

Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: What is a Man? (1 Kings 2:1-3 & other selected texts)

Week #3 of DDM (Disciple Development Month) – Pastor Jeff

- Two of the most foundational questions that anyone could ask and answer are 1: Who am I? and 2: What is the Creator's will for my life? The answer to both these questions is not hard to figure out because God gave us the one and only instructional manual, the living and abiding Word of God.
- Because widespread confusion and chaos reign supreme in our modern world, manhood and womanhood are becoming unrecognizable as God designed them to be. So, people are asking: What is a Man? and What is a woman?
- If we were to give a biblical definition of man, here is what it would sound like. A man is a male (whether single or married) who humbly uses his God-given authority, strength, and position to bless, lead, protect, and provide for others selflessly and sacrificially like Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
- There are five big callings God has designed man to pursue and model:

① A man is called to be loyal as a biological male (Genesis 1:27; 1 Peter 2:11)

- As an anatomically XY chromosomal man, God has called every man to be loyal to two things:
 - Be loyal to live out your biological sex as a male. There are not many gender possibilities, but only two sexes (male and female). Yes, there are congenital disorders (structural and functional defects), but mixed genitalia is rare. Why do congenital disorders and sexual confusion happen? It is the direct effect of sin that began in the garden (Rom. 1:18-21; Jer. 17:10; James 1:14-15).
 - Be loyal to resisting the lusts of the flesh as a male. The answer to sexual confusion and perversion is two-fold:
 - 1: Bow your heart and life to Jesus Christ as Savior and King
 - 2: Use the empowering resources God has provided to successfully resist sin and Satan (1 Pet. 2:11; Rom. 13:14)

② A man is called to be law-abiding as a spiritual man (Genesis 2:16-17; 1 Kings 2:1-3)

- Whether single or married, God calls every man to be His disciple by obeying His commands and submitting to His will (Matt. 28:19; Gen. 2:16-17; 1 Kings 2:1-3)
- Following Jesus Christ means living by His instruction, commands, and example. He modeled a submissive heart to His heavenly Father (John 4:34)
- God used a flawed leader like Solomon to give us 10 things we should teach our sons as they prepare to become men (Proverbs): 1: Fear God (Pr 1:7; 5:21); 2: Guard your heart/mind (Pr. 4:23); 3: Obey your parents (Pr. 6:20-23); 4: Choose friends carefully (Pr. 1:10; 1 Cor. 15:33); 5: Control your lusts (Pr. 5:3-11); 6: Enjoy your wife (Pr. 5:15-19); 7: Watch your mouth (Pr. 4:24) 8: Work hard (Pr. 6:6-8); 9: Manage your money (Pr. 11:4, 18, 24-25); 10: Love your neighbor (Pr. 3:27-28)

③ A man is called to be a leader as a responsible man (Gen. 2:7, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:23; 1 Timothy 3:2)

- God has given man (whether single or married) the responsibility and function to lead. A leader will initiate what is best for the good protection and provision of other by his action and example.
- There are three truths about the functional role of men as leaders:
 - It is the **consistent pattern** God established from the beginning: God named the human race "*man*"-Gen 1:26; 2:5; 5:1-2; made Adam the central character in His story-2:16-23; gave Adam the priest-like task of maintaining the holiness of the garden before Eve was created-Gen. 2:16-17;

made Adam first-Gen. 2:7/1 Tim. 2:13; formed Eve from Adam-Gen. 2:21/1 Cor. 11:7-8; created the woman for the man-Gen. 2:18/1 Cor. 11:9; gave man the right to name every living creature, include the woman-Gen. 2:23; 3:20; viewed Adam as the representative head of the fallen human race-Gen. 3:9/Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:22, 45; man and woman experience the curse in different ways, each in their fundamental area of responsibility-Gen. 3:6, 16; the patten of the Bible highlights men as the primary, ruling leaders (patriarchs, leaders of the exodus/conquest, priests, Levites, Judges, kings, apostles, Jesus)

- o It is the **constant problem** men and woman face in the functionality of authority and submission (distorted in the curse-Gen. 3:16; deception propagated by Satan; disobedience in the church caving to the pressure of culture or using unsound interpretations)
- o It is the **clear prescription** for role assignments (1 Cor. 11:3) in the marriage passages (Eph. 5:22-32; Col. 3:18-19; 1 Pet. 3:1-7) and in church ministry passages (1 Tim 2-3; Titus 1; 1 Peter 5; 1 Cor. 14:34-36; Titus 2:3-5)

④ A man is called to be a laborer as a breadwinning male (Gen. 2:16-17; 1Tim. 5:8)

- God calls every man to be a worker (Gen. 2:15: *"to cultivate and keep it"*). God called Adam to work before the Fall into sin, so work is not a curse, but only more difficult because of sin and God's curse (Gen. 3:17-19).
- What is not manly is laziness (Prov. 6:6-11; 2 Thess. 3:6-12) and God says a man is worse than an unbeliever if he does not provide for his family (1 Tim. 5:8)

⑤ A man is called to be loving as a family male (Gen. 2:18-22; Eph. 5:25; Psalm 103:13; 1 Cor. 16:13-14)

- This is the only calling that doesn't apply to every man since some men are called and gifted to remain single (1 Cor. 7:7-9). All men should pursue marriage if they *"do not have self-control"* (1 Cor. 7:9).
- Manhood is characterized by love (1 Cor. 16:13-14), so men seek to live out their masculinity in love for God's intended design, to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, to work hard in providing for their families and future, to lead their wives with love (Eph. 5:25), to lead their children with compassionate love (Ps. 103:13), and to lead the church bride with love for the well-being of God's people.