

## Spiritual Warfare: Manhood - The Bare Bones Genesis 2:15-25

Ever since Satan's contemptuous temptation of Eve, the roles God created men and women to play have become confused, and conflict between the sexes has become the norm.

In our culture today, there are voices speaking, like Satan did to Eve, that are confusing men and women to be something other than what God had intended the sexes to be. These voices, in declaring what manhood and womanhood is not, have created a void of confusion, resulting in frustration, confusion, and destructive behavior.

In the church, if we tell our people, especially our youth and young adults, not to give into the cultural voices, but not tell them what Scripture says about manhood and womanhood, we too create a void; we create confusion. It's time the church to tell our people what scriptures says is a man and a woman.

So much of the confusion concerning roles and gender seem to affect the youth in our culture.

Proverbs 13:20 - *He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.*

Proverbs 22:15 - *Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.* The Scriptures assume that if you are young, you do not possess wisdom.

Now couple this with what one commentator sees as a man in American culture: *The three B's - the ball field, the bedroom, and the billfold.* Men are becoming disillusioned with life.

Genesis 2:15-25 shows us three characteristics of manhood (Minimalist)

1. Committed to God-honoring work
2. Committed to the law of God (Word of God)
3. Committed to the sanctity of marriage

### **I. Committed to God-honoring work**

Genesis 2:15 – God-honoring work was established in creation, before the fall. Work is not a punishment for sin; *our attitude towards work is a result of sin, of the fall.*

Genesis 3:17 - Work became laborious, difficult, meaningless, redundant. *Work was meant to be a reward in and of itself.* So, because work is difficult, we are tempted to avoid it altogether.

Men would rather do nothing or play instead of working. Men, if left to themselves, with no guidance or training, become slothful or lazy. This is especially true of young men.

Proverbs 6:6; 6:9; 6:26; 26:13 - Men were created to work - to be industrious, to provide for themselves and their family, and to protect against evil.

In 2 Thess. 3:6-7, Paul addresses a problem with laziness in this church. Paul deserved to be paid for his spiritual teaching and leadership in their midst, but he chose, instead, to do side work for the express purpose of showing the men the importance of work and providing for yourself. Men who are not willing to work, do not eat. Lazy men should never be given a handout.

1 Timothy 5:8 - The Christian man who does not provide for his family, is worse than an unbeliever.

### **II. Committed to the Law of God (Word of God)**

Genesis 2:16 - Adam was "commanded" not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God lays down the law amid perfection. Adam was to delight in the law of God - "God is watching out for me!" You want to make life work, obey the law (word) of God!

Matthew 22:37-40 - Love the Lord your God with all that you are and have and love your neighbor as you do yourself. This teaching of Christ is a summary of the Ten Commandments. The law does not save us, but it is our guide as how we are to live as Christians. Obeying the law reflects Christ in us.

Men, impress Christ on to your sons! Impress the Ten Commandments on them. Hold them to these! Remember men, you are setting the stage for future generations. A part of our responsibility as men is to communicate the word of God, the Law of God to our wives and children and the church. We are not to stand by passively like Adam did and let Satan, the world, and sin, attach our wives and children, our sons, with lies and half-truths, confusing them, calling good evil and evil good. Fight for your family! Fight for the church! Fight for your sons!

### **III. Committed to the Sanctity of Marriage**

Genesis 2:18 tells us that God saw that it was not a good thing for the man to be alone. God took one of Adam's ribs and used it to create the perfect companion for him, the woman. They were to delight in each other, to rule over creation together according to their roles, and they were to multiply, joining God in the creation process, creating other Godly image bearers. This was the first marriage. It was established before sin entered the world. While not every man will get married, the likelihood of your son getting married is very high. Therefore, preparing them for marriage will serve them well whether they marry or not. Teach your sons that when they marry, they are to be committed to their wife and their family. Our culture says, "This isn't important."

Sometimes, the church also sends the message that marriage is not important. We give young people ungodly or worldly advice and excuses like completing education, having enough money, or this or that. (There are legitimate reasons to delay marriage, but these are not those.)

But, if all things are equal, what are you waiting for?

Proverbs 18:22 - *He who finds a wife, finds what is good.*

If a young man tells his fiancé, "We should wait to get married until I graduate," do you know what he is saying to her? *There are things in this world that are more than you.*

This attitude of waiting for the conditions in life to be just right before you get married comes from the narcissistic, American culture seen in pragmatism, utilitarianism, and materialism.

So, why are so many couples living together before they get married? Is it we are encouraging that marriage be delayed? With this, are we encouraging our young people to delay adulthood? The culture is doing this; are we doing this in the church also?

With all things being equal - young men, get married! Have children! And do everything in your power to protect your marriage and the institution of marriage. Protect and provide, both physically and spiritually, your family.

### **Conclusion**

Men and boys - let's stop giving into the culture. Let us be committed to God-honoring work. Let us be committed to the law of God, the word of God. Let us be committed to marriage, to the woman God brings to us. You and I will not do this perfectly, but this is our trajectory.

Women and girls - encourage your men and boys to be the men God has called them to be.