

As fathers, we **must** be: Intentional, thoughtful, prayerful, biblical, instructional (exhortation).
 we **cannot** be: negligent, lazy, hands-off, naive, [depending on] church-only (derelict of duty).

→ **Definition = Masculinity is the courageous duty of sacrificial responsibility.**
 It is God's call upon **every man** to take the responsibility to sacrifice, lead, protect & provide.

Background to This Message on Biblical Masculinity

- As we understand, embrace & delight in God's design for our sexuality, we joyfully embrace & submit to the authoritative Word that **GOD** made man male & female (the reality that gender that cannot be separated from one's biological sex), *we must* recognize we're walking head-on into a TIDAL WAVE of cultural pressure, confusion, chaos & rebellion.
- Outside of the home [with daily, diligent, biblical instruction from both father & mother], the next place where God has designed boys to be taught biblical masculinity is ***THE LOCAL CHURCH*** (not the field, not the youth group, not the college class, not social media, not video games) - *we must take the call & invest in our boys & persistently, proactively & biblically model & exhort them to be Men of God!*

THESIS — *In its own very confused and warped culture of Corinth, Paul exhorts the Christians to heed his counsel on what biblical masculinity & manhood involves.*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

1. Teach Them Watchfulness: over yourself, women & children.

"You see, traditional manhood fears death, but it fears something even worse: being a coward. For a man, the only thing worse than a bullet in the kidney, or a knife across the throat, is the failure to act. To act self-sacrificially on behalf of women and children is the epitome of virtuous manhood. It reflects, in fact, the apex of Christian doctrine: a Savior-husband giving his life to save His bride, the church!" (Owen Strachen)

2. Teach them Surefootedness: stand firm in Word & prayer.

True men are men of the Word.

3. Teach them Manliness: act like a man [bravery]; not a woman or a boy or a sissy.

- "Enough with soft, men. Biblical manhood is muscular Christianity. Jesus was a tough man of action." (Gavin Peacock)
- Masculinity demands manly bravery.

4. Teach them Boldness: strength; do hard things.

John Piper was teaching on the **Manliness** of JC Ryle and said this about "Masculine Christianity" -- "Theology and church and mission are marked by overarching godly male leadership in the spirit of Christ, with an ethos of tender-hearted strength, and contrite courage, and risk-taking decisiveness, and readiness to sacrifice for the sake of leading, protecting, and providing for the community—all of which is possible only through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It's the feel of a great, majestic God, who by his redeeming work in Jesus Christ, inclines men to take humble, Christ-exalting initiative, and inclines women to come alongside the men with joyful support, intelligent helpfulness, and fruitful partnership in the work."

5. Teach them Selflessness: love God & love people**Character Training: leading your children to be selfless in their lives:**

1. lead them to surrender their lives (Rom 12.1-2)
2. Lead them to be an example (1 Tim 4.12)
3. Lead them to exercise discipline (1 Tim 4.7b)
4. Lead them to deny ungodliness (Titus 2.11-13)

-- John Barnett [in "The Word Filled Family"]

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 — "Be a Man! Masculinity & Training Our Boys to Be Men!"

Is it really possible? Is it really attainable for our boys, for a young man, a 'lad', a youth, a teen to do this? Yes!

- Prov 20:11

- The rest of Prov 20! **What is he marked by?/** what distinguishes the godly man >> the youth?
 1. He's made with worth & dignity; a creation of God (12, 27)
 2. diligence (not laziness) (13-14)
 3. Truth (not lies) (17, 23, 28)
 4. Listening & submitting to advice/counsel (18)
 5. Purity not slander/gossip (19)
 6. honoring parents (20)
 7. working hard/patience (21)
 8. no revenge (22)
 9. strength (29)

Remember!

