



PATHFINDERS

Leading this generation into true
manhood!!

Act like a Man!

1 Kings 2:1-2

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on April 17, 2021



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Act like a Man!

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Opening Comments

- It is exciting to be back here with you guys
- Today we continue the series: **PATHFINDERS: Leading this generation into true manhood!**
- Some might not relate to this, but life was so much simpler when I was growing up
- There were three tv channels – no mobile devices constantly bombarding our minds and drawing our attention
- As a young man, working on my car meant opening the hood and getting my hands dirty
- Now you need a computer to tell you what the problem is and hopefully YouTube can tell you how to fix it
- One thing that was simple when many of were growing up was: gender – there were two – boys/girls – male/female
- We also grew up believing that boys and girls were different
- And as a boy, I grew up being taught that I had to treat girls differently than boys
- If I hit another boy, he would hit me back
- If I hit a girl, my dad would deal with me
- I feel sorry for the kids growing up today
- Almost 100% of all babies are born male or female
- There are 105 boys born to every 100 girls
- The culture has made this simple topic very complicated
- Now they want us to believe that there are many more than just two genders – this is complicated by gender identity – which is further complicated by sexual attraction – and not to mention the people who are transitioning from one gender to the next
- We grew up using pronouns like he and she
- Now to be politically correct we need to ask them what pronouns they prefer
- And to not use those pronouns is considered bigotry or worse

- These are confusing and chaotic times
- Even within the alphabet groups
- Boys and girls are different – physically, mentally, emotionally
- Physically boys are stronger, faster, and have quicker reflexes than girls
- Did you know that 4,469 people have reached the summit of Mount Everest? Only 635 of them were women.
- The world record for the women’s 100 meter is 10.49 seconds
- A high-school boy ran the 100 meter in 9.98 seconds
- None of this is to say that men are better than women, they are just different
- But our culture has developed very confusing worldviews regarding gender, gender roles, and sexual identity
- As Christians, we don’t have to be confused
- Turn in your Bible to **1 Kings 2**
- For several thousand years it has been simple **Genesis 1:26-27**
Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- God made it simple – if you have male parts – you are male
- If you have female parts – you are female – probably no one here
- Gender dysphoria and the like have been around for a long time
- That is why God told Moses to tell the Hebrews that men should not wear women’s clothing
- And why Paul would famously write about same-sex attraction
Romans 1:26-27
For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.
- My desire this morning is not to focus on how the world views these things, but on what God and His Word says about being a man
- There are forces at work that are trying to make you ashamed of being a man, especially a conservative, Bible-believing Christian man

- And if you happen to be white then they would like to blame you for all the wrong there is in this world – which is racist
- Don't get me wrong, some men are guilty of the things the culture is accusing all men for
- Our culture can't tell us what a man is – it doesn't know!
- Here in 1 Kings 2, King David is speaking to his son Solomon
- **1 Kings 2:1-2a**
- David is old – before he dies, prepares his son to take over the kingdom
- We see three key traits of manhood in the next verses
- The first **Trait of Manhood: Strength**
- **1 Kings 2:2b**
- The first thing of three things David tells Solomon is 'be strong'
- The Hebrew word there could also be translated as: courageous, constant, conquering
- It is not so much about physical strength as it is about inner strength
- We don't know enough about Solomon to know whether David is telling Solomon this because he isn't inclined to that, or just as a fatherly exhortation
- Men and women are different, though not all men are the same just as all women are not the same
- There are some traits that seem to follow gender lines
- **Strength: Courage**
- For example, men tend toward outward expressions of courage
- While women tend to expressions of fear
- Kelly and I faced with the same information – have radically different responses to it
- My five-year-old granddaughter has taken to climbing the tress in the yard – Kelly sees her and is fearful that she will fall
- I see her and wonder how far she is going to get
- **Strength: Constant**
- One of the things that makes humans unique in the world is the range of emotions that we are capable of
- Both men and women experience emotions

- But it is what they do with them that makes them different
- Women tend to be driven by their emotions, while most men are not
- And yes, there are exceptions and nuances to everything I am saying
- Women are like sailboats being driven along by the wind of their emotions, they may have to work harder to stay on course
- Men tend to be like lighthouses – they feel the wind, but may not be good at responding to them
- A man, in his strength, is aware of his emotions, is not being driven by them, and chooses an appropriate response
- Back to the example of Aurora in the tree
- I want to see how far she can climb, but she is only five, so I should position myself to help her if she needs it
- **Strength: Conquering**
- God created men to move toward danger, to protect those who are weaker around them, to fight the battles that others can't or won't

Isaiah 1:16-17

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

- I'm not going to fight with Kelly about Aurora climbing a tree, but I am going to stand up for her so that she gets the opportunity
- That, of course, is a simple example and each of you probably has much larger issues going on – So do I!
- God made men stronger than women, not so that he can be dominant over them, but so that he could be courageous, constant, and when necessary, to stand in the battle and fight
- Our text in 1 Kings 2 continues
- The second trait of a man – **Acts like Christ**
- **1 Kings 2:2c**
- 'prove yourself a man'
- NASB, ESV, KJV = 'show yourself a man' NLT = 'be a man'
- It is not enough to call yourself a man and show up at the Men's Breakfast
- The doings of your life should be 'like a man'

- Well, what does that mean? What does it look like when you are acting like a man?
- The Apostle Paul said **1 Corinthians 11:1**
Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
- A true man acts like Christ
- And if you are not sure what that looks like, you find someone who does and imitate them until you can do it yourself
- Too many men are following the examples in their culture, rather than the examples God has placed around them in the body of Christ
- Every man in the church ought to be actively involved in the lives of other men in the church
- Both giving and receiving – helping and being helped to live and act like men – courageously, constantly, and conquering
- Find ways to be connected more than just showing up at church
- There is a sad reality that we have seen played out in the lives of men for as long as we have been in ministry
- The longer a man is separated from the other men in the church, the less like Christ he becomes – we need each other
- COVID be damned – we need each other so that we can be a man like Christ
- One last thought from our text and then we will close
- Third trait – **Obedience to God and His Word**
- **1 Kings 2:3**
- Another way of saying that is, ‘know what God says and wants and do what God says and wants’
- The Apostle Paul says in **Ephesians 6:10-13**
Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- Most men would say they understand what that says and what it means
- But then those same men are crumbling under the pressures of life

- And without even realizing it they are conforming to the world's views and becoming spiritually lukewarm
- Just knowing what the Bible says does not mean you know how to obey what the Bible says – it is a good start though
- I am so thankful for the men in my life
- As I walk through this life, I can watch them walking with the Lord
- I can watch them acting like men and learn how to do it myself
- Gentlemen, this world is confused about what it means to be a man
- They associate masculinity with toxicity
- Listen, If you act like Jesus, the perfect man, in the strength He gave you in the company of other men doing the same, there will be nothing toxic about your masculinity
- What there will be is Jesus in you – glorifying God, blessing others, and growing faith
- Gentlemen, go forth and act like men!
- **Let's pray!**