

The Masculine Mandate

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Part One: Understanding our Mandate

- I. Man in the Garden.
 - A. Manhood: Who we are? Spiritual Creatures.
 1. ***[Genesis 2:7]- And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.***
 2. Only one with hands on creation by God.
 3. Received the breath of eternal life.
 4. ***[Genesis 1:27]- So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.***
 5. Created in His image in mortal bodies and immortal spirits.
 - B. Manhood: Where Man is? Covenant vs. Wild at Heart.
 1. ***[Genesis 2:8]- And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.***
 2. The Garden-the place where God relates covenantally to His creature Man.
 3. The Garden-the place where God brings man into covenantal relationships and obligations.
 4. The fallacy of interpretation of man being created and then placed within the Garden when woman was created within the Garden-man finding his identity in the wilderness where he was created.
 5. The truth in interpretation was that man was placed in the Garden to gain and act out his God-given identity there.
 - C. Manhood: What we are? Lords and Servants.
 1. ***[Genesis 1:28]- And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.***
 2. ***[Genesis 2:18, 20]- And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.***
 3. *“Adam was not to devote himself, therefore, to endless quests for his masculine identity, but he was to be lord and keeper of God’s created realm, ...”*
 - D. Manhood: How man may fulfill his calling? Work and Keep.
 1. ***[Genesis 2:15]- And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.***
 2. Work and labor to make things grow.
 3. Keep and protect and sustain progress achieved.
 - E. The Adventure Begins.
 1. Dangers of modern and post modern masculinity-men behaving like little boys forever, serving themselves in the name of self discovery.
 2. For it is in obedience to Scripture that the adventure of a man’s life truly begins.
 - a. To bear God’s image in the world.
 - b. To be true leaders and servants in the ultimate cause of displaying God’s glory and bearing the fruit of God’s love in real relationships.
 - F. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.
 1. How is it different to find your masculine identity in the Bible rather than in a life of self-serving quests? Why is God’s Word a safer guide?
 2. Genesis 2 says that a man’s identity includes servant-lordship on God’s behalf. What responsibilities has God given you and what authority has he placed into your hands? How

- should you act so that God is pleased and His name praised? Are there any future responsibilities for which you should be preparing now? How might you do that?
3. Why does God want our masculine identity to be forged in the Garden rather than out in the wilderness? Why is it important that men find their calling in God given relationships?

II. The Masculine Mandate.

A. Work: to cultivate as a gardener.

1. Tills, plants seeds, and fertilizes.
2. Cultivates, nurtures, and prunes.

B. Keep: to protect as a sword bearer.

1. God as example.
 - a. ***[Psalm 121:1-4]- I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.***
 - b. ***[Psalm 121:7-8]- The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.***
2. Stand guard.
 - a. Keeping safe that which was cultivated.
3. Circles of protection.
 - a. Family-security and at ease.
 - b. Church-truth and godliness.
 - c. Society-against evil and danger.

C. What greatness looks like?

1. God is still calling on men to cause good things to grow and to keep precious things safe.
2. “We will work and keep” will be our motto.

D. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.

1. Concern over man being taught to be “strong and silent”. What is wrong with a man being emotionally distant?
2. How have you benefited from another man’s heart-cultivating ministry to you? How have you felt with the lack of it? What are the relationships in which the Lord would challenge you to be more involved to nurture and cultivate growth?
3. Genesis 2:15 shows that men are to be guardian-protectors. What are the threats to people or things under your care? How should you be thinking about your calling to keep them safe?
4. The author states that the masculine mandate is “simple, but not easy”. Is this a simple set of ideas? If so, does that make them unimportant? Why is it not easy to fulfill this mandate, if the ideas are simple? What changes are needed in your life that you might better embrace the calling God gave to men in the Garden?

III. Man’s Sacred Calling to Work.

A. Intro.

1. Nothing worse than a man who will not work.
2. The Scorn of Paul.
 - a. ***[2 Thessalonians 3:10]- For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.***

B. Work in the Here and Now.

1. Conflict between unsatisfying labor and knowledge that work should be meaningful and enjoyable.
 2. Work, identity, and the effect of sin.
 - a. Value of work having deep satisfaction.
 - b. We were made for it and God placed us in the Garden for it.
 - c. Temptation with worldly-glory, self-serving power, or sinful pleasure associated with work.
 - d. Introduction of sin in the Garden changed the nature of work.
 - e. *“Work is the gift of God, not the punishment for sin.”*-Bruce Waltke
 - f. It was after God told Adam to be fruitful-by means of work-that God called creation good.
 - 1.) *[Genesis 1:31]- And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*
 - g. After Adam’s fall. Work remained good, but effects of sin made work hard.
 - 1.) *[Genesis 3:17-19]- And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*
 - h. Man’s industry essential.
 - 1.) *[Proverbs 10:4]- He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.*
 - 2.) *[Proverbs 12:27]- The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.*
 - 3.) Christians should give more than an honest day’s work for a days wage.
 - 4.) Many hobbies used for relaxation are really forms of work.
 3. Daily echoes of Genesis 2.
 - a. What you do tells people most of what they want to know about a man.
 - b. Simple conversations we have sprout from the theology of work and calling rooted in the Garden recorded in Genesis 2.
- C. Work in Heaven.
1. Along with worship, there will be work in Heaven.
 - a. *[Luke 19:17-19]- And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.*
 - b. *[Matthew 25:21]- His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*
 - c. *[Matthew 19:28]- And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*
 - d. *[Romans 8:19-23]- For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have*

