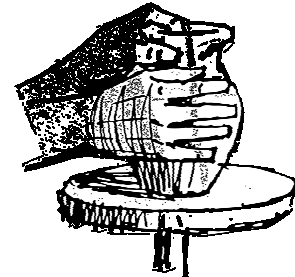


# His Workmanship: Westside

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."*

—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

## God's Men: Tender Warriors, by Steve Malone

[The Westside church will be appointing new elders in the next month, and the church is praying and studying about God's plans for church leaders.]

**I. The Problem: "The Incredible Shrinking Man."** Do you remember watching the movie The Incredible Shrinking Man? Because of an exposure to a chemical, the main character slowly got smaller and smaller until there was nothing left of him.

Where is he shrinking from? Today in American homes, American society, and the Lord's church men are shrinking. Because of a prolonged exposure to a misguided culture, true manhood and true fatherhood are getting smaller and smaller until there is now very little left. Far too many men have become detached, distant, and passive in the two most important areas of life, family and church. They run away from commitment and resist obligation; they renege on the promises that they made to their wives, children, church, and Lord.

What are the effects? This lack of manhood and fatherhood—this shrinking away of true men—has hurt our families, our society, and our churches. Over 25 million children (36.3%) do not live with their fathers. Some 40% of children in fatherless homes have not seen their fathers in a least a year, while 50% of children who live without

their fathers have never stepped foot in their father's home.

The damage done in the church has been no less staggering. Many times churches have become stagnant or have decayed, as men cower in the background afraid to act, afraid to lead, afraid to accept responsibility, afraid to do the right thing. Often this lack of male leadership has created a void that has been filled by women in the church, who often do more work, are more committed, will see things through to the end, and know more about the word of God. Often when a job needs to be done in the church men will say, "*I don't want be in charge, but I'll help*"—in other words, "*I don't want to be a leader; I don't want responsibility; I want a way out.*" This is a serious problem in our society—men are missing from action; they are shrinking from their God-given responsibility at home and in the church.

Not only are men missing, they are also hurting. Despite the feminist rhetoric that would have us believe that females have suffered more than men, the statistics show that modern society has taken a toll on modern man.

- . 88% of drunk drivers are men.
- . 83% of people arrested for serious crimes
- . 85% of all murders are committed by men.
- . A man is 25 times more likely to end up in state prison.

. Men are more likely to have ulcers, and to die from cancer, pneumonia, liver disease, strokes, hardened arteries and heart failure.  
. 75% of all suicides are men.

God has ordained fathers to rule in the home and men to rule in his church. Men are the ones in charge. They are the leaders, and with leadership comes responsibility. Far too many men have abandoned these posts of leadership—in the home and in the church. They have left their posts, and the damage has been great.

**II. The Pattern: Tender Warriors.** In his book Tender Warrior Stu Weber talks about God's pattern for a man. Weber describes four points on a compass, four seasons, four elements, and four rhythms in a man: king, warrior, mentor, and friend. Four undergirding life rhythms throb in the veins of every male child. They pipe a 4-part cadence to which every man must march if he chooses to be a complete man. Always intermingled, never exclusive, they provide the primary colors of the masculine rainbow from which all others draw their hue. Blending perfectly with one another, they reflect the light of the One in Whose image they are made. When they are balanced, the image is clear and the man and those around him flourish; but when they are unbalanced and abused, the image is distorted, the man withers, and those around him

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## "As the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mer-

suffer and experience pain.

These four rhythms/qualities are like four giant pillars that both support and define a man. These pillars are tall; they cast long shadows across a desolate landscape.

**A. King.** The king pillar is clearly central to the scriptural theme. God is the king of kings. His Son, the second Adam, has been given "all power and authority in heaven and on earth," Mt 28:18. Adam, the prototype man, was instructed in Eden to "exercise dominion," Gen 1:26, 28; man is to be the head/the ruler in the home and in the church. But the heart of the king is a giving, providing heart—he provides and protects. "If any man does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever," 1 Tim 5:8. The king pillar teaches us that man is to be a provider. He is to provide for all his family's needs. To provide for families means much more than paying the rent, buying food, furnishing clothes, or providing education. A man might do all this and still fail as a father/husband/ leader in God's eyes. Men are to provide for more than the family's physical needs—they are to provide for emotional needs as well.

