

# Fundamentals of Our Faith from the Beginning

## Biblical Masculinity (Part Three): Cultivating Masculinity

### Biblical Masculinity Defined:

“A benevolent responsibility to lead, provide, and protect.” (John Piper)

“The glad assumption of sacrificial responsibility.” (Douglas Wilson)

### Important Notes:

These definitions are what distinguishes worldly masculinity from biblical masculinity, and they remind us why masculinity (and patriarchy) is a good thing. Biblical masculinity is for the good of others and the glory of God. Worldly masculinity is self-centered and vainglorious. Biblical masculinity is generous and selfless. When biblical masculinity is developed and is flourishing, it results in blessings for others – it is not toxic.

### Cultivating the Characteristics of Biblical Masculinity

#### Key Principles:

“No one is born a man. No one is born a father. No one is born a patriarch. Every boy is born male, but manhood is something into which he must mature.”

Expect more later of what you are doing now.

Expect more of what you subsidize, and less of what you penalize.

### Cultivating Biblical masculinity means cultivating godly character (Titus 2:2)

1. Boys learn by instruction and by imitation. No instruction, no masculinity. No imitation, no masculinity.
  - a. The necessity of an engaged father (Proverbs 3:12, Ephesians 6:4)
    - Fathers, you are responsible for ensuring a Christian “Paideia” and “Nouthesia”
  - b. Discuss the impact of fathers
  - c. The necessity of good examples (Titus 2:2, 7, 1 Cor 11:1)
    - The imprint/ stamp of godly character from one man to another
    - The fatherless can seek “fathers” in this way.

### Cultivating Biblical Masculinity requires that we do NOT cultivate Femininity

1. Expect masculinity in children – repudiate “genderless parenting”.
  - a. Embrace the stereotypes (1 Corinthians 6:9, Deut 22:5, 1 Cor 11:14)
  - b. Teach boys to dress, speak, play, work, and act like men. Assume this when young, and influence them through their education, stories, activities, toys, clothes, and chores.
  - c. Teach boys what masculinity is for: not vainglory, but for the good of others.
  - d. Effeminacy, passivity, and selfish macho-ism should all be corrected.
2. Expect masculinity in the church.
  - a. Masculinity is not always “nice” – that is a feminine virtue.
  - b. Men are not required to be masculine *or* Christian – a false dichotomy.

## **Cultivating Biblical Masculinity requires that we cultivate a responsibility to be on mission**

1. The Dominion Mandate (Genesis 1:26, 2:15)
  - a. Men were made to conquer and subdue, but will gravitate toward apathy and complacency
  - b. When men are young, they need responsibility to be given in increasing measure
  - c. Excuses, excuses...
  - d. We should not enable a prolonged adolescence that is aimless...
  - e. Lay before boys the prospect of a project, a job, a family, and of course, the great commission.
  - f. This is unrefined and annoying in boys who are not institutionally friendly

## **Cultivating Biblical Masculinity requires the cultivation of male leadership**

1. A functional reality – not a decorative centerpiece
2. Headship = responsibility (Genesis 3:9, Romans 5:19)
3. In the home (Genesis 2:20-21, 1 Cor 11:8-10, Ephesians 5:22-23, 1 Peter 3:1-6, Titus 2:3-5)
  - a. An example set by both parents
  - b. Mom is paramount in shaping the expectations of her sons
    - i. A choreography, not a list.
4. In the church (1 Timothy 2:11-13, 1 Corinthians 11:3)
  - a. An example of male leadership – men in office who “act like men”.
  - b. That role being honored by men and women alike – no foolish talk of envy or resentment.

## **Cultivating Biblical Masculinity requires us to cultivate the ability to protect**

1. Men go first, and in doing so, put others first.
2. Physical aspects (Genesis 2:15, Numbers 1:2-3, Deut 22:5, Deut 20:7, Joshua 1:14)
  - a. Develop the skills and abilities that lend to this responsibility
  - b. Do not feminize boys – let them play rough
  - c. Teach self-control, which is paramount to masculinity (Christ’s example)
3. Spiritual aspects (Genesis 2:15, Genesis 3:19, 1 Cor 16:13)
  - a. Teach sound doctrine and teach them to fight for it
  - b. Catechize your boys
  - c. Teach them to do the hard work of theology and study – learning to learn is manly work

## **Cultivating Biblical masculinity requires us to cultivate the responsibility and ability to provide**

1. Physical aspects (Genesis 2:15, Exodus 21:10, 1 Timothy 5:8, Ephesians 5:28-29)
  - a. Develop the skills and abilities that lend to this responsibility
  - b. Teach them to work and be productive
  - c. Require them to provide for certain needs in increasing measure – less dependent over time
  - d. Wife, honor your husband in this work with gratitude
2. Spiritual aspects (Ephesians 5:25-27, Eph 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:4-9)
  - a. Provide the example of a shepherd at home, as well as other godly men in the church
  - b. Invest in your son, and you invest in generations to come
  - c. Wife, honor your husband in this work with gratitude