the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

D. The Right work for you here.

1. Does it glorify God?
 - a. Do my job requirements cause me to compromise biblical principles?
 - b. Would I be embarrassed if my pastor should visit?
 - c. ***[Deuteronomy 6:5]- And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.***
2. Does it serve others?
 - a. ***[Matthew 22:39]- And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.***
 - b. ***[Matthew 6:24]- No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.***
3. Does it give you a sense of calling and enjoyment?
 - a. ***[Romans 1:1]- Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,***
 - b. ***[Acts 9:15]- But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:***
 - c. “When I do this job well, is it satisfying?”
4. Does it take care of your material needs?
 - a. If you are unable to consistently satisfy basic needs as well as save and tithe.
 - 1.) Are you striving for an unrealistic lifestyle?
 - 2.) Why am I so obviously under employed and what do I need to do?
5. Does it lead to a Godly and balanced life?
 - a. The danger of being over employed.
 - b. So wrapped up in work that their lives are regularly out of balance.

E. Seasons of Work.

1. ***[1 Corinthians 7:21]- Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.***

F. Working to Please the Lord

1. “*When I run, I feel God’s pleasure.*” –Eric Liddell, can be used a litmus test.
2. To offer up something in our work directly to God.
 - a. ***[Colossians 3:17]- And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.***
3. Serving those over us.
 - a. ***[Colossians 3:22-24]- Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.***
4. Leading those under us.
 - a. To recognize that his employees are to serve in ways that is meaningful and productive and suitable for their gifts and talents.
5. Loving others in daily interactions.

- a. *[Matthew 25:35-40]- For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

G. An Audience of One.

1. We are not to live for the praise of the world but an audience of One.

H. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.

1. Do you find that people link your identity to your work? What does your job or schooling say about you?
2. The author points out that as a result of the fall, a man's work is difficult and demanding. How do you experience this? What frustrations do you face in your working life? How do you manage tensions between home and workplace so that you can be faithful in both places?
3. The author states that men were made for work. Do you find that you enjoy working? Does the biblical material presented here challenge you to reconsider your attitude toward work?
4. If you are in school, how are you preparing now for your future occupation? What specific things might you pray to the Lord about with respect to embracing a man's calling to work?
5. How do you feel about your job? Does the material presented here about assessing one's work help you to think about your career? Do you think that what you do honors God and serves others? Would you be willing for your pastor to visit your worksite? What changes might you make at your job that would make your job that would make your service more pleasing to God? Is there a conflict between your boss' expectations and the Lord's expectations for your work? How do you handle any tensions between the two?

IV. Man as the Image of God.

A. Introduction.

1. Men forbidden to make images of God but to be the image of God.
2. *[Genesis 1:26-27]- And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*
3. God says in effect, "Bear My image".
4. All men carry the image in some measure but by grace, Christians carry it in greater measure.
5. *[Matthew 5:16]- Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*
6. Others would see something of the Glory of God-His mercy, faithfulness, power, and grace in us.

B. Bearing God's Image.

1. We were created rational and spiritual beings.
2. We were granted dominion over creation.
 - a. *[Genesis 1:26-27]- And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*
 - b. *[Matthew 6:10]- Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

3. We are a reflection of original righteousness.
 - a. *[Luke 3:38]- Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.*
- C. The Christian's Call to Reveal God.
1. Our new nature.
 2. Revealing the glory of God to a sin darkened world.
 - a. So that He will be praised and sinners will be saved by coming to know the Lord.
 3. Revealing God by what we do.
 - a. To be utterly devoted to the work of the Gospel.
 - b. To devote yourself to your own faith and drawing near to God.
 - c. To be involved in your church by using any gifts God has given.
 - d. To be ready and open to be a spiritual blessing to others by consoling, encouraging, and instructing.
 4. Revealing God by who we are.
 - a. Sanctification-growth in holiness.
 - 1.) *[2 Corinthians 3:18]- But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
 - 2.) *[Romans 8:29]- For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*
 - b. Means of Grace.
 - 1.) Transformation through God's Word.
 - a.) *[Romans 12:2]- And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
 - b.) *[Psalm 19:7-11]- The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*
 - c.) *[John 8:31-32]- Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
 - 2.) Transformation through Prayer.
 - a.) *"This means of grace is especially vital in receiving God's power to change our hearts and remove vestiges of sin."*
 - b.) *[Luke 11:10]- For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*
 - c.) *[1 John 5:14]- And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any*
 - d.) *thing according to his will, he heareth us:*
 - e.) *[1 Thessalonians 4:3]- For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*
 - f.) *[James 4:2]- Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*

g.) *[Luke 11:13]- If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

3.) Transformation through God given ordinances.

a.) Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

b.) *[Luke 22:19]- And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.*

c.) *[1 Corinthians 10:16]- The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*

D. The Promise of Final Victory

1. Some sins will be with us till death.

2. *[Philippians 3:12]- Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

3. *[Romans 11:36]- For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

4. *[Romans 16:7]- Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.*

5. *[Galatians 1:5]- to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

6. *[Ephesians 3:21]- unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

7. *[Philippians 4:20]- Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

8. *[1 Timothy 1:17]- Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

E. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.

