



# Ethos of Manhood

<b>Biblically Literate</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>Godly Character</b>	<b>Worshiping Homes</b>
<b>Marked by Prayer</b>	<b>Pursuit of Masculinity</b>	<b>Hard-Working</b>	<b>Submissive Wives</b>
<b>Self-Ruled</b>	<b>Intentional Friendships</b>	<b>Chivalrous</b>	<b>Covenant Children</b>

## Ethos: Keeping Jesus Central

There is something we are constantly balancing when seeking to obey Christ—the tension between the law and the gospel, the tension between legalism and freedom. We must establish before this weekend starts that our goal is always more Jesus, not just more rules. The issue in obedience is not the law itself, for it is good; it’s the attitude behind why we follow God’s law.

John 14:21 says, “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love and manifest myself to him.”

The problem with attempting to create culture is that sometimes the culture becomes more important than Christ himself. This weekend we seek to be Men as God has called us to be because we want more of him and less of ourselves. We desire his presence in every facet of our lives on this side of Heaven.

We do not seek to be biblically masculine because that will make Jesus love *us* more; we strive to become more biblically masculine because we want to love *him* more. Our goal must be to glorify him in all we do, including how we characterize and pursue Manhood.

## Ethos: 12 Characteristics of Biblical Manhood

As outlined above, the Ethos of Manhood comprises 12 characteristics that pertain to biblical manhood. By the end of this weekend, it is our goal that each of us know how each characteristic is defined in order to build it into our mental, spiritual, and verbal vocabulary. In this way, we can hold ourselves and each other accountable as we seek to pursue masculinity as God designed it.

*Ethos Reflection: At first glance, which of these characteristics do you feel most confident in? Which of these characteristics do you feel least confident in? Name specific challenges as to why certain characteristics are not your strong suit. Note them in your Ethos journal and be prepared to share. How does your culture define masculinity? How is this different from biblical masculinity?*



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## Biblically Literate

*“This God – His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.” ~ Psalm 18:30*

- We believe that to proceed in life without first equipping the heart, mind, and soul to love and serve God is like building a house without a foundation
- Being biblically literate means we have a foundation in Scripture, an essential aspect of remaining alert in our relationships, work, family, and thoughts.
  - *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. – 1 Corinthians 16:13*
- Scripture alone speaks with final authority in all areas of faith and life as the inspired and infallible word of God.
- The importance of being Biblically literate cannot be overstated. As spiritual leaders of our households and people, it is our duty to be biblically studious—a mark of true Manhood.
  - We must study. We must continue to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures. We must seek out truth through the Word as a means to empower us to identify the lies of the enemy as we seek to protect others from those very lives.
  - *See to it no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. – Colossians 2:8*
- To stand firm in the faith you have to know the faith and be grounded in the scriptures. You have to be truth-driven, scripture-soaked and washed. You have to know and articulate the Gospel.
- You're only able to stand firm and put off the fear of man when you are informed by the fear of the Lord.

*Ethos Reflection: On a scale of 1 to 5, rate your biblical literacy. What caused you to give yourself that rating? Are there specific obstacles to your progress in biblical literacy? Are there certain measures you can put in place to help you achieve your desired level? If so, name them and be prepared to share with others.*



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## Marked by Prayer

*“Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it— the Lord is his name: Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”*

*~ Jeremiah 33:2-3*

“Satan dreads nothing but prayer. Activities are multiplied that prayer may be ousted, and organizations are increased that prayer may have no chance. The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.” ~ Samuel Chadwick

“Prayer pulls the rope below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly. Others give but an occasional pluck at the rope. But he who wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might.” ~ Charles Spurgeon

- Prayer is a conversation that God has started through His word and one that has never ceased to continue — the invitation is always there, and our Father is always eager for us to accept that invitation.
- Without engagement in Scripture, our prayer life is lacking; divine revelation becomes a reality when it is sought in Scripture coupled with prayer
- Prayer is both a privilege and a duty, a gift that allows us to fulfill a requirement of the Christian life that is simultaneously self-fulfilling.
- Prayer is an encounter with God, initiated by him through his word, that changes our hearts. As we humbly communicate and worship the Lord, confess our sins and transgressions, and ask him to fulfill both our needs and redefine the desires of our heart, the alignment of our will to His is what we stand to gain in prayer
  - The desires of our heart must be for things agreeable to His will
  - Our concerns about whether prayer changes God are lessened when we consider we would not want him to answer a prayer that was not according to his will.