A king looks ahead—he scouts the new territory to ensure his family's needs are met. The king protects his family and fights for his people. The king doesn't wait for them to ask, he diligently searches to understand all of his people's needs. And the king watches over his people; he provides order; he provides mercy and justice. The king is the authority. He is the leader. One pillar of manhood is the king; men are to be providers. Another pillar is that of:

**B. Warrior.** The warrior pillar is equally unmistakable in scripture. Our God is a warrior of both testaments. Gentle Jesus, meek and mild? He closes the Bible on a white war horse, in a blood-spattered robe, with a sword in His

mouth and a rod of iron in His hand.

The Bible ends with a roar of triumph, not a whimper of defeat. In epistles, the mature, believing man is often described in military terms: "endure hardship as a good soldier," 2 Tim 2:3; "guard what has been entrusted to your care," 1 Tim 6:20. A warrior is equipped to battle mighty enemies and shatter Satanic strongholds, see Eph 6:10-18; 2 Cor 10:4.

The heart of a warrior is a protective heart. The warrior shields, defends, stands between, and guards. The true warrior is not a man who loves war or draws sadistic pleasure from fighting or bloodshed. There is a difference between a warrior and a brute. A warrior is a protector. Whether he's stepping on intruding bugs, or shining a flashlight into a spooky basement, or checking out the sounds that go bump in the night, whether he's confronting a habitually abusive Little League coach, an insensitive doctor, or a cruel boss, whether he is shoveling snow, or helping women and children into the last life boat on the Titanic, men stand tallest when they protect and defend.

Maybe these are reasons why the most humiliating thing you can call a man is a "coward." And maybe the warrior in a man explains something else about him. Ever notice how aloof a man can appear at times? Could it be that the warrior in him is a little out of sync? Soldiering, after all, is connected with pain. Pain hurts and isolates. A warrior gets accustomed to strapping on layers of protective insulation. Even a tender heart can be effectively hidden under a half-inch of armor plate.

When a man is made to be a protector and a soldier, it can be hard to display his tender side. Every parent of a little boy knows that warrior tendencies are a part of the package. They arrive when the boy did. It doesn't matter if the little guy never received a toy gun; he'll use his finger. Appalled at the idea of as toy hand grenade? Creative

little warriors get by fine with exploding dirt clods, nuclear pine cones, or high-concussion snowballs.

Men are designed to be warriors, to protect and guard. There are many things which seek to bring harm to our families and to our churches. Men are to be warriors, to protect and defend their families. They must not let people or circumstances hurt them. They are to be ready at a moment's notice to stand by them, to guard them, to hold them, to help them, and to keep them safe—striving to give them peace, safety, and security. Men make their families feel that they can relax when they are around, because families are completely confident that their men will take care of them.

A real man does not sit by and watch his wife be overcome by circumstances and emotions. If that means he has to shop, clean the house, or scrub the floor, he does it. If it means to sit and talk, he will do it. A real man protects his wife from being overcome and pulled under by life. It doesn't matter what a man can bench press or what he can build—if he does not help, protect, and rescue his family, he is not a real man, he is not God's man, he is not what he was designed to be. He is not functioning properly; he is like a lawn mower trying to vacuum the house—he is ineffective. Men must be willing to sacrifice time/comfort and be willing to risk any danger necessary in order to protect their people.

Two giant pillars of manhood, king/provider and warrior/protector, are both necessary; but some men are so eager to be the ruler and build a kingdom that they are not available to protect the family and be the warrior that their family needs. And some men forget the tender aspects of their calling.

**C. Mentor.** The mentor pillar is not only modeled through the pages of the Bible, it is explicitly commanded in the form of "teaching them to obey everything  
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Psalm 133:1

**God makes my heart clean in 2015** "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." —Ps 51:10

**Tender Warriors, from p. 2**

*I have commanded,*" Mt 28:20, and "fathers do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and instruction [nurture and admonition] of the Lord," Eph 6:4. The only perfect Man was a discipler. All men who follow Him are to "teach others also," 2 Tim 2:2; 1 Cor 14:19.

The heart of a mentor is a teaching heart. The mentor knows. He wants others to know. He models, explains, nurtures, corrects, encourages, and trains. He disciples his wife, his kids, and then others, see Deut 4:9; 6:7; 11:19.