1. When you think of the glory of God, what comes to mind? How does nature reveal God's Glory? In what ways is man especially created to display the glory of God?

2. How did God's original design enable Adam to bear God's image? How has sin kept us from glorifying God, as we should? How does the grace of Christ enable us to glorify God?

3. Do you think your life has real significance? If not, why not? Why is it that God's calling for us in Christ makes our lives truly significant? How might God be calling you to be more active in spreading the glory of His truth and grace in Christ?

4. If someone were to ask ten people who know you well, what would they say is the area in which you most need spiritual growth and improvement? How would you answer this question? Have you tried to improve through your own power? How would you go about seeking God's power to enable you to advance in Christlikeness?

V. Man as Shepherd-Lord.

A. The Leader as Lord.

1. *[Genesis 2:19-20]-And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him.*

B. Leadership: A Crisis and a Priority.

1. Leadership and the exercise of authority are commonly met with skepticism.

a. In our sinful pride we all have a resistance to being led.

b. We are all familiar with leaders who have used their power to enrich their own lives, abusing rather than blessing those entrusted into their care.

2. There is an urgent need for men who are leaders in the truest sense of the word.
3. God has given such leadership as a way for His blessing to come to earth.
4. God calls men to exercise leadership on His behalf.
 - a. *[Ephesians 4:11-13]- And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*
 - b. *[1 Peter 5:1-5]- The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility : for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*
5. *[2 Samuel 23:3-4]- The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.*

C. The Leader as Shepherd.

1. Abel labeled as "Keeper of sheep"
 - a. *[Genesis 4:2]- And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*
2. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were all herdsman
3. Moses was keeping the flock for Jethro while seeing the burning bush and called by God to lead Israel.
 - a. *[Exodus 3:1]- Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the back side of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.*
 - b. *[Numbers 27:16-17]- Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the Lord be not as sheep which have no shepherd.*
4. David as the shepherd-king of Israel.
 - a. *[Psalm 78:72]- So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided (shepherded) them by the skillfulness of his hands.*
5. Jesus as the Good Shepherd.
 - a. *[John 10:11]- I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*
6. The True Shepherd Role.
 - a. Evokes feelings of security.
 - b. Lives among the sheep, identifying with them and sharing hardships, risks, and dangers.
 - c. His attention and passion is directed toward the well being of the sheep themselves.
 - d. The sheep are his preoccupation, his burden, and his joy.
 - e. *[Psalm 23:1]- The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
 - f. The shepherd wears himself in sacrificial labor for their sake.
 - g. The shepherd may be discharged in his duties only when the sheep have grown strong, surviving the hazards of their journey

- h. *“The shepherd is the servant of the sheep; it is their growth and nurture that set the agenda for his success.”* Richard Phillips’ The Heart of the Executive
- i. **[3 John 4]- I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.**

D. Shepherd-Leadership and the Masculine Mandate.

1. Adam put in the Garden to work it and keep it.
 - a. **[Genesis 2:15]- And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.**
2. Shepherd put in position of leadership to nurture and protects.
 - a. **[Psalm 23:1]- The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**
3. Work: Shepherding as Guiding.
 - a. **[Psalm 23:2-3]- He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.**
 - b. **[Proverbs 29:18]- Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.**
 - c. **[Matthew 9:36-38]- But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.**
4. Keep: Shepherding as Protecting.
 - a. **[Psalm 23:4]- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**
5. Work and Keep: Shepherding as Caring.
 - a. Provision and Acceptance.
 - 1.) **[Psalm 23:5]- Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:**
 - b. Blessing.
 - 1.) **[Psalm 23:5]- thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**
 - c. Belonging.
 - 1.) **[Psalm 23:6]- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

E. Shepherding as Self Sacrifice.

1. Shepherd with Love and Self Sacrifice.
 - a. **[John 10:11]- I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**
 - b. **[1 Peter 5:4]- And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.**

F. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.

1. The author states that our times from a crises of leadership. Do you agree or disagree? How can Christian men provide one answer to the crises of our times?
2. Why were so many of the Bible’s great leaders shepherds? What does the shepherd motif say about God’s attitude toward His people? How would you compare shepherd-leadership to other common forms of leadership today?
3. How can you begin practicing shepherd-leadership, regardless of your setting? What are the biggest changes this will require in your treatment of other people?

4. Are you prepared to serve as a shepherd-leader? Do you have the needed competence to guide others? Are you able to exercise ruling authority to guide and protect? Are you interested in caring ministry, like that which Jesus gives to His people? In what ways does this description of leadership challenge you for growth?

