

Boys To Men

Recently Kim and I made a visit to the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. We toured with one of our church members who himself graduated from the academy in 1987. He instructed us regarding the traditions of the Academy, the meaning of “midshipmen,” the history of the Navy, of John Paul Tones, and the amazing facilities that house, train and educate our young naval officers.

The impressive sight of these outstanding men and women caused me to consider how they rose to such a level of physical fitness, academic progress and outstanding leadership qualities. Such achievements do not happen accidentally. Somewhere, parents, coaches and teachers saw the potential in these officers when they were very young and challenged them to prepare for something great.

I considered this *intentional* upbringing to the situations of our homes. Are we as Christian parents intentionally raising spiritual champions? If we are too busy to craft the course of our children’s lives, it is foolish to hope for spiritual greatness in their lives. This word *Intentionality* bears consideration.

“What is required to produce SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS”

I pray that we can avoid the situation of which the Psalmist writes (Psalm 12:1 NASB) *“Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases to be, For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.”*

There is a shortage of godly men in our world and in the church.

This is a new stage in life for me and Kim

- We’re now Empty nesters
- We are Relating to 3 married children
- **AND we Just found out that we are soon to be GRANDPARENTS!**

For the next four weeks, I will present a Series titled **FOUR on the FAMILY**
Four messages on the family.

There is great confusion today concerning MASCULINITY/ FEMININITY

Sons need to learn what it means to BE a MAN

“If a dad doesn’t give his son a clear definition of manhood, the world will” (Dennis Rainey, quoted in Raising a Modern Day Knight Workbook, 34

Is there such a thing as a “**clear definition of manhood?**”

I. Is Manhood a Biblical Concept? **Genesis 1:26-27**

Three key questions we ask in life:

Who am I?

Where did I come from ?

Why am I here?

Genesis 1:26-27 provides the answer to all three questions

A. **We are “Created”**

1. We have a beginning.
2. Answers the question , *“Where Did I Come From?”* (My Origin)

B. **In “God’s Image”**

1. Personality. Will. Creative desire.
2. We possess something the ANGELS do not.
3. Angels are HOLY because they do not sin.
4. Only **people** can experience REDEMPTION.
5. Because we have the IMAGE of God, we have INDIVIDUALITY.
6. Answers the question, *“Why Am I Here?”* (My Purpose)

C. **Created “Male and Female”**

1. Our gender identity is the FIRST aspect of our identity!
2. Answers the question, *“Who Am I?”* (My Identity)
3. Created with **Maleness** or **Femaleness**
4. SO, it shouldn’t surprise us that this is where **SATAN attacks!**
 - a. On Sunday PM Sermon 5/24 I made the following statement, *“In the 60's and 70's Satan used **DRUGS** to keep a generation in BONDAGE. **TODAY**, Satan is using GENDER CONFUSION to keep a generation in BONDAGE”*
 - b. This statement was confirmed in my mind when I re-read a book written 15 years ago that made the same observation
 - c. *“The **greatest moral threat** to your family in this country is militant homosexuality”* (Steve Farar, “Walking Tall,” 117). **Written, 1994!**
5. **In America’s PAST**, our MALENESS and FEMALENESS were crucial, honored, cherished, developed
6. Now we APOLOGIZE for it, MINIMIZE it, RIDICULE it, CRIMINALIZE it.
 - a. We are experiencing the FEMININIZATION of America
 - b. This is emphasized in Girls playing the same sports as boys
 - c. Women serving in combat
 - d. Mockery of those who speak of differences in Gender

- e. Psychology, Politicians protecting GENDER CHANGE, even with radical surgery altering our God given gender appearance (but not altering our God given identity)
7. The RESULT? *“The tendency today is to stress the **equality** of men and women by minimizing the unique significance of our maleness or femaleness. But this depreciation of the male and female personhood is a **great loss**. It is taking a tremendous toll on generations of young men and women who **do not know what it means to be a man or a woman**. Confusion over the meaning of sexual personhood today is epidemic. The consequence of this confusion is not a free and happy harmony among gender-free persons relating on the basis of abstract competencies. The consequence rather is **more divorce, more homosexuality, more sexual abuse, more promiscuity, more social awkwardness, and more emotional distress and suicide** that come with the **loss of God-given identity**. ... A lot of energy is being expended today minimizing the distinctions of manhood and womanhood. But we do not hear very often what **manhood and womanhood** should incline us to do. We are adrift in a **sea of confusion over sexual roles**. And life is not the better for it.”* (John Piper, **“Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, 33)**

II. The Characteristics of a Godly Man

- A. **Godliness. (1 Timothy 6:11)** *“But you, **man of God**, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”*
- B. **Courage. (1 Corinthians 16:13)** *“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.”*
- C. **Leadership.**
 - 1. **(Ephesians 5:23)** *“For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.”*
 - 2. **(1 Corinthians 11:3)** *“Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”*
- D. **Responsibility. (Work ethic)**
 - 1. **(Genesis 1:28)** *“God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.””*

2. (Genesis 2:15) *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."*
3. *Illus - I recently had a WORK DAY with 2 TEEN boys I purchased for a day of work at our teen missionary AUCTION.*
 - a. *We had a great time! We Cut trees, waxed cars, planted a garden, pulled weeds, learned how to drive a stick shift. The two boys ate 1 doz Kim's famous cream cheese sup cakes. **And we talked.***
 - b. *I asked, "Did you get to **know each other BETTER** in work than you would have at the AMUSEMENT PARK?"*
 - c. *We enjoyed work because we were CREATED for WORK.*
 - d. *We will WORK in the Kingdom!*
 - e. *Life Friendships are FORGED in CHALLENGES (work, warfare, Algonquin, etc)*

E. The OPPOSITE of this? Effeminate (1 Corinthians 6:9 KJV) *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **effeminate**, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,"*

- F. These same points are raised by Robert Lewis in a fantastic book, "Raising a Modern Day Knight"
1. Reject Passivity. (I called this "intentionality")
 2. Accept Responsibility.
 3. Lead Courageously
 4. Live for a Greater Reward

III. Who Should Do this?

- A. Dads!
- B. Moms! (Not replacing a father, but encouraging young men to rise to the challenge of manhood)
- C. *Illus - Winterizing our house in Schroon Lake.*

IV. What Turns Boys to Men?

- A. Instruction
- B. Boundaries
- C. Example
- D. Affirmation (RMDK)
 1. Ages 6-18
 - a. Manhood instruction
 - b. Seeing Jesus in Dad's Life

- c. Hearing “I love you”
- 2. Ages 13-18
 - a. “I’m proud of you”
 - b. “Son, you’re good at”
- 3. The importance of affirmation. (Proverbs 17:6) *“Children’s children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.”*
 - a. Boys love to brag on their dad.
 - b. “A son wants to feel like a champion in the presence of his dad” (Robert Lewis, *Raising a Modern Day Knight*, 34)
 - c. *Illus - Dave M. “I realize now that all my workaholic efforts. All my striving. All my pushing of myself was to gain the approval of significant men in my life because I never heard “well done son,” from my father.”*

“If a dad doesn’t give his son a clear definition of manhood, the world will” (**Dennis Rainey**,

We need a new generation of godly young men.
It’s not going to happen by accident.