

Relationship Reboot

DEVOTIONAL | BIBLICAL MANHOOD

MAY 2, 2021

Discussion Starter: What do you think of when you consider the concept of manhood?

Key Passage: *“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.”* (1 Corinthians 16:13-14) *“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”* (Micah 6:8)

According to Genesis 1:26-27, men and women are created in God’s image. We learn at least two truths from this reality: 1) Every human being—whether male or female—is valuable and worthy of respect, and 2) Men and women are physically, psychologically, and emotionally different. In Genesis 1:31, God called all of His creation – including the two distinct genders – “very good.”

Discuss: What are some stereotypes of manhood in our culture today?

In our first key passage of 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, Paul gives five instructions for Christians, particularly men, that help us gain an understanding of biblical manhood:

1. Be watchful. (v.13a)

The phrase “Be watchful” means to stay on guard.

Discuss: What are some unique temptations a Christian man may face that a woman might not face as much?

2. Stand firm in the faith. (v.13b)

Christian men are to be steadfast and immovable (1 Corinthians 15:58) against any kind of false teaching.

3. Act like men. (v.13c)

This admonition calls for men to be mature men of courage.

Discuss: How would you instruct a new Christian young man to grow into spiritual maturity?

4. Be strong. (v.13d)

Christian men are to find their strength in the Lord to win victories in life’s battles. Only by relying on God can we overcome spiritual evil and succeed at living out God’s will.

Discuss: How would you instruct a Christian man to rely on the Lord's strength?

5. **Let all that you do be in love.** (v.14)

Love must permeate the words and actions of a godly man.

Discuss: Why do you think Paul emphasized that love must permeate all of a man's words and actions?

In our second key passage of Micah 6:8, we find three instructions for Christian men:

1. **Do justice** (v.8a)

Doing justice means that we don't just talk about it; we are to participate in it. Doing justice goes beyond merely punishing the guilty. It refers to working toward redeeming people back to a right relationship with God and others.

Discuss: In what ways can a Christian man participate in helping people into a right relationship with God and others?

2. **Love kindness** (v.8b)

Loving-kindness involves going out of our way to reach others with God's love and mercy.

Discuss: How can a Christian man demonstrate that he loves kindness at home? At church? At work? Among friends?

3. **Walk humbly with your God** (v.8c)

Walking humbly means we recognize that we are totally dependent upon God—we move, breathe, and have our being in God (Acts 17:28). Notice that Micah emphasizes it is a walk *with* God which implies active fellowship with the Lord.

Discuss: How would you instruct a new Christian man to walk humbly with God in his daily life?

For Further Study

Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism by John Piper and Wayne Grudem

Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just by Timothy Keller

Tackling Marriage: Football Lessons on Being a Godly Husband by Jerrod Nelson