***Ethos Reflection:** Use one word to describe your primary mode of prayer. Use one word to describe the main thing you receive from prayer. How do these words relate to your prayer life consistency? Is there anything you are reluctant to ask of God in prayer? With reference to the answer to these questions, use one word as a request from God in prayer and be prepared to share.*



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## Self-Ruled

*"I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps."  
~ Jeremiah 10:23 ESV*

*"Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."  
~ Proverbs 16:32 ESV*

- Biblically Self-Ruled: The desire and the ability to willingly submit to God-given authority without being forced, coerced, or constantly reminded to do so.
- Self-government is the primary means by which man was to be ruled. God did not stage guards around the Tree of Good & Evil forcing Adam to stay away. It was up to Adam to be self-ruled by willingly submitting to God and obeying His law.
- Self-government still is, and always has been, bound by the word of God. It is the willing submission and obedience to the word of God that makes us self-ruled.
- To bring the period of the Judges to an end, the Israelites asked to be like every other nation and to be ruled by a king. When man refuses to be self-ruled, he asks to be a slave.
  - God said their desire was a rejection of Him as their King (1 Samuel 8:7).
  - By rejecting God, we reject the most just and merciful master we can have.
  - This is exactly what we do when we refuse to be ruled by the Word of God: we trade freedom for slavery.
- Without self-ruled men, the other governments among men will suffer, tending toward anarchy or tyranny.
- In Judges 16, we see Samson as an example of a man who was not self-ruled, who lacked self-control, and who did not guard against immorality:
  - He allowed his eyes and lust to get the best of him when he went to Gaza and spent the night with a prostitute.
  - He constantly let his guard down: 'And [Delilah] said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him. ~ Judges 16:20
- We must watch our eyes and guard against immorality and the loss of self-control; lust is an enemy of the spirit but best friends with the flesh



- If you are walking with the Lord, but you're taking dangerous risks on occasion, you will begin to slowly walk away from the Lord, let your guard down, and there will come a time when the Lord will remove His hand of protection
- We must have strong self-control and overcome our own lust and desires. Satan will attempt to lure us away by targeting our weakness.
  - The testing point for men is when we're alone or when we're struggling and a little discouraged. These are the times that require strength.
  - Recall Jesus' time in the desert, where he spoke God's word as defense against Satan - "Watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation, for the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
  - As men, we are called to lead. You cannot lead others if you cannot lead yourself.
- The first step of being self-ruled is deciding that Christ will rule you. The second is planning how to be ruled by Christ.

*Ethos Reflection: Men who are self-ruled can be said to have a strong constitution. Can you place your constitution in writing? Jot down some key words or phrases as a working reference toward creating your own personal constitution of a self-ruled life. Compare with others and continue to add to your own.*

*After this weekend, bring your thoughts on this to prayer with God and see if you can refine them into a written work with cited Bible verses to be submitted to God. Remember, God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. A strong constitution will include submitting our weaknesses to Him!*





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## Strength

*And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor."  
~ Judges 6:12*

*The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as lions. ~ Proverbs 28:1*

*And also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak...  
- Ephesians 6:19-20*

- The big 5 personality tests say that men in general are less agreeable. God made men with this capacity in creating them first in the Creation account. We are made as protectors of truth, with strength as a primary attribute.
- When David's time drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man" ~ 1 Kings 2:1-2
- In 1 Peter 3:7, scholars agree that Peter was referring not only to physical strength, but emotional strength as well.
- In Jeremiah 51:30 and Isaiah 19:16, men whose strength has failed are referred to as women. "Confrontation avoided is confrontation magnified"
- C. S. Lewis is quoted in saying "courage is the sum of every virtue at the boiling point"—being bold requires courage.
- There are times men need to charge a hill for their family, church, friends, neighbors, and country. We need to identify what hills we are called to die on and boldly charge them.
- Joshua & Caleb were faithful to God's call and stood boldly in the face of giant enemies, literally. Their report stood out as courageous and faithful to God's word of promise among all the others that did not.
  - If God is telling you to do something, rest assured, there will be enemies in the land, and it will require boldness. God's plan might not always make sense, but if God is directing you, then you can know that He will see you through.
- Peter was the only one who followed Christ during his trial, but did so at a "safe" distance. When under trial, Peter cared more about his own comfort than his proximity to Christ—a lack of boldness.