A few things to remember:

1. GOD HAS SPOKEN AUTHORITATIVELY
2. SATAN IS ACTIVE VIGILANTLY
3. YOU MUST INSTRUCT PROACTIVELY

Practical take-aways for teaching biblical masculinity:

1. Teaching our young boys to be men includes taking **RESPONSIBILITY**.

- Masculinity is about taking responsibility for the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of those in our care. *This is what women want: a man who loves her, leads her, protects her, provides for her physically/spiritually; he is decisive; courageous; humble; has a plan; he works hard; & he loves God above all else with a blazing passion!*

“But [you must] teach the young man that he has immense dignity and worth, that he was made — whatever his chest size, whatever his height — to spend himself for the good of others, and you will form the kind of young men who do not cower when a terrorist stands up, sweating and fevered, to fulfill Allah's will by mowing down innocents. This kind of young man wakes up from his nap, sees bloodshed on the horizon, and moves with a swiftness he has trained for to sacrifice himself for others. He may die, he knows. But he will die with honor” (Owen Strachen).

2. Teaching our boys to be men includes learning biblical **THEOLOGY**.

- We must relentlessly teach our boys biblical truth, systematic theology, a Godly worldview and to **form biblical convictions & NOT WAVER FROM those convictions (even if they must die!)**. JC Ryle nailed it spot on -- this lack of conviction is an epidemic which is just now doing great harm, and especially among young people. . . . It produces what I must venture to call . . . a “jelly-fish” Christianity . . . a Christianity without bone, or muscle, or power. . . . Alas! It is a type of much of the religion of this day, of which the leading principle is, “no dogma, no distinct tenets, no positive doctrine.”

3. Teaching our boys to be men includes willfully embracing God's *AUTHORITY*.

- We must teach our young men that real manhood submits to the authority of God's Word, the Bible. Real men prioritize the church & its worship services. Real men love hard preaching and welcome the Spirit's conviction. It's like what John Piper said: **"A masculine ministry heralds the truth of Scripture, with urgency and forcefulness and penetrating conviction, to the world and in the regular worship services of the church."** And real men love this!

On October 16, 1555, Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley were sentenced to be burnt at the stake by Bloody Mary. Latimer said to his companion while they were together being tied to the wooden stakes, "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and **play the man**; we shall this day light such a candle by God's grace in England as shall never be put out!"

Counsel from John Angell James

On a chapter titled: "The period between school and manhood"

Some advice for training men...

1. Most sacredly observe the Sabbath, and constantly attend to the means of grace (Church, preaching, prayer, ordinances)
 - let nothing induce you to prostitute the hallowed day to worldly pleasure.
2. Keep up attention to the private duties of religion (never let a day pass without reading the Scriptures and private prayer)
3. Be very careful in the selection of companions.
 - one bad companion at this time, when the character is assuming its permanent form, will give a most fatal direction.
4. Strive to excel in the business or profession to which your life is to be devoted.
 - do not be satisfied with mediocrity in anything that is lawful. Even as a tradesman, you should endeavor to be distinguished by doing all your work to the glory of God by being the best you can be at your work.
5. If your attention to business leaves any time unoccupied, I advise you to carry on a course of reading [good books that focus you upon God's glory in Christ].
6. If you can find a pious and intelligent associate (friend), embrace the opportunity of innocent and pleasurable companionship and fellowship (=discipleship).

Remember again and again, It is from fourteen to eighteen that the character, in relation to BOTH worlds – this world and the next – is generally formed. Judge what manner of persons you ought to be at that time. You cannot doubt, my children, that your parents love you. In all your recollections, we have a witness to this. We have, as you know, done everything to promote your welfare, and, so far as was compatible with this object, your pleasure also. . . . You must be aware, my dear children, that all our conduct toward you has been conducted upon these principles. Before you were capable of receiving instruction, we presented ceaseless prayer to God for your personal piety. As soon as reason dawned, we poured the light of religious instruction upon your mind by the aid of familiar poetry, catechisms, and conversations. . . . So act, my children, toward the salvation of the soul. This, this is the end of life; keep it constantly in mind; never lose sight of it. Gain all the knowledge, all the comfort, all the fame, all the wealth you can in subordination to this one great business. But remember that whatever subordinate ends you may pursue, the paramount (=ultimate) object that you must seek is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever!