

- I. Here's what's happening
  - A. What we are going to be covering in the next month or so
  - B. This is going to be useful
    - i. if you are single
    - ii. if you are divorced
    - iii. if you are a kid
    - iv. if you are married
- II. Cultural viewpoints vary: the Bible does not
  - A. Era of the patriarchs (1800-1400 BC)
  - B. Divided kingdom and captivity (700s-400s)
  - C. The ancient world outside of Israel
  - D. The Protestant Reformation reinvigorated family life in Europe
  - E. Changes in America from 1700s to 1800s
  - F. The "Sexual Revolution"
- III. Male-female relations are a mess
  - A. Out of wedlock births – with a host of pathologies following (see Charles Murray: *Coming Apart*)
  - B. Divorce rates very high
  - C. There is arguably more disharmony, antagonism between men and women than there has been in centuries (see Cross: *Men to Boys*; Hymowitz: *Manning Up: How the Rise of Women Has Turned Men into Boys*; research by The National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia; Neil Strauss: *The Game*)
- IV. Manhood and womanhood are close to the core of our being
  - A. Getting them right is big: for men, women, husbands and wives, the church, and children
- V. The Bible is *useful* – this is a tenet of biblical faith!
  - A. We study Scripture because it is useful as well as inspired! (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; 6:6)
  - B. First few lessons