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- Jesus came back to Peter after his resurrection and asked, “Do you love me more than these,” referring to his declaration prior to his denial; Jesus in a mark of boldness, hit him at the point of his pride.
  - To be firm in spirit (bold) is to celebrate what’s good and stay on mission. Make sure you’re sharing the gospel and seeing people saved and baptized and staying on mission for Christ.
  - Passivity is one of the main enemies of biblical masculinity. Men who think conflict should be avoided or who refuse to engage with those who would harm the body of Christ or their family not only model passivity, but fail in their responsibilities as protectors.
    - Just because you follow God as a strong Biblical man, doesn’t mean difficulties will never come your way.
    - If we see the construction of idols or falsehoods in each other's lives we are called to boldly tear them down. Don’t make a personal preference or comfort into your God.
    - Homosexuality and feminism are in glaring opposition to masculinity and need to be confronted boldly. This does not necessitate harshness, but persistence, intelligence, and watchfulness as it consists of doing everything in love.
    - We must be on guard against opposition to masculinity from entering our homes and actively protect those who are under our stewardship from it.
    - This does not mean we hide from it, but boldly confront it with the truth of God’s created order, through His word, and by being living examples of what His order produces in families.

***Ethos Reflection:** The world today has a varied view of what justice looks like, with many people motivated for certain causes by anger. Where is God calling you to be bold and stand in the face of injustice? Are there certain people or places in your life that may oppose the boldness of biblical masculinity?*

*Discuss what remaining bold in the face of this kind of opposition may look like. Consider how Jesus approached injustice: he embraced the poor and needy; he touched lepers; he chatted openly with outcasts; and he did not condemn sinners but dined with them.*



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## Pursuit of Masculinity

*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.*

*~ 1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

- Three essential characteristics of biblical masculinity: leadership, provision, and protection. The pursuit of God's purposes for your life and those He has placed under your stewardship is a mark of true masculinity—we must be unapologetically masculine.
  - Biblical manhood is lived out in a particular manner and is seen most clearly in the role of leader, provider, and protector. The pursuit of biblical masculinity is to get to the point where you are feeding and caring for others (remember, you cannot lead others if you cannot lead yourself).
- Genesis 1 reveals the shared work God gave men and women to do — to take dominion, to subdue the earth, and to be fruitful.
  - Men and women are equal in essence, are distinct in function in how they fulfill the tasks God gave them in a complementary way, yet Adam is held morally responsible for eating the forbidden fruit even though Eve eats it first.
  - The pattern and order of creation set in these chapters is for men to bear the authority and responsibility of leadership — if you're a man, it's not an option to be a leader, it's your God-given assignment and identity. God calls you to lead in various contexts in your life.
- Remember, passivity is one of the main enemies of biblical masculinity.
  - Show leadership, protection, and provision by moving toward the action and demonstrating your availability to meet those needs.
- The pursuit of masculinity is a battle cry — we must cultivate a habit of running to the battle.
  - *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. - Ephesians 6:10-11*
  - We need the full armor of God if we expect to heed that call.





- When men get serious about their faith and serving God, great things happen, battles are won, and His kingdom is expanded.
- The pursuit of masculinity is exemplified by love and a willingness to seek and receive conviction.
- We often choose to journey in a desert of our own making by avoiding the call God has made known to us since sound leadership often requires confession, accountability, and a healthy dose of humility — pursuing these things is another mark of true, biblical masculinity.
- Culture matters in terms of being a man or a woman. In 1 Corinthians 11:2-6, Paul is concerned about cultural symbols of masculinity and femininity.
- As Men, it is biblical that we pursue masculinity. That we seek to be and act like men and not like women. We dress like men, and not like women — we do not act effeminate.
- *A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God. - Deuteronomy 22:5*
- John Piper clarifies by saying that men should “feel repulsed and shameful about wearing culturally defined symbols of womanhood.”
- In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Paul addresses effeminate men.
  - He uses the word *malakoi*, literally meaning soft ones, which figuratively meant *effeminate* and was used as a term to refer to the passive (“soft”) partner in a homosexual act.

