col 3:18-19; 1 Tim 2:11-15).
6. Redemption in Christ aims at removing the distortions introduced by the curse.
 1. In the family, husbands should forsake harsh or selfish leadership and grow in love and care for their wives; wives should forsake resistance to their husbands' authority and grow in willing, joyful submission to their husbands' leadership (Eph 5:21-33; Col 3:18-19; Tit 2:3-5; 1 Pet 3:1-7).
 2. In the church, redemption in Christ gives men and women an equal share in the blessings of salvation; nevertheless, some governing and teaching roles within the church are restricted to men (Gal 3:28; 1 Cor 11:2-16; 1 Tim 2:11-15).

² As found at: <https://cbmw.org/about/danvers-statement>. Accessed 23 February 2024. First published in November 1988.

7. In all of life Christ is the supreme authority and guide for men and women, so that no earthly submission-domestic, religious, or civil-ever implies a mandate to follow a human authority into sin (Dan 3:10-18; Acts 4:19-20, 5:27-29; 1 Pet 3:1-2).
8. In both men and women a heartfelt sense of call to ministry should never be used to set aside Biblical criteria for particular ministries (1 Tim 2:11-15, 3:1-13; Tit 1:5-9). Rather, Biblical teaching should remain the authority for testing our subjective discernment of God's will.
9. With half the world's population outside the reach of indigenous evangelism; with countless other lost people in those societies that have heard the gospel; with the stresses and miseries of sickness, malnutrition, homelessness, illiteracy, ignorance, aging, addiction, crime, incarceration, neuroses, and loneliness, no man or woman who feels a passion from God to make His grace known in word and deed need ever live without a fulfilling ministry for the glory of Christ and the good of this fallen world (1 Cor 12:7-21).
10. We are convinced that a denial or neglect of these principles will lead to increasingly destructive consequences in our families, our churches, and the culture at large.

Emphasis?

Nature?

Mission?

Roles?

What is masculinity?

Piper "At the heart of mature masculinity is a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for, and protect women in ways appropriate to a man's differing relationships" (*RBMW*)

Wilson "The glad assumption of sacrificial responsibility"

Heitland . . . in exercising dominion according to a man's providential roles and relationships

Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

What is femininity?

Piper "At the heart of mature femininity is a freeing disposition to affirm, receive, and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in ways appropriate to a woman's differing relationships" (*RBMW*)

Wilson "The glad acceptance of the responsibility to receive the masculine initiative, glorify it, and return it again"

Heitland The glad submission to masculinity in order to nourish and multiply life and strength.
To really function, this requires men who fear the Lord

The helper is sub-ordered

Gen 2:18 It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.

1 Cor 11:9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

Masculinity

1. Clear, Convictional _____

Fears the Lord

Principle & Process

Ps 15

2. Sacrificial _____

Ownership (Extreme)

Not necessarily = fault

Wilson Authority flows to those who take responsibility.

Conversely, authority flees from those who deny or diminish it

Matt 25:14-30 Parable of the Talents

3. Courageous _____

Ps 15:4 "...who swears to his own hurt and does not change"

Deut 31:7-8 "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

4. Strong _____ and _____

Provides for others to flourish

Job 29:12-13 because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him. The blessing of him who was about to perish came upon me, and I caused

Masculinity

1. The _____

Fragile & Power-hungry

Ungrateful & Unsubmissive

Num 16—Korah; **2 Sam 15**—Absalom

2. The _____

Isolated Anarchy

Prov 18:1 Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

Eph 6:1-4

1 Pet 5:5; Heb 13:17

Bud Light-Mulvaney

3. The _____

White Knight

Unthreatening

Gal 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Prov 13:24 Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

4. The _____

Oppressive & Selfish

Ps 10:15 Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer; call his wickedness to account till you find none.

Others = means to his ends

the widow's heart to sing for joy.

Prov 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

Gouge In describing husbands who demonstrate "too much strictness toward their wives," he identifies dynamics that typify

husbands, who stand upon the uttermost step of their authority, and yield no more to a wife than to any other inferior. [Such men are] never contented or satisfied with any duty the wife performeth . . . care not how grievous and burdensome they are to their wives . . . hold their wives under as if they were children or servants . . . are over busy in prying into every business of the house . . . are over suspicious of their wives, and thereupon over strict in taking account of them.³

Such a husband is a profound discouragement to his wife, as demonstrated by the proverb, "*Oft did I well, and that bear I never: Once did I ill, and that bear I ever.*"⁴

"Authority is like a sword, which with over much using will be blunted, and so fail to do that service which otherwise it might when there is most need."⁵

5. Steadfast _____

Fears & trusts the Lord

Non-anxious presence

Constancy (& envy)

Dan 6:5, 10 Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God." . . . When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

5. The _____

Minimizes problems

Unprincipled, Pragmatist

Self-preservation

Hides problems . . . → victim

2 Kgs 18-19 Hezekiah

Good king, trusted the Lord

The Lord saved him from illness

Boasted in his wealth to Babylon

2 Kgs 20:19 Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD that you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?"