A man is supposed to know things—like how a car runs, or how many legs are on a spider, or how many miles to the next rest stop, or when the weather will get better. It's up to him to know why electricity flows, dogs bark, birds migrate, hamsters die, trees lose their leaves, dads lose their hair, and girls down the street act weird. Why do family members ask the man of the house these things? Because men are supposed to know how things work. And what to do next. And where to go from wherever you are. Men are supposed to be able to teach life. Men are to be teachers, training and teaching their families and others about life and helping them to grow.

**D. Friend.** We are drawn to the God Who defines himself as love. God insists that the ultimate point of all scriptures centers on loving Him and loving others. It is at one time the most basic instruction of scripture and the "new commandment" given to Christians, Jn 13:34. The heart of a friend is a loving, compassionate, tender heart.

## Discipleship Here At Home

Underneath each man's warrior breast-plate beats a tender side, the side that connects to another and has the thirst for relationship, the desire to touch and be touched, to hug, to link, to be with and part of someone else.

Contrast tinsel town's John Wayne ("Never apologize, Mister. It's a sign of weakness") with real life hero General Norman Schwarzkopf. Not long after the Gulf War, Schwarzkopf appeared in an interview with Barbara Walters. In the course of their conversation about the war, he thought of his men. The country watched with fascination as the eyes of this career soldier with four stars on his shoulder glazed over and tears formed. Walters, with well-practiced bluntness, said, "General, aren't you afraid to cry?" Stormin' Norman replied, without hesitation, "No, Barbara, I'm afraid of a man who won't cry." America was seeing the distinctive heart of a tender warrior.

Now, understand that there is a big difference between *tender* and *soft*. We want tender warriors—not soft men. The dictionary nicely distinguishes between the two terms: *tender* means "expressing or expressive feelings of love, compassion, kindness, affection, as in a 'tender caress'; considerate, careful." On the other hand, *soft* is used to describe those who are "effeminate, easily yielding to pressure, unresistant to molding, untrained for hardship." Masculine sensitivity is not identical to feminine tenderness. The average male will never be as sensitive as the average female. The apostle Paul was a fighter, a warrior, a man who faced hardships and difficulties head on, a man who stood the test and faced every challenge, a man who sent ripples not only across his world, but into the world to come. His impact has spanned the centuries. Paul possessed a fearless spirit, a strong will, and a fiery *persona*. Yet, there was so much more than this to Paul, for underneath his breast beat the heart of a tender

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**PRAY FOR healing, protection, help**

- **Orchid Cox**—chronic blood clot condition; at hospital last week
  - **Sandra Perry**—procedure Tues am St. Anthony's to insert port for dialysis; diabetes problem
  - **Tracy Corray**—broken bone in foot; boot
  - **Judy Sartin**—hairline fracture in left foot; ortho shoe
  - **Jonathan Hadders**—fractured rib, acute pain
  - **Judy Strand**—broken arm, post-surgery pain
  - **Sheryle McNeill**—pinched nerve
  - **Ernesto Gonzalez's** father **Fidencio**—stage IV lymphoma, has started chemo
  - **Linda Szymanski's** mother, age 88—fall, broke ankle, rehab post surgery
  - **Letha Fink's** brother **Kenneth Morrison** of GA—liver disease, recent diagnosis of neuro-muscular disease
  - **Charos' neighbor Evelyn Velasquez**—cancer
  - **Danny Dodd**, formerly of Westside—home after full brain radiation in Denver; improving; 275 Country Meadow Rd, Ignacio, CO 81137
  - **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, cancer; has rallied so well from her PE that she has returned home
  - **Bill Dennis**—home recovery following rehab
  - **Lary Campbell's** FL partner **Terry Hargadine's** wife **Michelle**—cancerous lymph nodes removed, latest scan shows improvement; picc line inserted for chemo
  - **Kayla Knighten, Christine Adams's** daughter, needs our prayers; **Judy Strand** requests prayer for her son **Joe**; pray **Ed's** son **Rodney Schulz** and Sheryle's daughter **Tiffany** receive the gospel; pray **Pat** and **Jeff's** son **Mike** and grandson **Drew** return to God.
  - **Sandra Perry's** son-in-law **Donald Redden**—in St. Mary's in Grand Junction; dialysis; leg not yet amputated from diabetes complications
  - **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; Brett's grandmother **Sue**, and Aunt **Bonnie Doss**—cancer returned
  - **Brittany Tope's** mother—breast cancer, improving; grandmother—on dialysis
- CHRONIC CONDITIONS**  
**Christian Harrod; Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes; Ann Cox; Logan Corray; Rocco Jr.**—asthma  
**Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease  
**Kirk Johnson**—MS  
**Menards**—**Lloyd** diabetes, Alzheimers; VA help; **Virginia** blindness from macular degeneration  
**Cheryl Reames**—fibromyalgia; diverticulitis  
**Judy Sartin**—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis  
**Judy and Mike Strand**—hepatitis trtment  
**Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung weakness  
**Travel** The **Topes** will be in DC through Mon. **Pat Campbell** is in VT.  
**Passing** **Andryssa Lucas's** grandmother recently passed away. Send cards to Willan and Andryssa Lucas, 475 Ray Wesley Herrick St, Apto 102, Bl. 06, Repidencial Mont Park Jockey Clube, Sao Caplos Sao Paulo, Brazil 13565090