Part Two: Living our Mandate

VI. God's Astonishing Design for Marriage.

A. Designed Incomplete.

1. All in the Garden was good except man being alone.
 - a. ***[Genesis 2:18]- And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.***
2. Man's need for a partner.
 - a. ***[Genesis 2:19-20]- And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.***
3. The woman designed as helper.
 - a. Not only as a companion or friend for fellowship.
 - b. As a helper to work and keep the mandate to work and keep God's creation under the man's leadership.

B. A Man Should Find a Wife.

1. Encouragement not rebuke to single men to reconsider marriage and renew prayers for a wife.
2. Gift of singleness an exception but seek marriage of not having the gift.
3. A problem in the church today is that young men do not value and pursue marriage.
4. Marriage is God's provision for lust.
 - a. ***[1 Corinthians 7:9]- But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.***
5. God views singleness as not good and sees a collection of unfit helpers.
 - a. Pornography, video games, sports obsessions, and unhealthy, gluttonous eating.
 - b. Society (and Satan) tells young men to deprive themselves of God's provision for their physical, emotional, and sexual needs. More echoes of Eden and taking the fruit of the Tree.

C. A Helper Suitable, yet Different.

1. A helper.
 - a. Woman not only made as a helper but as a "fit" for him.
 - 1.) Kenegdo-the root meaning "in front of" or "across from". Woman is not a mirror image but a matching puzzle piece.
 - 2.) ***[Genesis 2:21-23]- And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.***
 - 3.) God made woman from man but then fashioned her to be different, precisely fitted as a helper for man.

- b. A helper as noble in God's eyes.
 - 1.) *[Exodus 18:4]- And the name of the other was Eliezer; for the God of my father, said he, was mine help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh:*
 - 2. The wonder and the challenge.
 - a. *[Genesis 2:23]- And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*
 - b. Women are men's equal, not men's possessions or slaves. Yet are different.
 - c. Women are thus found both compellingly attractive and mysterious.
 - d. Many men rue the differences between them and their wives, especially when compounded by sin, but the differences are God's design.
 - 3. Love is not meant to be easy.
 - a. God so designed marriage where it doesn't always make us feel good.
 - b. God's gift of His Son was costly gift, God intends for a man's love for his wife to be costly.
 - c. Marriage designed to show us a God-like agape love.
 - 4. How to love.
 - a. *[Genesis 2:24-25]- Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*
 - b. Hold fast or cleave.
 - c. Leave behind self-focus that was only intended as temporary in a state of singleness.
- D. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.
- 1. Why is it not good for man to be alone? Why is the reluctance of young adult men to get married so dangerous? Why does God want men to enter into the marriage relationship?
 - 2. Why can't dogs really be "man's best friend"? What are God's goal in the companionship between a husband and a wife? What does a "suitable helper" mean?
 - 3. If you are a married man, what kind of "giving love" connects with your wife? Do you find this easy or difficult? Why is it a challenge for men to go beyond receiving love to the giving love that God desires? How might you pray so as to better bond with and minister to your wife?
 - 4. If you are single, what is keeping you from marriage? Pray for God to enable you to take a wife and for God to provide you with a wife.

VII. Marriage Cursed and Redeemed.

A. Adam's Apple.

- 1. Satan's first attack on God's creation was via the man-woman relationship.
- 2. Satan attacked at the point where the man and woman were vulnerable.
- 3. Satan saw the threat potential of their partnership.
- 4. For Adam, refusing the fruit meant rejecting of his wife in favor of God, and that accepting the fruit meant rejection of God in favor of his wife.
- 5. God's gifts convey blessing only when enjoyed in obedience to God.
- 6. Adam didn't fall merely by choosing to sin but by preferring God's gift of his wife to God Himself.

B. Love Estranged.

- 1. Alienation between the man and woman.
 - a. *[Genesis 3:7]- And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*
- 2. Alienation between the man and God.

- a. *[Genesis 3:8-13]- And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*

C. Marriage Cursed by our Failure.

1. God's Curse on Woman.

- a. *[Genesis 3:16]- Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*
- b. Pain.
 - 1.) Pain in conception in woman's menstrual cycle.
 - 2.) Pain in childbirth.
- c. Conflict.
 - 1.) An unwholesome desire to possess her husband.
 - a.) *[Song of Solomon 7:10]- I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.*
 - b.) *[Genesis 4:7]- If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*
 - 2.) An unwholesome desire to control her husband.
 - a.) Man shall rule over her.

2. God's Curse on Man.

- a. *[Genesis 3:17-19]- And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*
- b. Because of Adam's leadership, his curse would have a more broader effect, bringing a curse to the very land that Adam was to work and keep.
- c. God made the man to direct himself outward toward the garden. With his wife by his side, he was to make things abundant and fruitful. Now, the man's outward orientation is so demanding that he will show practically no attention to the woman at all.
- d. God's curse on the man draws him unwholesomely *away* from the woman, even as the curse on the woman draws her unwholesomely *toward* the man.

D. The Purpose of the Curse.

- 1. The struggles with the curse are meant to drive us to our knees and to our Bibles, that we would restore God to the center of our lives.
- 2. That there would be godly descendants standing in opposition to the ungodly descendants.
- 3. We see God's redemptive grace for the man and woman.
 - a. God Said that if Adam sinned, there would be death in the Garden-a pointing to Christ's atoning work for Adam's sin.
 - b. God's clothing them in the hides of spotless, innocent animals-also pointing to Christ's atoning work.
 - c. Here we see the imputed righteousness of Christ-God clothing us in Christ's innocence.

