



## What does It Mean To Be A Man?

**Video.** What does it mean to be a man? There has never been a time in world history where there is more confusion about what gender is and what it means to be a man or a woman—or something in between. There is the idea that you can choose your gender; that it has nothing to do with your biology and everything to do with how you feel. Facebook has 50 different gender options including demi-boy. Toy R Us Toys no longer divided into boys and girls section. “Rachel McKinnion dominated the competition at the Masters Track Cycling World Championship in Manchester, England this past weekend, celebrating her consecutive world title and world record in the 200 meter sprint.” Something is wrong here. How can we grow into what we’re supposed to be if we don’t know what we’re supposed to be? What does it mean to be a man and not a woman?

### Manhood According To The WORLD Is...

- \_\_\_\_\_physical strength\_\_\_\_\_/athletic ability.

Do you have a six pack? How much can you bench? Take protein powder. Dude do you even start? You post pictures of yourself without a shirt on social media so girls can see because after all if you can’t use your body to allure women, you’re not very manly...which brings me to my next point...that in addition to athletic ability the world defines manhood by sexual talent.

- \_\_\_\_\_sexual\_\_\_\_ talent.

For a lot of guys sex is scoring and conquering. The more game you have, they more manly you are. How many girls can you get to throw themselves at you. “What a stud!”

- \_\_\_\_\_power\_\_\_\_ and success.

Being intimidating. Being in charge. Never crying. Being rich—counting your money in your sick man cave. Self –worth by net worth. Wearing the nicest watches, having the nicest clothes. He always let’s you know that he’s a winner...

- A love for the \_\_\_\_\_rowdy\_\_\_\_\_/extreme.

Being a man means watching UFC and killing a deer and then gutting it and eating it. It’s going mudding in your huge pickup truck with a massive sound system. It’s watching movies where guys shoot each other. Never crying. It’s smelling something awful. Not doing ballet or painting or playing the harp or join the peace corps and picnics. It’s getting dirty. You want tattoos and street cred. It’s about no shave November and watching football all saturday and eating chicken wings. Of course this is not what it means to be a man...

Now I save this description of manhood for last for a reason. Beneath all the macho talk and misplaced passion, there is something significant and something right and good about manhood that we’re trying to recover.

God made man, had given him a task, Gen 2:15 “Put the man in the garden to work it and keep it” from the beginning, men were made to be cultivators and protectors. Made to build. Made to create. Men will build a huge fire and talk about it. It’s hardwired in every guy. Men want to do tasks and do them bigger and better and faster. Men want to beat the bad guys and rescue the girl. And understanding what’s really at the core of that starts right here in Gen. 1. **So let me pray and we’ll get started.**

### **Manhood According To The WORD Is...**

A biological element...

Current conversation wants to separate sex and gender. Sex is what you’re born with, gender is how you decide to live. But that won’t work because the Bible specifically ties gender to sex. In Gen. 1, God makes man—humanity—in his own image male and female. That doesn’t make them unique. We see designations for this specific male and female that we don’t see for anything else in the animal kingdom in Gen 2:23, “This is at last bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man.”

We’re not dealing with just male and female we’re dealing with man and woman—we’re talking about gender here. And someone’s sex and someone’s gender can’t be disconnected! And what Moses says in the next verse, Jesus is going to quote in Matthew 19: Mt. 19:4-5 “**4 He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?”**” They can’t be separated. So according to God’s design, a man is more than a male, but he’s isn’t less. Manhood is rooted in maleness...So we have a biological element...

- An expressive element...

That is an element of being of man that has to do with the way we interact with the world around

o Act like a \_\_\_\_\_ man \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Co. 16:13)

**13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.** Men are supposed to act a certain way **14 Let all that you do be done in love.** God gave men a whole verse for that. “Love is patient, kind, doesn’t boast isn’t arrogant or rude, doesn’t insist on it’s own way.”

This may not jive with what you feel is acting like men but that’s because we’ve missed it not because the bible’s dated. Toxic masculinity where being a man is like being Chuck Norris. David cries all the time.

**“The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents.”** (Gen. 25:27) So then what does acting like a man mean? And I want to offer two guides here—not an exhaustive analysis—but two guides that Paul gives us.

- Confusing genders is sinful (1 Co. 11:14)

Got a call from a youth asking if having long hair was sin “**Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering**” was 1 Co. 11 says that it’s a disgrace for men to have long hair. Kevin DeYoung is helpful here...here says **“when Paul says that nature itself teaches that long hair is a disgrace to men (11:14), I don’t think he’s making a universal statement about follicles. But he is a universal statement about gender. The particulars of the exegesis can be challenging, but essentially Paul is making two points:**

(1) It isn't right for men to be like women; and (2) How this plays out is somewhat determined by the culture"

aka a dress. And he asks...if there's a guy who's favorite thing to do is get manicures, and shop for shoes, and his favorite show was "Say Yes To The Dress", and his favorite color is pink...something is not right. We need to talk.

