



PATHFINDERS

Leading this generation into true
manhood!!

Being a Gatekeeper!

1 Chronicles 9:19-27

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on June 19, 2021



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Being a Gatekeeper!

1 Chronicles 9:19-27

Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **PATHFINDERS: Leading this generation into true manhood!**
- Being a Gatekeeper!
- A few weeks ago, Pastor Randy taught a message – ‘Called to be Watchmen!’
- Turn to **Genesis 2**
- The watchman was stationed on a high point on the wall of a city
- His responsibility was to remain alert watching what was going on outside the city
- He was to communicate with those inside the city anything they needed to know
- There was another role within the city that I think applies to men but first I want to look at the creation account of man
- **Genesis 2:7**
- The creation of man was unique from the rest of creation
- It was personal and intimate – God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life
- Man was God’s highest creation **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.
- As we live in a world that is culturally attempting to erase the divine image of God that He hardwired into our creation – we need to be reminded that we are men because that is what God wanted us to be
- And because that is what He wanted us to be – it is right, and it is good to be a man
- That doesn’t make us better than women, we are different, but we are equally image-bearers of God
- **Genesis 2:8**
- God made Adam before He made Eve

- There was a period of time when Adam was alone
- This garden was perfect – lush, abundantly fruitful – perfect
- **Genesis 2:15**
- During that time alone God gave Adam a job to do
- He was to tend and keep the garden
- The word ‘tend’ has the idea of cultivation
- The word ‘keep’ has the idea of putting a hedge around, or ‘to guard’
- Which brings us back to the role I want to talk about this morning
- Turn to **1 Chronicles 9**
- 1 Chronicles 9 is detailing the people who were living in Jerusalem
- Jerusalem was a walled city – and watchmen were assigned to different positions upon the wall
- Within the wall around the city were gates
- And assigned to those gates were gatekeepers
- Based upon the king’s direction they opened and closed the gates
- They controlled the flow of traffic in and out of the city
- They determined who was allowed into the city of Jerusalem
- And they were responsible for keeping out those who didn’t belong in the city
- The temple in Jerusalem also had a wall and gates
- And here in our text is a description of the gatekeepers
- **1 Chronicles 9:19-27**
- Just as Pastor Randy taught us that we are called to be watchmen we are called to be gatekeepers
- The apostle Paul helps us make the connection **1 Corinthians 6:18-19**
Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?
- We are not called to be gatekeepers of the temple in Jerusalem, and most of you are not called to be gatekeepers for the church
- But every divinely created image-bearer of God who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ to forgive them of their sins is the temple of the Holy Spirit

- So, every believer is called to be the gatekeeper of the temple of the Holy Spirit that is their body
- That means believers have a responsibility to guard what is coming into and going out of their lives – but why is that true?
- Peter quotes Leviticus 11 **1 Peter 1:13-16**

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”

- The word ‘holy’ has two basic meanings – purity and consecration
- Purity is the one we typically think of when we think of holiness
- Holiness or purity is one of the ways we describe God
- When John says **1 John 1:5**

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

- He is saying that God is perfectly pure or holy – no sin in Him
- God is absolutely pure, and He is incapable on sinning
- Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Peter calls God’s people to be holy as God is holy
- Perfect holiness is to be our goal in this life
- We differ from God in that we have a sin nature – inside of each of us is a nature that is inclined toward sin
- We sin because there is something inside us that wants to sin
- God is sinless, we are not, but we can sin less if we are faithful as the gatekeepers of the temple of the Holy Spirit
- The other meaning of holiness is ‘consecration’ – to declare or make sacred or to be set apart for God’s use
- The apostle Paul tells us why this true for us **1 Corinthians 6:20**

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

- Through faith in Christ, our bodies became temples of the Holy Spirit and were consecrated to God for His use
- To be holy – sinning less and consecrated to God for His use - we need to be guarding the gates of our life
- Let’s take a few minutes and talk about the gates of our life and how to guard them

- The two most obvious ones are our eyes and ears
- **Guarding the Gates – Eyes and Ears**
- What we expose our eyes and ears to will influence the holiness of our lives
- Can you watch porn and be holy? No! We all know that!
- One of the challenges with staying pure in this world is that the entertainment industry is blurring the lines between what is entertaining and what is erotic
- Some might think – don't be such a prude – an occasional nude scene or sex scene isn't going to harm us
- What if I told you before you ate the homemade sausage this morning that there was a small amount of dog poop mixed in – would you have eaten it?
- What percentage of dog poop would be acceptable?
- How much is too much?
- If holiness = purity, then we ought to be striving for zero exposure
- We need to examine what we watch and listen to and ask ourselves if those things are helping us to be holy?
- You might be thinking, well then, we can't watch anything
- If we are going to be faithful as gatekeepers, we must shut the door on anything that doesn't belong in our lives by closing the gate of our eyes and ears to the impure
- The next gate – **Guarding the Gates – Mind**
- The fiercest part of the battle we are waging for our faith is taking place in our minds
- What and how you think will determine what you do
- The apostle Paul referred to this **Romans 12:2**
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- If you are not troubled by the sex, sin, demonic activity, and wickedness that is glorified in what is commonly called entertainment – you are being conformed to this world
- Paul tells us this battle is not fought in the physical world **2 Corinthians 10:4-6**

For the weapons of our warfare *are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,* ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

- Gatekeepers are called to take every thought into captivity and make it obedient to Christ through the conquering power of the Holy Spirit
- One of the ways we guard our mind is by guarding our eyes and ears
- The next gate we need to look at **Guarding the Gates – Heart**
- The heart refers to our emotions – how we feel
- There are holy feelings and unholy feelings
- Is love holy or unholy? What about anger? Joy? Bitterness?
- How about fear? – Trick question – Fear of the Lord is holy – fear of man is unholy!

- Guarding your heart is vital **Proverbs 4:23**

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life.

- Keep = guard, or tend, or cultivate
- Paul tells us that is a spiritual work of God **Philippians 4:6-7**
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Paul tells us to examine ourselves **2 Corinthians 13:5**

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

- Ask yourself – is what I am feeling holy or unholy?
- If it is not holy, like anger, then ask – why am I feeling this way?
- It is likely that you have not been guarding the gates of your life
- The last three gates we will do as a group **Guarding the Gates – Hands, Feet, and Mouth**
- This involves what you do, where you go, and what you communicate
- Each one of these is a gate that allows holiness or unholiness out of your life
- We don't have time to explore them all, but let's talk about the Mouth
- This does not include only what you say with your mouth, but all of your communications – including social media and texting
- The Psalmist wrote **Psalms 19:14**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

- Before you open your mouth to speak or your phone to text or post – ask yourself – Is what I am about to communicate acceptable to God, would it please Him, is it holy?
- If not, what should you do? Shut up!
- You are the gatekeeper of your eyes, ears, mind, heart, hands, feet, and mouth
- God's not going to make you do it, but you can't do it on your own
- You need to yield yourself to the working of the Holy Spirit and walk in faith and obedience to God and His Word in community with His people, especially other men
- Why is it that is so important that we, as men, be faithful gatekeepers of our own lives?
- Because as men, we are called to lead in whatever circle of influence God has given us – your marriage, your family, your community, your workplace, your church
- Each of those deserves a message all of its own – like how to be a gatekeeper in your marriage or family
- Brothers, this world we are living in is not trying to help us be holy
- In fact, our enemy is influencing this world to make it harder every day for us to be holy
- It is harder, but it is not impossible
- With God all things are possible
- Let's guard our gates and help others to do the same
- **Let's pray!**