- d. Adam calling her Eve, the mother of all living, declaring their shared faith in the coming Messiah.
- E. Our Hope for Renewal.
1. Access to graces through Christ: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
 - a. ***[Colossians 3:12-13]- Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.***
 2. Access to peace ruling in hearts.
 - a. ***[Colossians 3:14-16]- And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.***
- F. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.
1. How do you experience the pattern by which sinful man wants to enjoy God's gifts but reject God the Giver? Why is this a problem?
 2. Do you think it is fair to say that women tend to want to possess and control men? How does the curse on Eve describe this tendency? How does this desire lead to marital conflict? Is it likewise fair to say that men tend to be preoccupied outside the relationship? What is the problem with this pattern?
 3. How does the promise of the Gospel-specifically as centered on God's depiction of an atoning sacrifice and imputed righteousness (the covering of Adam and Eve by the hides of innocent animals)-serve as the starting point for redeeming our marriages?
 4. What are the "resources of grace" laid out by Paul in Colossians 3:12-13? How do these serve as resources that enable us to respond differently and more lovingly to our wives?

VIII. Marriage and the Masculine Mandate.

A. Masculine Headship and Feminine Submission.

1. Be imitators of God.
 - a. ***[Ephesians 5:1]- Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;***
2. Moral purity.
 - a. ***[Ephesians 5:3-4]- But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.***
3. Peaceable submission.
 - a. Wives to husbands
 - 1.) ***[Ephesians 5:22-24]- Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.***
 - b. Children to parents.
 - 1.) ***[Ephesians 6:1-2]- Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;***
 - c. Slaves to masters.
 - 1.) ***[Ephesians 6:5-8]- Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not***

with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

4. Husbands love your wives.
 - a. Leading the marriage and the home.
 - b. *[Ephesians 5:25-28]- Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*
- B. To Work: A Husband's Ministry to Nurture.
1. Her spiritual well being.
 - a. *To build up her faith and hope in Christ through his ministry in God's Word.*
 - b. *[Ephesians 5:26-27]- That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*
 - c. *[1 Peter 3:7]- Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*
 2. Live together.
 - a. Commune with them.
 3. Pay attention.
 - a. In an understanding way.
 - b. According to knowledge.
 4. Show honor.
 - a. Cherishing her time.
 5. Nourish and cherish.
 - a. Nourish wives with the God's Word by cherishing them so as to be close to their hearts.
 - b. Be men of faith and gain biblical knowledge as motivated by love for wives.
- C. To Keep: Dying for Her to Live.
1. Safe even from you.
 2. As a man under authority.
 - a. Husbands neither the ultimate authority over their wives nor the only ones committed to their protection. They are also daughters of the Lord.
 - b. *[1 Peter 3:7]- Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*
 - c. If a husband doesn't love his wife, as God wants, it will negatively affect God's relationship with him.
- D. A Christlike Redeemer.
1. Example of Ruth and Boaz.
 - a. Boaz's provision and protection for Ruth.
 - 1.) *[Ruth 2:8-9]- Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens: Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not*

charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

- b. Boaz's recognition of Ruth's virtue and godliness.
 - 1.) *[Ruth 2:10-11]- Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.*
- c. Ruth's desire for protection and provision.
 - 1.) *[Ruth 3:7-9]- And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.*
- d. Husband should be like Christ as redeemer, not Christ.
 - 1.) *[Ephesians 5:23]- For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

E. Assurance of Blessing.

- 1. Strong synergies between being a Christlike husband and a godly father.
- 2. Great blessings that come from a godly marriage.
 - a. *[Ruth 4:17]- And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.*

F. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.

- 1. Why is it so important that the husband lead the marriage and the home? What happens to a wife when her husband won't lead? What happens to a man when he is not leading his home?
- 2. Why are a husband's encouraging words so important to a wife? What is it in a woman's make-up that makes her husband's attention and nurturing care so important to her? What behaviors on your part would your wife say make her feel cherished? Is there a reason why you cannot do these things regularly?
- 3. What types of sins husbands tend to make wives feel unsafe? Which of your sins do you need to die for the sake of your wife?
- 4. What do you think of Ruth's statement to Boaz, "You are a redeemer"? In what ways is this description appropriate for any Christian husband? How can you best represent Christ as the head of your home and marriage?

IX. To Work: The Disciplining of Children.

A. Fathers and the Masculine Mandate.

- 1. Discipline- an act of keeping.
- 2. Discipling- an act of working, the process of bonding with our children so as to guide their hearts personally to faith in Jesus.

B. Give me your Heart.

- 1. *[Proverbs 23:26]- My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.*
- 2. *[Proverbs 4:23]- Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*
- 3. Give them your Heart.
- 4. One Father's Example.