*Ethos Reflection: What areas of your life require provision, protection and leadership? Who is depending on you to pursue these responsibilities? Are you avoiding the call God has on your life in any of these areas (wandering in the desert)? If so, how can you boldly pursue the call in terms of confession, accountability, and humility? How does the Cross impact this pursuit?*





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## Intentional Friendships

*And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. ~ Ecclesiastes 4:12*

- The pursuit of intentional friendships is key in our battle against idolatry and sin in each others lives; learning how a more godly man got more godly can power-assist your progress in godliness.
- Do you have trusted people in your life who you seek out for wisdom? We need other men in our lives to build wisdom into us
  - Biblical masculinity requires being able to give and receive constructive criticism on when we are not acting like men; call each other out with “you need to act like a man”
- Ephesians 6:12: “For we do not wrestle against...” There is a corporate dimension of the conflict we experience; together we struggle against demonic forces, Satan, evil, and the sinfulness of the fallen world.
- According to the Greek historian Thucydides, wooden shields were sometimes coated in leather and soaked in water before a battle. With wooden shields wrapped in leather and soaked in water, the soldiers would stand shoulder-to-shoulder, shield-to-shield, and they would march in advance, effectively subduing flaming arrows. This required the help of others; you had to be surrounded by other men fighting the same battle. The first line of defense is men with shields. (Ephesians 6:16 )
- We need to continually remind ourselves that there are times when we sense God moving in our hearts, and we must share our convictions with those around us
- Do not let those things remain silent; share your convictions with others, especially those closest to you

***Ethos Reflection:** Discuss the corporate dimension Paul describes in our spiritual battles from Ephesians 6. What does standing shield-to-shield mean to you in your life? Do you have trusted men bearing arms with you?*

*Name other men who’s voice of influence you want to be spoken more into your life. How can you be more intentional about those friendships? How can those friendships be defined by acting like biblical men?*



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## Godly Character

*“Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” ~ 1 Timothy 4:7-8 ESV*

- In order to make any lasting progress in godliness, your chief motive must be to glorify God: “whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). Train your heart to love God’s glory more than your own, to love praising God more than receiving praise. Make it your ambition to please God in all you do (2 Corinthians 5:9).
- Godliness with contentment is great gain... (1 Timothy 6:6).
- Godly character is being caught up with self-sacrifice
- Real strength is exemplified by great moral power, firmness, and courage to abide by God’s ways
- Living with strong convictions means being decisively unyielding, firm, and uncompromising. Strong principles stand firm in a man’s heart even when the world changes.
- Combating the temptation of sexual lust should be at the top of a man’s list since it is one of the most destructive sins for the single man, the marriage, and families. You must conquer sexual lust before you can grow spiritually and mature into the stature of Christ
- The Triad of Masculine Virtues: wisdom, workmanship, and strength
- Wisdom is informed first by your fear and knowledge of the Lord and His word and second by your understanding of the world at large.
  - 1 Corinthians 14:35 instructs women to seek wisdom from their husbands at home. This makes being wise an especially masculine obligation. How can a man teach his wife or children if he does not first have wisdom himself?
- Workmanship is wisdom put into action; your developed ability and talents give to you by God to exercise dominion.
  - Workmanship emphasizes the ongoing nature of service: of perfecting your craft through labor.