### Tender Warriors, from p. 2

warrior. "We proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly nurses her own children. Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you have become very dear to us," 1 Thes 2:7-8. "Gentle. Tender care. Nursing mother. Children. Fond affection. Very dear." Does that sound like a warrior to you? Are those words you would expect from a man's man? Probably not. But they are exactly the words that God uses to describe His kind of man.

**III. The Passion: "Answer the Call."** Once we understand the problem and accept the pattern (king, warrior, mentor, friend), we need to develop a passion: tender warriors need to answer the call.

Men, do you hear the call to action? Do you hear the call that God is sending forth to the men of His church to be tender warriors? Will you answer the call to action in your families? Men, how is your family doing? How is your wife doing? Is she happy? Content? Does she feel good about herself? Is she growing spiritually? How about your children? Are they thriving? How is their walk with the Lord? How do they feel about themselves? These questions should concern us because we are responsible for the health of our home. Regardless of what the feminists say, men have been given by God the responsibility of leadership in the home. It is without a doubt a tough, demanding, and often thankless job, but the task will go a lot easier when we are walking with and leaning on God.

What families need—what our wives and children need—is men! Our culture tells men that what their families really need is what increased salaries can buy them: a fancier car, a newer video game, a diamond ring, a nicer house, more stylish clothes, a smart phone. Families don't need that stuff. They need men. Wives need husbands who will obey the command of God to love their wives, to sanctify them, to give themselves, Eph 5:25-28. Children need to know that their fathers care more about them than the football game, their careers, their bank accounts, or the guys at the office. Fathers need to spend time with their children, talk with them, teach them godly values like integrity, right and wrong. Kids need dads to discipline them when they do wrong, to teach them the value of hard and honest work. Kids need their dads to let them know that they are available at any time to help them with their struggles, to protect them, to give them what they need, to hug them, to comfort them. Children shouldn't have to make an appointment to be with their fathers! The three most important things we can give our children is our time, accepting love, and training and instruction in the Lord.

Tender warriors will answer the call to action in their churches. Men have been missing for too long from the front lines of the battlefield. The enemy is gaining ground, and our fellow soldiers are tired and need our help. Men, it's time that we run to the battle! It's time to lead, to set the pace, to be examples, to do the work, to give our best. It's time to build up the house of God. Will you be a tender warrior? A king-warrior-mentor-friend? A provider-protector-teacher-lover? Men, be God's man!



meets at  
13789 W. 8th Avenue  
Golden, Colorado 80401  
720-295-4530

#### Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810  
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

#### Preacher

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

### Assembly Schedule

#### Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

#### Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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#### Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, A Life-Changing Encounter with Christ from "*The Gospel According to John*," Jonathan Hadders

- **sermon**, "A Man Who Desires the Work," Jim Reingrover

#### Sunday afternoon

- **sermon**, "Borrowing and Lending," Jeff Wilkes

#### Feeding on His Word Reading

Everyone is invited to an open Bible reading of Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, & Zephaniah this Friday evening, 10/2, 7 pm, at the Reingrover's house, supper before the reading. See **Joel Walker** for schedule.