- C. Four ways to reach a Child's Heart.
1. Read God's Word to them.
 2. Pray for them and with them.
 3. Work with them.
 4. Play with and alongside them.
- D. Different Seasons, one Goal.
1. As children grow, our power over them changes to influence rather than authority.
 2. ***[John 8:12]- Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.***
- E. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.
1. What is the difference between discipling and discipline? How are they related? Why are both absolutely in the Christian upbringing of children?
 2. Why is the father's plea for his children's heart the key to Christian parenting (Proverbs 23:26)? How has your experience as a child influenced your thinking about this? Are there barriers in your heart that keep you from offering your heart to your children?
 3. If we compare a father's role with his children to a gardener's work with plants, how does this help you to think about your calling as a father?
 4. Do you think that the four words, Read, Pray, Work, and Play, are helpful in structuring time with your children? Which of these is most challenging to you?
 5. Have you made a commitment to family worship involving Scripture reading and prayer? Why is this so important?
 6. How can you display your passion for Jesus to your children? How can you make the Lord attractive to them?
- X. To Keep: The Discipline of Children.
- A. Examples of Poor Discipline.
1. King David-son assaulted half sister and other son killed him in revenge. Other son rebelled.
 2. Jacob-sons sold Joseph into slavery and said he was killed.
 3. Eli the High Priest-sons involved in repeated sexual sins and misuse of animal sacrifice.
 4. Samuel the prophet-sons so corrupt, the people asked for a king rather than be lead by them.
 5. King Jehoshaphat-son Jehoram allowed to marry daughter of King Ahab.
 6. King Hezekiah-son Manasseh set up idols to Molech and sacrificed children.
 7. King Josiah-all three sons, Jehoiachin, Jehoiakim, and Zedekiah were unrighteous kings.
- B. The Call to Keep a Child's Heart.
1. The child's greatest threat not physical but spiritual.
 - a. ***[Psalm 51:5]- Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.***
 - b. *"There are things within the heart of the sweetest little baby that, allowed to blossom and grow to fruition, will bring about eventual destruction"* Ted Tripp *Shepherding a Child's Heart*
 - c. *"If we address a young person's internal sin problem-his heart-we also weaken the power of external sin problems."*
 2. Seek obedience.
 - a. Children to obey their parents.
 - 1.) ***[Ephesians 6:1]- Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.***
 - 2.) ***[Genesis 18:19]- For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.***

- b. Keep our children in humility and love.
 - 1.) *[Jeremiah 17:9]- The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*
 - 2.) *[Proverbs 29:17]- Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.*
 - 3. Exercise self-control.
 - a. Care in not provoking children.
 - 1.) *[Ephesians 6:4]- And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*
 - 2.) *[James 3:5-10]- Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*
- C. The Way to Keep a Child's Heart.
- 1. Our goal in discipline ought be the same as God's for us.
 - a. *[Hebrews 12:11]- Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*
 - 2. Physical reproof: Sparing not the rod.
 - a. *[Proverbs 23:13-14]- Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.*
 - b. *[Proverbs 29:15]- The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*
 - c. *[Proverbs 13:14]- The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.*
 - d. Helpful points.
 - 1.) Seek privacy.
 - 2.) Make the offense known.
 - 3.) Require that the offence be acknowledged.
 - 4.) Embrace, reassure, and exhort.
 - 5.) Repeat as necessary.
 - e. *[1 Kings 1:6]- And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom.*
 - 3. Verbal reproof: Exercising parental authority.
 - a. Father must impose his will on his children by the force of his personality and authority.
 - b. Will imposed largely by words.
 - c. Sad example of Eli and his sons Hophni and Phinehas
 - 1.) *[1 Samuel 2:22-23, 25, 29]- Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him?*

Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them. Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?

- d. A father's authority demonstrated and exercised in various ways.
 - 1.) A look.
 - 2.) Our speech.

D. Advice on Application.

1. Protecting from internal threats.
 - a. Physical reproof.
 - b. Verbal reproof.
2. Protecting from external threats.
 - a. Harmful influences.
 - b. Unwholesome relationships.
3. Be the bad cop.
4. Maintain a sense of humor.
 - a. *[Proverbs 17:22]- A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*
5. Do not provoke.
 - a. *[Ephesians 6:4]- And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*
 - b. Always be on the child's side, even when punishing. Never be against them or speak to them in contempt.
 - c. Having reasonable expectations. Only punish for willful disobedience.
6. Bathe it all in prayer.
 - a. *[1 Peter 5:6-7]- Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*
7. *[Genesis 17:7]- And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.*
8. *[Hebrews 12:10]- For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*

E. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.

1. Reflect on the list of Old Testament saints who failed to raise godly children. What do you make of this? What factors might have contributed to this tendency?
2. How do you feel about the idea of parental authority? Do you agree that a father must be an authority figure who enforces his rule?
3. What do you think about the biblical methods for punishing children? Do you have tips for what to do and what not to do? Why is such discipline increasingly opposed in secular society?
4. Why is it important for fathers to treat their children with courtesy, kindness, and good humor even while exercising authority? Why do men sometimes struggle with anger when disciplining their children? Why is it important to restrain anger, and how do men do this?