- Godly workmanship is not necessarily about expert mastery or competence; What God wants, more than genius, is simple willingness to work hard where He has placed you.
- God wants you to make glorious use of your gifts. But to achieve such excellence requires, fundamentally, faithful workmanship. Workmanship is about more than simply doing and achieving, it is about becoming useful.
- While some with great skill achieve little because they lack the will to work, some men achieve great mastery, but over worthless things
- Strength is the fortitude through which you stand firm under pressure, through which you translate the virtue of wisdom into action.
  - It is the firmness of asserting rather than retiring. The hardness of conquering rather than surrendering, the force by which we do and dare.
  - Throughout Gods word strength is used as a defining virtue of masculinity 1 kings 2:2 “ be strong and as men, Isaiah 46:8 “show yourselves men.” 1 Cor. 16:13 “act like men, be strong.” The body is made to reflect the soul, and so Scripture often places strength of body alongside strength of mind in the phrase “be strong and courageous”.
- Strength, like the previous masculine virtues is perfectly interwoven in Gods character within the three virtues. Strength without wise application is destructive. Workmanship without Wisdom is futility. Wisdom without the strength to put it into action is worthless. The call is clear, as men we are to be strong; physically, mentally, spiritually. This is not optional, a weak man is no man at all.

***Ethos Reflection:** What does understanding the world at large mean to you? What does God’s word offer us in the pursuit of wisdom? Read James 1:5-8. Why does understanding God’s word first take precedence over understanding your world at large?*

*What are some of your talents that if applied are useful in exercising Godly dominion as men? Can you think of some areas of your life that you may have achieved a level of mastery in, but have no real utility? Is there a balance in the pursuit of these skills? Have some of them become idols?*

*What practices or routines do you have in place to keep your body strong? Is this possibly an area of God’s calling for men that you have neglected?*



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## Hard Working

*“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...”*  
*Ecclesiastes 9:10 ESV*

### Notes

- Mankind was assigned work to do prior to the Fall. Our vocational calling — to work with our hands and minds in a way that provides for others — is not a consequence of the Fall. Every Christian is called to work, and any lawful calling should never be considered second class or beneath our dignity. In fact, a willingness to serve in such roles is one of the ways the Lord teach us to climb to a place of cultural significance.
- One nearly universal definition of manhood is to produce more than you consume. But this doesn't just apply to bringing home bacon. A spiritually productive man is one who is a net burden-bearer, and a net wisdom-dispenser, a net exporter to others of spiritual good and gain.
- Strive to be a spiritual producer with a surplus of spiritual help that you can regularly share with others.
- *What gain has the worker from his toil? He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.*  
- Ecclesiastes 3:9-13
- *There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, - Ecclesiastes 2:24*
- Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ~ Colossians 3:23
- We are not transformed by pleasurable experiences, for they do not leave lasting impressions on us.
  - Our relationship with God blesses our work, whatever we choose to do.
  - Joy and satisfaction are not a direct product of one's work or skill but must be found in the work itself as it relates to one's relationship with God
  - Work is an opportunity for blessing and satisfaction, not the source.



- The Bible teaches that laziness is a disgrace (Proverbs 10:4-5). Laziness is not just the opposite of hard work, it lacks continuity.
  - *The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man's precious possession - Proverbs 12:27*
  - In this verse we learn that the disgrace of laziness is no different in a man who may have bursts of activity, even productivity, but lacks followthrough.
- We were created for work. Hard physical work is an important part of man's discipleship; to know what it is like to be exhausted, to have callused hands, and to work when your body does not want to any more. Man needs this, God said so, as sons of Adam.
- Self-Esteem vs. Self-Respect: Through this kind of work we learn to distinguish the popular notion of self-esteem vs the biblical concept of self-respect. Self-esteem is found in Galatians 6:3 "For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself." But self-respect is found in the next verse. "But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden" (Gal. 6:4-5)

*Ethos Reflection: But why hard work? Why "by the sweat of your brow"? It was in God's wisdom and grace that he saw the need for thorns and thistles. Just as the law is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, so is the sweat of the brow. Sinners don't do well living on big rock candy mountain. How is "thorns and thistles" really God's grace? How would your posture, needing a savior, be different if everything were easy?*

*As men we are called to lead; in our homes, our churches, and our communities. The word tells us "As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy man to those who send him" (Prov. 10:26) How is your ability to lead directly impacted by your hard work or laziness?*



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## Chivalrous

*"For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,"*  
2 Corinthians 8:3

