

Biblical Masculinity

INTRODUCTION:

1. We have some real issues in the world concerning gender and the role it plays in our lives.
 - A. This lesson is the second in a series concerning gender and what the Bible has to say about.
 - B. In the first lesson we considered:
 - i. How God made humans in His image as either male or female (Gen. 5:1-2 – “This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.”).
 - ii. How God created the man and the woman to be different and have different roles that harmonize with each other to fulfill God’s will upon this earth.
 - iii. We saw how sin is fueling the sexual and gender confusion and perversion of our day.
2. Today I want to talk specifically about masculinity, or what it means to be a man, and how to express it in godly fashion.
 - A. This is needed because masculinity is under attack.
 - B. There is a definite push to feminize men, to push society away from what have long been considered acceptable masculine traits and behavior.
 - C. Granted, some of these accepted traits and behavior are not godly or acceptable, but what we are seeing is a wholesale rejection of masculinity, which is wrong.
3. So today we are going to look at masculinity from God’s perspective, which is what matters.
 - A. And to do that we are going to, again, go back to the creation account to see what we can learn about masculinity there.
 - B. And we will also make applications to our present situation as found in the N.T.

BODY:

I. A man exhibits *masculinity* in working the ground/earth.

- A. This is first seen before man was created (Gen. 2:5 – “Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and **there was no man to cultivate the ground.**”).
 1. So, the earth and what it would yield was intended to be connected to the work of man.
 2. In other words, man was to be created with God’s intention that he cultivate, or work, the earth, bringing it order and making it useful and productive.
- B. This is echoed when God created man (Gen. 2:7-9, 15 – “Then the LORD God formed **man** of **dust** from the **ground**, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. ⁸ The LORD God **planted a garden** toward the east, in Eden; and **there He placed the man** whom He had formed. ⁹ Out of the **ground** the LORD God caused to grow **every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food**; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... ¹⁵ Then the LORD God **took the man** and **put him into the garden** of Eden to **cultivate it and keep it.**”).
 1. First, I want you to see the connection in the *Hebrew wording*. For, it states that God created man, *Adam* [masculine], from the **ground/earth**, the *adama* [feminine] (2:7-8).
 2. Also, after man was created God put him in the **garden** made from the **earth** to **cultivate** (work/till) and **keep** (give attention to, protect) it to *sustain his life* (2:15, 9).
 - a. From the beginning, in the garden, we see that a major part of what it means to be a man, to be masculine, involves working with the earth, with what it produces, to sustain life.
 - b. Therefore, it should be no surprise that men from the beginning have found meaning and fulfillment in life by working with the earth for life and good!
- C. Masculinity is expressed in man’s dominion over the earth and its creatures.
 1. Humanity’s dominion over the earth was a stated purpose for creation. And, this includes both the man and the woman (Genesis 1:26-29 – “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let **them** rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps

on the earth.”²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to **them**, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and **subdue it**; and **rule over** the **fish** of the sea and over the **birds** of the sky and over **every living thing** that moves on the earth.”²⁹ Then God said, “Behold, I have given you **every plant** yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and **every tree** which has fruit yielding seed; **it shall be food for you.**”).

2. Yet, I do think the Bible presents this task as being more heavily upon the man.
 - a. It has already been observed that man’s work is to be with the earth and its plants, etc., to produce food for himself and others.
 - b. But we also see in in Adam’s, or man’s, relationship to the animals (Genesis 2:18-20 – “Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”¹⁹ Out of the **ground** the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and **brought them to the man** to see what **he would call them**; and **whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.**²⁰ The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.”).
 - c. Before the woman was created, *Adam’s*, the man’s, dominion was seen in how he gave names to the creatures *formed from the ground* and **that was their name.**
 3. So, society’s push that the masculine desire to have dominion, or rule, over the earth, its animals, and its produce for the profit of self and others it is somehow toxic is wrong! That is what men are designed to do and needed to sustain life!
- D. It is seen in how Adam’s sin affected his life (Gen. 3:17-19 – “Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; **Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it** all the days of your life.¹⁸ “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field;¹⁹ By the **sweat of your face you will eat bread**, till you return to the **ground**, because from it you were taken; for you are **dust**, and **to dust you shall return.**”).
1. Because Adam disobeyed God the **ground** is now cursed.
 2. NOTE: If you want to see the differences God established between males and females, note how very different the consequences were for Eve, the woman, from the same sin (3:16).
 3. So, **man’s living which is to come from the ground/earth** would now:
 - a. Require **toil** (*isabon* – pain, labor, hardship, sorrow) and **sweat** because the ground now **works against man**, bringing forth *thorns* and *thistles* that must be constantly removed to make the land productive that it might sustain life.
 - b. This struggle will continue throughout the days of man until he **dies** and returns to the **ground** from which he was taken to again becomes **dust**.
 4. This charge to work the earth has remained upon men since sin caused man to be driven from the garden (Gen. 3:22-23 – “Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, **to cultivate the ground** from which he was taken.”).
 5. Thus, from the beginning true **masculinity** is expressed in **connection with the earth** and **working it to make life better**, using the earth to provide what is good and needed **for oneself and others**, which we see commanded in our lives as well.
 - a. We must labor productively for the good of self and others (Eph. 4:28 – “He who steals must steal no longer; but rather **he must labor**, performing **with his own hands** what is good, so that he will have something to **share** with **one who has need.**”).
 - b. Because this has been our charge, strong rebuke is for those who neglect it (1 Tim. 5:8 – “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”).

