

Fundamentals of Our Faith from the Beginning

Biblical Masculinity (Part One): The Shape & Function of Masculinity

Warm Up

1. Why is this subject part of the fundamentals of our faith? Is it really that important?
2. Why is this subject as relevant for women as it is for men?
3. What are some negative perceptions about masculinity (or negative stereotypes) that you are aware of?

Biblical Masculinity Defined:

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

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

“The possession and pursuit of a redeemed perspective and character, enhanced by the qualities consistent with the distinguishing male roles of leading, protecting, and providing – all for the glory of God.” (Stuart Scott)

Note: Although these qualities are particularly emphasized in marriage and church leadership, they are not limited to men who are married or who function as officers in the church. The disposition, character, function and form of biblical masculinity should be taught to all men and aspired to by all men. It should be lived out according to each one’s stage of life and level of responsibility.

The Characteristics of Biblical Masculinity

1. Biblical Masculinity is NOT Femininity

- a. The sin of “soft” (1 Corinthians 6:9)
- b. No observable confusion between men and women... Sex and sex expression are inseparable (Deut 22:5)
- c. Revelation, Culture, and nature are our guides (1 Corinthians 11:14) – a defense for stereotypes
- d. Men and women share many Christian virtues, so mature masculinity that bears no resemblance of mature womanhood is not biblical masculinity. Although we share many virtues, we must maintain distinctions. Some feminine virtues are hideous (and wrong) on a man, and some masculine virtues are hideous (and wrong) on a woman.
- e. Masculinity is what masculinity does, but this is not without a form or appearance, and it takes on recognizable characteristics.

2. Biblical Masculinity is mission-oriented

- f. The Dominion Mandate, a job, and make your bed (Genesis 1:26, 2:15)
- g. Men were made to conquer and subdue.
- h. “Testosterone does stuff” (and it’s not the same stuff that estrogen does)

3. **Biblical Masculinity assumes the responsibility of leadership**

- a. The man for the task, the woman for the man (Genesis 2:20-21, 1 Cor 11:8-10)
- a. In the home (Ephesians 5:22-23, 1 Peter 3:1-6, Titus 2:3-5)
- b. In the church (1 Timothy 2:11-12)
- c. Headship = responsibility (Genesis 3:9, Romans 5:19)
- d. Christian Feminism hiding in “complementarian” clothing.
- e. Servant leaders? Or Servant Lords?
 - i. Men should love and serve by leading/ruling – not “servant leaders” who lead by serving.

4. **Biblical Masculinity assumes the responsibility of protection**

- a. Genesis 2:15 “keep” and Genesis 3:9.
- b. Physical aspects (Numbers 1:2-3)
- c. Spiritual aspects (1 Cor 16:13)

5. **Biblical masculinity assumes the responsibility of provision**

- d. Genesis 2:15 “cultivate”
- e. Physical aspects (Exodus 21:10, 1 Timothy 5:8, Ephesians 5:28-29)
- f. Spiritual aspects (Ephesians 5:25-27, Eph 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

6. **Biblical masculinity assumes the responsibility of godly character (Titus 2:2, 7)**

- a. Sober-minded/ Temperate (2:2)
- b. Worthy of Respect/ Dignified (2:2)
- c. Self-controlled/ Sensible (2:2)
- d. Sound in Faith (whole/healthy in faith) (2:2)
- e. Sound in Love (2:2)
- f. Sound in Endurance/ Perseverance (2:2)
- g. An Example/ Model of good deeds (2:7)