On the Necessity of Your Wife Losing . . .

³ DD, 4:20.

⁴ DD, 4:22.

⁵ DD, 4:32.

The Pursuits of Stability

In light of our roles and responsibilities:

What a Wife (and Children) Needs

1. Covenantal _____
 Exclusive and Devoted
Eph 5:25, 28-29, 33
 The scourge of porn

What a Man Needs

1. _____ Achievement
 From the household to the world
Eph 5:22, 24, 33
 The scourge of disrespect
 Hypergamy & Status

Gouge So, the authority relationship between husband and wife is important and must be recognized and preserved. “Yet there are no unequals betwixt which there is so near a parity as betwixt man and wife,”⁶ and “none can be nearer than a wife, and none ought to be dearer.”⁷ As part of his duty of love, there should be an “unfeigned and earnest, entire and ardent affection which an husband ought to bear unto his wife.” Further, “because of the husband’s place of authority, he must especially take all occasions to manifest this his inward affection.”⁸

2. Meaningful _____
Gen 2:18 Spending herself for her people
 Oriented to home
 Responsibility & authority

2. Meaningful _____
Gen 2:15 Work and Keep
 Oriented from the home
 Vocation & providence

3. _____ Provision and Protection
Exod 21:10 “food, clothing, or marital rights”
 A danger to those outside
1 Tim 5:8 deny the faith, worse than
 an unbeliever

3. _____ Love
 Affirmation and Direction
 The scourge of fatherlessness
 Christ → more masc. men / fem. women
 Heavenly Father → true sons

4. Masculine _____
 Non-anxious presence
Eph 5:26 “washing of water with the word”
1 Pet 3:7 Likewise, husbands, live with your
 wives in an understanding way, showing honor
 to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are
 heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your

4. Fraternal _____
Prov 17:17 “born for adversity”
Eccl 4:12 “cord of three strands”
 David, Jonathan, & confusion
 Fellowship w/wife, in Christ

⁶ William Gouge. *Domesticall Duties: Eight Treatises*. London: Iohn Haviland for William Bladen, 1622.
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A68107.0001.001?view=toc>, 4:7.

⁷ *DD*, 4:8.

⁸ *DD*, 4:11.

prayers may not be hindered.

5. _____ Sanctification

Husband as sanctifying agent

Eph 5:28 “in the same way husbands...”

Your gospel grasp = wife’s *telos*

1 Cor 14:34-35 the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

Pastor (Counselor, BFF) ≠ Surrogate

5. _____ Sanctification

Isa 66:2b “But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.”

Jam 4:6 God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

The Tipping Point of Masculinity: *Perseverance in faith thru responsibility*

Jam 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Eph 2:(1-)10 . . .For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Suggested Resources

Michael Foster and Dominic Bnonn Tennant, *It's Good to Be a Man* (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2021).

On the nature of masculinity and why it is *good*

Gouge, William. *Building a Godly Home*. Edited by Scott Brown and Joel R. Beeke. 3 vols. (Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage, 2014).

---. *Domesticall Duties: Eight Treatises*. London: John Haviland for William Bladen, 1622.

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A68107.0001.001?view=toc>.

Timeless wisdom from a godly Puritan source.

Steve Heitland, "Anxious Men," *Association of Certified Biblical Counselors*,

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/resource-library/articles/anxious-men/>

Turning anxiety into fruitful action

---. "Reclaiming Power and Control," *American Reformer*,

<https://americanreformer.org/2023/04/reclaiming-power-and-control/>

How the abuse narrative discourages proper authority and leadership

---. "What Are Men For?" *Crossway Church*, <https://crosswaypa.org/men/> (scroll to the bottom of the page)

A 7-part course on masculinity

Greg Morse, "Act Like Men," *Desiring God*, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/act-like-men>

On the nature of true manliness (*andriζomai*) and courage

---. "Born to Rule Himself," *Desiring God*, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/born-to-rule-himself>

On self-control, leadership, and submission to God

---. "Happy Wife, Happy Life," *Desiring God*, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/happy-wife-happy-life>

And other misleading advice to young husbands

---. "Men Too Easily Forgotten," *Desiring God*, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/men-too-easily-forgotten>

Why nice is not enough

---. "Play the Man You Are," *Desiring God*, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/play-the-man-you-are>

On the sin of effeminacy

---. "Prophet, Priest, and King," *Desiring God*, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/prophet-priest-and-king>

The high calling of Christian husbands

Richard Phillips, *The Masculine Mandate: God's Calling to Men* (Sanford, FL: Ligonier Ministries, 2016).

Douglas Wilson, *Father Hunger: Why God Calls Men to Love and Lead Their Families* (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2012).

---. *Federal Husband* (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2011).

---. *Future Men: Raising Boys to Fight Giants* (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2016).

---. *Why Children Matter* (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2018).