II. Masculinity is seen in man's role of headship

A. Man's role of headship is seen in the creation of woman:

1. Eve, who was made in the image of God like Adam (Gen. 1:26-27), was created to be a **helper** suitable for [complementary to, fitting for] Adam (Gen. 2:18).
 - a. The role of the woman, in particularly a wife, is not to be man's ruler, but man's helper.
 - b. Now that may sound degrading to the ungodly or ignorant, but when the man/woman relationship is conducted as God's desires, it is a beautiful, harmonious, and equally beneficial thing.
2. This headship was also seen in Adam **naming** his helper, his wife, **Woman** (Gen. 2:22-24 – "The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had **taken from the man**, and brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; **she shall be called Woman**, because she was **taken out of Man**.²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."").
 - a. Just as God showed man's headship over the animals by allowing him to give them their names, God showed man's headship over the woman by the same means.
 - b. In connection with this the female was called *woman* because she was created *from the man*, not the ground as was the man, showing the woman's focus is *toward the man*.
 - c. That this is true, that God intended that her work was to be with man, helping him and the family their union creates, is seen in the consequences of her sin (Gen. 3:16 – "To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."").
3. And this headship continues today (Eph. 5:22-25, 28-29 – "Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,...²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church").
 - a. The man is to be the head and the wife is to submit to that headship.
 - b. Thus, men, you cannot leave that responsibility to your wife so you can act like a child and do as you please.
 - c. Just as the wife must submit, you must be the head. You have a God-given responsibility that you must fulfill in a sacrificial way that results in the good of your wife, just as Christ's sacrifice worked for the good of mankind.

B. Expressed in **godly leadership**.

1. In the marriage relationship and the home.
 - a. A man's masculinity is not seen in "dominating" his marriage or home, but in **leading** his wife and family toward godliness.
 - b. This reality is seen in Adam's failure to fulfill this role and God's response to it.
 - i. Upon creating man and putting him in the garden God gave him a law to live by (Gen. 2:16-17 – "The LORD God commanded the **man**, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."").
 - 1) This order was given Adam from the beginning, before the woman was created.
 - 2) I am not saying the woman did not have to live by this same law. She did and failed to obey it.
 - ii. In connection with her failure, Adam was condemned for disobeying because he *listened to his wife* (Gen. 3:17 – "Then to Adam He said, "**Because you have listened**

to the voice of your wife, and have **eaten from the tree** about which **I commanded you**, saying, **‘You shall not eat from it’**; Cursed is the ground because of you...”).

- 1) Adam was condemned for following his wife’s lead in sinning instead of taking a stand as the godly leader in their marriage as God intended.
 - 2) The language describing this event is interesting (Gen. 3:6 – “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband **with her**, and he ate.”).
 - a) Could it be that Adam witnessed all of this and did nothing?
 - b) Whether he saw what was going on or not, I know it is wrong for godly men to sit by and allow those they are responsible for to sin!
 - iii. The man is to lead his family in God’s way (Eph. 6:4 – “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”).
 - iv. True masculinity protects, not just physically, but spiritually, looking out for the good of others and not just oneself, even as Christ did (Phil. 2:3-4 – “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”).
2. In spiritual matters and the church
- a. Creation has established distinctive roles concerning spiritual matters between the man and woman.
 - i. 1 Tim. 2:12-13 – “But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. ¹³ For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.”
 - ii. On the other hand, the man is commanded to teach “with all authority” (Titus 2:15).
 - b. We see it in men being given the responsibility of overseeing and protecting God’s flock, the church (Acts 20:28-31 – “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.”)
3. True masculinity, or being a man, is expressed in taking responsibility for and fulfilling the role of being the spiritual leader of one’s family and in spiritual matters and the church.

CONCLUSION:

1. So, are you a real man?
 - A. Now as we have seen that has nothing to do with whether you like football, or wear cowboy boots, or any other foolish standard like that.
 - B. It has to do with maturity and leaving behind the self-centered and foolish ways of youth to mold your life according to the godly, sacrificial pattern laid before you by Christ.
 - C. So, as an adult male can you say what Paul said (1 Cor. 13:11 – “When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.”)?
2. I hope this lesson has helped you see what is needed to be able to do just that, to be a man who pleases God in your expression of masculinity.
3. For, when one’s masculinity is expressed in a way that pleases God, it will be for your good and the good of all who surround you, including women.
4. Of course, the only way a man can be truly masculine is to be a Christian. For, you can never be fully a man until you accept your role for the cause of Christ.
5. Will you come to Jesus today in F-R-C-Bp?