- Chivalry is a system of ethical ideals that had its highest development in the 12th and 13th centuries. The main chivalric virtues were piety, honor, valor, courtesy, chastity, and loyalty.
- Chivalry as it pertained to courting a woman's hand in marriage was just one aspect of the code, but had everything to do with a knight's relationship to God, with the Church, and with others.
- A knight owed his chivalry to an undying obedience to God and loyalty to the Church. Leon Gautier in his book *Chivalry* (1883) summarized the "ancient code of chivalry" into what he called the "Ten Commandments of Chivalry". Here are just a few:
  - Thou shalt believe all that the Church teaches and shalt observe all its directions.
  - Thou shalt defend the church
  - Thou shalt respect all weaknesses, and shalt constitute thyself the defender of them
  - Thou shalt be generous, and give largesse to everyone
  - Thou shalt be everywhere and always the champion of the Right and the Good against Injustice and Evil.
- Plainly spoken, chivalry is love in action; a willingness to help those in need. Jesus makes a marked distinction about this kind of love we are to exemplify.
  - *"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same." -Luke 6:32-33*
- "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like." ~ Augustine



- Recognizing the needs of widows, the church in Acts 6 was told to, “Care for widows who were in your midst.” They sought faith-filled volunteer men of high integrity who could distribute finances and food to the widows.
  - In Acts 6 and 7, Stephen gives us an example of chivalry
  - He was elected as one of seven elders who were tasked with proper care of widows when provision was being distributed unfairly.
  - He is named as a man of *good* reputation, full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and demonstrated a strong and firm faith in the face of murderous pressure.
- *Lord , who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord ; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved. -Psalms 15:1-2,4-5*
  - As men who are called to be self-ruled, protectors and providers, we should be best equipped to help the needy — even at our own expense.
  - Remember, one definition of manhood is to produce more than you consume. We should require less of ourselves so that when we acquire more, we do so for others.
- Upholding a reputation of chivalry means we carry an overflow of blessings with us wherever we go. Remember, young men are watching us all the time and need to see examples of men who are faithful and fix their eyes on Jesus for the sake of others, especially when under pressure.
  - *When the ear heard, it called me blessed, and when the eye saw, it approved, because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him. The blessing of him who was about to perish came upon me, and I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know. I broke the fangs of the unrighteous and made him drop his prey from his teeth. - Job 29:11-17 ESV*

***Ethos Reflection:** Are there people in your life that look to you for strength? Can you identify anyone whose weaknesses could benefit from your strengths? How do the ideals of chivalry play out in establishing new relationships based on those ideals? What does defending the Church look like to you?*





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## Worshiping Homes

*As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord. ~ Joshua 24:15b*

- It's for the sake of the Gospel that redeemed men have a new commission for their leadership—to proclaim the good news and make disciples. This starts and is most important within their homes.
  - Instead of compartmentalizing the Gospel, redeemed men are to see it intersecting with their life at work, in their marriage, and with their children
- A Christian home is to be the first school, the first church, and the first government.
- Every family has a god. Every day, young adults leave home with the gods of self-fulfillment, money, leisure, work, or even ministry. Some leave with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. To a large extent, the difference is determined by how our families worship in the home.
  - “The key is to understand that our children don't belong to us—they belong to God. Our goal as parents must not be limited by our own vision. I am a finite, sinful, selfish man. Why would I want to plan out my children's future when I can entrust them to the infinite, omnipotent, immutable, sovereign Lord of the universe? I don't want to tell God what to do with my children—I want Him to tell me!” ~ Voddie T. Baucham Jr
  - “If you want to be a godly head of a family, you must ensure that there is Christian harmony among those under you, appropriate for a house where the leader fears God.” ~ John Bunyan
- Family worship is the regular use of Scripture, song, and prayer by a family unit, guided by the head of the household.
  - Families worship through scripture, singing, and prayer
- God requires heads of households, like good shepherds, to lead their families into green pastures. God expected Abraham to “command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord”.
- Family worship is an indispensable instrument for instilling both old and young with a consciousness of the Lord, His Word, and our call to worship.



- Children notice when worship is only a once-a-week activity. God often works powerfully in young lives whose souls are warmed by the incubator of daily family worship.
- Unless worship is codified in a family's schedule it will likely be supplanted by life's busyness. Some families will flourish with morning worship; others will better meet in the evening. Families that can find no time in their week for worship need to adjust their schedule.