XI. Men in Friendship.

A. Introduction

1. Example of General Ulysses S Grant and Major General John Rawlins.

2. Rawlins extracted a pledge of sobriety from Grant at the beginning of the war.
 3. *[Ecclesiastes 4:9-10]- Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.*
- B. The Remarkable Jonathan.
1. A mark of a true godly man is faithfulness in friendship to other men, especially Christian brothers.
 2. Jonathan and David's history.
 - a. Jonathan had been the darling of the army of Israel prior to David's explosive appearance.
 - b. It would have been natural (in sin) for Jonathan to resent David.
 - c. Jonathan an example of manly grace.
 - 1.) *[1 Samuel 13:14]- But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.*
 - 2.) As prince, Jonathan stood to inherit kingdom from Saul.
 - 3.) Jonathan responded to David's victory over Goliath by giving him his royal robes, sword, bow, and belt.
 - a.) *[1 Samuel 18:3]- Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.*
 - 4.) Intervened when Saul's anger for David threatened David's life.
 - 5.) Helped David when he was close to despair after fleeing for his life from Saul.
- C. The Friend who comes.
1. David's dire situation.
 - a. *[1 Samuel 23:14]- And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.*
 - b. *[Psalm 6:3]- My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long?*
 2. Jonathan's faithful ministry.
 - a. *[1 Samuel 23:16]- And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.*
 3. Taking initiative.
 - a. From safety and comfort to danger and deprivation.
 - b. Sacrifice of time, labor, and hardship.
 4. Seeking to understand.
 - a. Sensitive to needs of others.
 - b. *[Philippians 2:3-4]- Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*
 - c. *[Proverbs 17:17]- A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*
- D. The Helping Hand.
1. Jonathan strengthened David in his weakness.
 - a. *[1 Samuel 23:16]- And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.*
 2. Jonathan reminded David of God's promises.

- a. *[1 Samuel 23:17]- And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.*
3. Example of Elisha.
 - a. *[2 Kings 6:16-17]- And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.*
- E. Ministering to Faith.
1. Jonathan's help was the real turning point for David as many sought to betray him to Saul.
 - a. *[1 Samuel 23:12-14]- Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver thee up. Then David and his men, which were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbore to go forth. And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.*
 - b. *[1 Samuel 23:19]- Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in strong holds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon?*
 - c. *[Proverbs 18:19]- A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.*
 - d. *[Psalm 57:1,7]- Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.*
 2. Jonathan a type or shadow of Jesus Christ, who is our ultimate friend.
 - a. *[Proverbs 18:24]- A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*
 - b. *[Hebrews 13:5]- Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*
 - c. *[John 15:13]- Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*
- F. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.
1. Do friendships with other men play an important role in your life? If so, how? If not, why do you think this is?
 2. Consider Jonathan's sacrificial ministry in going to David. Why was this so important? What are some barriers that keep Christian men from being present in the lives of friends? Can you think of some steps that will enable you to have a greater presence in the lives of male friends and to allow them to be more present in your life?
 3. Have you ever given help to a Christian friend who was struggling with his faith? Have you ever received such help? What was effective in ministering to such a person? What does the Bible mean in saying that Jonathan "strengthened David's hand in God"? Why is this an essential ministry to friends in need?
 4. Jonathan was able to minister so effectively to David because he had been thinking about his friend's situation and had become sensitive to his needs. What are some ways you can make yourself more sensitive to the needs of your male friends so as to intercede for them in the presence of God?

XII. The Masculine Mandate in the Church.

- A. Nehemiah's example in building the walls and gates of Jerusalem.

1. Nehemiah's men both worked to rebuild Jerusalem and kept protection over what was built.
 - a. *[Nehemiah 4:16]- And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.*
2. Christian men are to labor in the church with the trowel in one hand and with the sword of truth in the other.

B. Male-only Leadership.

1. Authoritative positions in the church to be held by men.
2. Women should play a leading role in the church, for a church with a strong masculine presence should have a feminine beauty about it as well.
3. The offices of spiritual authority are the elders and deacons.
 - a. *[Acts 6:3-4]- Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*
 - b. *[1 Timothy 3:2-4, 8-10]- A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.*
 - c. *[1 Corinthians 11:3,8-9]- But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.*
 - d. *[1 Timothy 2:12-14]- But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*
4. Equipped for service.
 - a. Christian men should be serious about their faith so as to equip themselves to serve in church leadership and, if they sense a call to the ministry, examine Scripture concerning leadership roles.
 - 1.) *[1 Timothy 3:2-7]- A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*
 - b. Churches today need men who address life with this kind of purpose, striving to prepare themselves and grow spiritually so they are qualified to serve as leaders.
5. All are soldiers, athletes, and farmers.
 - a. *[2 Timothy 2:3]- Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*
 - b. *[1 Corinthians 9:24]- Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.*
 - c. *[1 Corinthians 3:7-8]- So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*

C. Worker-builders in the Church.

1. What particular kinds of work is Christ calling us to do in the church, for which He has given me particular spiritual gifting?
 - a. *[Romans 12:6-8]- Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*
 - b. *[1 Corinthians 12:28]- And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*
2. Make yourself available.
 - a. To serve others.
 - b. To help others.
 - c. To minister to others.
 - d. To teach others.
3. The centrality of teaching.
 - a. *[Ephesians 4:11-13]- And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*
 - b. *[Galatians 6:1-2]- Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*
 - c. *[1 Thessalonians 5:14]- Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.*
 - d. *[Hebrews 3:13]- But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*
4. Know the Word.
 - a. *[Psalm 1:1-3]- Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*
 - b. *[1 Peter 2:25]- For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*