Now I don't want you to think that you can't like things that women like or do things that women enjoy doing. **Tanning bed in high school.** Bubble baths and scented candles, but there's a point where I start to confuse genders and it's hard to describe it but it's easy for all of us to see it. If I start to carry a purse and wear lip stick. **Compassion for gender dysphoric folks!** Another epidemic in our day in age in one that might hit a little closer to home...

- Extending childhood into adulthood goes against God's design. (1 Co. 13:11)

**"11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways."** Man contrasted with woman And boyhood.

There is a movement today of boys that never make it to manhood. Never in history has there been a time where boys move out later, marry later, are self-sufficient later. Biblical manhood has left the world of happy meals. I used to tell my youth, if you are 18 and you still go home and play with your army men, and dress up like batman, while you watch barney and eat your apple sauce and carrot sticks, something is wrong. We have 35 years old still living in their parents basement playing Call of Duty all day, watch porn on the computer downstairs, and donating plasma at the clinic down the road so they can have money to pay for their cigarettes and fried chicken without having to get a job.

You might know people like this, people who it seems like will always be 21. Life will always be a huge party. Taking responsibility and working hard is only an obstacle in the way of an otherwise enjoyable life. Friend at reunion, "nothing has changed." And I don't want that for the men in this room. I want hardworking, intuition, gentle, kind, Jesus-loving men who, was image bears, want to reflect God's glory and extend God's reign. Biological element, expressive, element, relational element...

- A relational element... PRIMARY. Primary in any understanding of manhood is how men relate to women. Key/Lock. Complementary relationship.

If you'll remember God starts with just the man. Sees that things aren't going to go well. He gives him a partner! And they function in different ways in that partnership.

God had created man and given him one rule. Eve eats. Adam eats. Who does god come and talk to? (Gen. 3:9, 1 Tim 5:8) At the core of manhood is to lead and protecting women. I don't know how clear it is outside of the church and marriage. Speaking just to marriage!!! Some people will object sometimes to this idea that God has designed man to have a unique role in protecting and leading and providing. What happens when you hear the glass break downstairs?

You know that's on you! This isn't oppressive patriarchal. Speaking just to marriage!!!

- Man's position of leadership/responsibility has no \_\_\_perks\_\_\_. (Rom. 15:3)

Many have been hurt and I'm sorry. Men who think that they can set the thermostat, hold the remote, and decide where we're going out to eat. This is where I want to be super clear. There is only a responsibility to

sacrifice. (Eph. 5:25-33) (Rom. 15:3) HOOOOME!!! “The boy goes down and the girl goes free.” Die to yourself so that the women around you flourish.

- A \_\_\_posture\_\_\_\_, not specific rules.

This isn't saying men lead to the exclusion of women ever leading. We're not saying that the man always has to mow the grass or do the driving on the family trip. But in the way you relate to women, there should be a general inclination towards helping, protecting, providing for women. Scott Owenby pic.

(1 Tim. 5:8) Rebecca made more than I do, but there is no question that I bear the primary responsibility for providing in our home The man says, “let's”.

Pursuing Manhood...

- The foundation of manhood is not manhood, but the \_\_\_\_\_Gospel\_\_\_\_\_.

The Gospel gives us the power to become biblical men. Only the Gospel can fuel the humble, selfless, courageous, Christ exalting manhood that the Bible calls us to.

- o Are you engaging Christ \_\_personally\_? (1 Co. 7:1)

Christ was the manliest man who ever lived. He never got in a fight. Do you tend to think of Jesus as manly? If you don't, you have a skewed view of manhood. If you shoot for manliness you won't get manliness or Jesus. If you shoot for Jesus, you'll get both. Are you a man worth following?

- o Are you engaging Christ \_corporately\_? (Heb. 10:24-25)

So are you cultivating yourself...and then are you being careful to relate to women in a way that promotes their flourishing? HOOOOME!

If you're single...

- o \_\_\_purity\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 5:3)

If one of the most manly things you can do is push woman toward Christ, one of the most unmanly things you can do is pull her away from Christ. And listen, when you date a girl, you will either push her toward Christ or away from Christ, but you will not leave her the same. We talked about protecting women as something that lies at the core of manhood. Protect her from yourself.

If you're married...

Are you leading your spouse? Protecting your children? Cultivating the environment god has paed you in? Anything to suggest that you're not leading and investing in your family because it might be difficult or inconvenient?

- Get a mentor
- Join a small group.

Ask your wife...