*Ethos Reflection: What forms of worship do you practice in your home? Think about this question – are you worshiping things other than God? What can you do today to remove any obstacles and start to make steps toward a worshiping home?*

## Submissive Wives

*Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.  
~ Ephesians 5:24*

- A man in full submission to God can expect to be bypassed as the subject of his wife's submission, since his life points to the Lord as the Author and Law Giver.
- One can imagine how difficult (not to mention discouraging) it might be for women who are repeatedly called to submit to see their husbands and church leaders who refuse to submit to the authorities over them.
- By contrast, how encouraging it is for women to see that they are being asked to do something which their leaders willingly and cheerfully do first.
- If men are to be the leaders in the church and the home—a point often made in discussions about submission—then they ought to lead by example. Christian men should be a model of submission to the authority of Scripture, the authority of the church, the authority of government, and the authority of their workplace.
- *Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. - 1 Peter 3:7*
  - Firsthand knowledge of the difficulty of submission will, in turn, give us greater understanding and compassion for those under our leadership.
- Hoping to uphold the goodness of God's commands, Christians sometimes try to ground complementarian marriage in gendered psychology: women are natural



followers, men are natural leaders; men need respect, women need love; and so on. I've heard the claim that women are naturally more submissive, but I've never heard anyone argue that men are naturally more loving. Ephesians 5 grounds our marital roles not in gendered psychology, but in Christ-centered theology.

- 1 Peter 2:13-25 is an important context in understanding the command that follows in 3:1 of wives being subject to their husbands. As husbands, we cannot expect to always lead our wives perfectly. Even so, just as we are called to submit to unjust or imperfect authority as examples of Christ's suffering in 1 Peter 2, so too are we called to submit to one another in marriage.
- When we fall short of the perfect leader in our marriages it is important to acknowledge our imperfections with our wives and commend their conduct in allowing us to lead in spite of them as "a gracious thing in the sight of God" (1 Peter 2:20).
- By leading our wives graciously, and covering each other's shortcomings with that grace, we provide an environment that is conducive to a submissive wife.

*Ethos Reflection: Are there areas of your life where your wife might see an unwillingness to submit to an authority? What are the areas of your wife's life that you would like to see her practice submission? How does that relate to the first question? If you are single, how can you prepare yourself for a wife by practicing submission?*

## Covenant Children

*Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. ~ Psalm 127:3-5*

- Grace restores Nature to what it was before the Fall. Our homes when they are full of grace should be full of Blessing — Blessing is the heart of Parenting.
- As men, we are called to capture the love and devotion of our children. We must create the homes where God-centered joyful relationships can flourish. It is here where we bless our children and win their hearts.
- *My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways - Proverbs 23:26*
- In Proverbs 23, Solomon proceeds to teach his children about justice, discipline, wisdom, warns about the dangers of sin, and mentions the heart seven times! As



father's, we have a duty to impart proper dominion over the world as God did in His act of creation to our children.

- Three ways to bring children into covenant relationship: 1) Create the environment of abundant blessing, 2) Provide instruction along the way, 3) Discipline
- Be a curator of adventureful play that strikes curiosity and joy in their hearts. This requires energy and enthusiasm!
- We must teach our children that blessings come with responsibility. Making order out of chaos was God's first act, and we are to model that in our lives and instruct our children to do the same.
- In disciplining our children, we must discern the difference between discipline and punishment. The goal of discipline is a change in behavior.
- Our children need to understand that behavior that leads to discipline detracts from the environment of blessing and can make the family a place of sadness.
- *And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ~ Hebrews 12:5-6, 11*
- Forgiveness must be pursued in order to restore full relational blessings to the Family.
- Although Eve ate of the forbidden fruit first, it was Adam who was held morally responsible. As the spiritual head of the household, fathers are ultimately responsible for maintaining order within it.

*Ethos Reflection: As arrows in your quiver, what are you aiming your children toward? How are you polishing them into sharpened covenant children? If you are an empty nester, do you have people around you that you would consider your spiritual children? How can you do the same for them?*