D. Keeper-protectors in the Church.

1. Protect Church Practice from Destructive Influences.
 - a. Gossip and division.
2. Protect Church Doctrine.
 - a. Liberal assaults on the Bible.
 - b. Worldly compromises to biblical teaching.
 - c. *[Revelation 2:2, 15]- I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*

- d. *[Jude 1:3]- Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*
- e. *[2 Timothy 1:14]- That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost, which dwelleth in us.*

E. Behind the Scaffolding.

- 1. Nehemiah and the Israelites rebuilt Jerusalem for the day that Christ would come and be Savior of the world.
- 2. Paul and others would face down the Roman hostility and spread out to build churches.
- 3. We must in the day of our labor, fix our eyes on the day of glory and of Christ's return.

F. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.

- 1. How clear is the Bible's teaching on male-only leadership in positions of teaching and authority? Does adherence to this requirement make a real difference in the life of a church? What are ways in which this requirement can be abused? What are ways in which ignoring it is harmful?
- 2. Even if you are not now called to serve as an elder or deacon, how do the biblical requirements for these offices apply to your life as a Christian man? How can these guidelines serve to focus your spiritual growth?
- 3. Do you believe that God has given you specific spiritual gifts that are to be used in the church? If so, what are they and how are you using them? If you are unsure about your gifts, how do you think you might learn what they are?
- 4. In what ways do non-ordained Christian men play an important role alongside the elders and deacons? Do you think that your godliness matters in your church? How can you show leadership as a Christian man, whether you are ordained or not?
- 5. Do you consider yourself to be sound in your faith? If not, how can you safeguard your family and church against error? What steps should you take to ensure that you know sound doctrine? If you consider yourself sound in faith, what can you do to continue growing in your knowledge and to use your knowledge to benefit the church?

XIII. Servants of the Lord.

A. The Certain, Glorious Event.

- 1. *[Job 19:25-27]- For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.*
- 2. *[Matthew 6:20]- But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*
- 3. *[Luke 19:17]- And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.*
- 4. *[Matthew 25:21]- His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

B. Personal Disciples of Christ.

- 1. Christians are to be Disciples of Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 2. Flaw among other religions and cults is the absence of the Holy Spirit.
- 3. *[John 16:7]- Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*
- 4. *[John 8:31-32]- Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

5. *[Luke 3:16]- John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:*
6. *[Matthew 11:11]- Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

C. Living as a Servant-Disciple.

1. Example of John the Baptist.
 - a. *[John 3:27, 29-30]- John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.*
2. Calling as a Gift: A Key Principle.
 - a. *[John 3:27]- John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.*
 - b. *[1 Corinthians 4:7]- For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*
 - c. Example of F.B Meyer's envy of contemporaries C.H. Spurgeon and G. Campbell Morgan.
 - 1.) He prayed for their preaching and confessed his envy.
 - d. *[John 3:28]- Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.*
 - e. *[Genesis 2:15]- And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*
3. Joy: A Key Attitude.
 - a. *[John 3:29]- He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.*
4. Humility: A Key Resolution.
 - a. *[John 3:30]- He must increase, but I must decrease.*
 - b. *[Genesis 3:5]- For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*
 - c. *[2 Corinthians 3:18]- But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
 - d. *[1 Peter 5:5]- Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*
 - e. Humility of God's greatest servants.
 - 1.) *[Numbers 12:3]- (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)*
 - 2.) *[1 Samuel 13:14]- But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.*
 - 3.) *[Matthew 11:28-29]- Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

D. Behold, the Bondservant of the Lord.

1. *[Luke 1:35, 37-38]- And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.*
2. *[Matthew 25:21]- His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

E. Questions for Reflection and Discussion.

1. Do you often think about the return of our Lord Jesus Christ? If not, what else in the future forms your thoughts about the present? Why is the second coming of Christ the great event that defines everything now?
2. Do you think of yourself as a personal disciple of Jesus? If not, why don't you tend to think this way? Are you helped by the discussion in this chapter of being Christ's disciple? How does the Holy Spirit minister to Christians now on Christ's behalf?
3. What principle is mentioned in this chapter as key to Christian faithfulness? Have you ever struggled with envy toward other Christians? Why is this wrong and counterproductive? What is the remedy for envy and the key to godly ambition as a Christian man?
4. The author states that the chief reward for serving Christ is the sheer joy of serving Christ. Do you agree? Have you experienced this joy? What happens when our service to Jesus is motivated by our pursuit of other rewards? Why should serving Jesus Christ be such an overwhelming joy to us, even in hardship?
5. How do we become humble? How does humility make a difference in our service to the Lord? The author mentions Moses, David, and John the Baptist as examples of humility. Can you think of things in their lives that show humility? Can you think of ways in which Jesus is "lowly and meek," as He says He is? Is it manly to seek such a description?
6. Jesus promises to greet all His faithful servants with the words "Well done." What does this prospect mean to you? Pray about how you might live now so as to hear those words when Jesus returns?