



REAL MEN

Rediscovering Biblical Manhood!

Real Men can be Violent!

Luke 22:35-38

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on January 20, 2024



Pastor Rick Lancaster

Real Men can be Violent!

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Opening Comments

- Today we begin a new Men's Ministry series: **REAL MEN: Rediscovering Biblical Manhood!**
- Let's begin with a word of prayer. **Pray!**
- What is a real man?
- There have always been differing opinions on exactly how to answer that question, but the range of opinions was not that wide.
- Words like strength, courage, and resilience would be used.
- Real men were providers and protectors. Real men were hard-working, faithful, and dependable.
- Our culture does not use terms like that.
- In fact, it is difficult to get the culture to define what a real man (or woman) is.
- Terms like 'gender fluidity' and 'gender identity' are relatively new to our understanding of who we are in this world.
- In a world where biological gender is binary, male, and female, we have the strange concept of non-binary.
- Most of the world has believed for thousands of years that an adult male human is a man.
- Now, everyone chooses for themselves what they believe they are from an ever-growing list of possible genders and identities.
- Is it any wonder people are confused?
- There is one thing we can be certain of – where confusion reigns, God does not.
- But, where God reigns in the hearts and minds of people, there is no confusion, but rather peace, flourishing, and good.
- The Apostle Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 14:33**, **God is not the author of confusion but of peace...**
- The world may be confused about what a man or woman is, but God is not.
- He has made it clear to us in His Word.

- The purpose of this series is to look into God’s Word and rediscover what God said was true for thousands of years.
- For many this may be a review of what they already know.
- For others it may equip them to better counter the world’s arguments.
- But for every man, it is an opportunity to reinforce your identity in Christ as a man.
- It is not the goal of this series to change the way the world thinks – only God can do that.
- Our goal is to equip, edify, and encourage God’s men to live within the reality of who God created them to be – Real Men!
- The question that someone might ask is, “Why?”
- Why is it important that men understand and embrace their God-ordained role as biblical men?
- When God created this world, He didn’t do it randomly – He created order.
- Everything God created has a purpose and a role.
- This is especially true of His highest creation, mankind. **Genesis 1:27-28** reads,
So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- Just a couple of chapters later sin entered and corrupted God’s perfect creation.
- God’s perfect order in the world was broken.
- The world is the way it is because instead of God’s perfect order there is the disorder of sinful beings who have lost sight of their Creator.
- Good does not come from disorder, only chaos and confusion.
- God created men and women with roles to play in His creation.
- Men were created to lead, and women were created to help men lead.
- It is an equal partnership of mutual benefit.
- Men were specifically created to lead others to God.
- If men don’t know who they are in Christ, they will be incapable of leading anyone to God.

- The world is the way it is because most men do not know how to be real men.
- This series is meant to help the few who have a heart for God and a desire to see change in their lives, marriages, families, churches, and in the world around them.
- If you are here this morning, or watching this, that might be you. Welcome to REAL MEN!
- Each message in this series is going to focus on a trait or characteristic of a real man.
- And I am going to try to use Christ as our example or for His instruction on each of them.
- This morning's message is going to be a little different.
- The title I have given it is likely to get some negative comments.
- Turn in your Bible to **Luke 22**.
- We will look at something Jesus told the disciples to do right before He was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- We are going to put up an image. (**Lion and Lamb image**)
- Which image best fits for Christ?
- The right answer is both!
- In John's vision on the Isle of Patmos, he saw the throne room of God.
- And his attention is drawn to someone who is approaching the throne of God. **Revelation 5:4-6a**
So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." ⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain
- Jesus is both the Lion of the tribe of Judah and He is the Lamb who was slain.
- When John the Baptist saw Jesus when He came to be baptized, John said, **John 1:29**
The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
- We often picture Jesus as the Lamb, but He is also the Lion. Always!
- The title of this morning's message is: Real Men can be violent!

- Let's look at what Jesus told the disciples to do.
- **Luke 22:35**
- Jesus had sent them out to share the gospel of the Kingdom and told them not to worry about anything.
- That was a relatively short trip – maybe a week or so.
- Now things are going to be different.
- **Luke 22:36-37**
- Instead of the disciples going away, Jesus was going away, and He wasn't coming back for a long time.
- This is the first time He told them to get a sword.
- It was so important that if they had to sell some of their clothing to get one, they should.
- **Luke 22:38**
- Jesus approves of them having these swords.
- Turn to **Matthew 26**. Jesus would soon be betrayed and arrested.
- Life was about to get much more dangerous for them.
- Jesus wanted them to be prepared for whatever might come.
- Unfortunately, one of them misunderstood what Jesus meant.
- **Matthew 26:48-51**
- John's gospel tells, unsurprisingly, that it was Peter.
- Peter presumed that they were told to have swords so that they could defend Jesus against what was coming.
- Jesus needs no one to defend Him – He is God.
- **Matthew 26:52-54**
- The swords were not to defend Him from what Scriptures said must happen.
- The swords were after Jesus left.
- It is interesting that the two animals most closely associated with Christ are the lion and the lamb.
- The lamb is always gentle, humble, and meek.
- The lion can be violent but isn't always.
- The lion will be violent when the pride is threatened, or needs to eat.
- Most of the time they are sleeping.

- Most of the time when they are awake, they can be very tender with the females and gentle with the cubs.
- But no matter how gentle they might appear; they can be violent instantly.
- Turn to **John 2**
- We don't think of violence as one of the traits of Christ.
- At the Second Coming, He will display a violence unlike anything the world has ever seen.
- Even at His first Coming, He allowed that violence to be expressed.
- **John 2:13-16**
- You would have to have a vivid imagination to see that as the Lamb.
- Jesus warned Peter not to take up the sword so easily.
- He told them to have one, but it must be something that is rarely used.
- This world can be a very dangerous place and evil is operating openly.
- October 7th in Israel is proof enough of that.
- Don't be so naïve as to believe that something like that couldn't happen in America or in Murrieta.
- Most of the time, the world should see the church and Christians as lambs.
- Our message should be a message of peace and love, never inciting violence or promoting hate.
- Our behavior should be gentle, and kind and we should be willing to turn the other cheek.
- I am not a violent person.
- I haven't been in a fistfight since high school – that's almost fifty years ago.
- But there was a period when I was willing to be involved in violence.
- As a part of the US military, I was prepared and willing to be involved in violence to defend my nation.
- The US military has the potential of great violence.
- While it is equipped, prepared, and able to do violence, it is restrained in its application.

- Where would our military be if there were no men capable of violence. Or local law enforcement.
- The world needs men who can be violent.
- Not men who are violent, but men who can be when needed.
- Real men are men of God, restrained by the Holy Spirit, who, in Christlikeness, will rise up when they are called upon.
- Look at that image again. (**Lion and Lamb image**)
- Men of God, real men, have both the lion and the lamb living within them.
- Most of the time, the world should see the lamb.
- But to be real men, the lion must also be there, ready to come out, the moment God calls it to.
- I pray God never calls us to violence, but we should be able to.
- I don't know what that means for you – I'm not even certain what it means for me.
- I simply have told God that should He tell me to pick up the sword and use it that I will obey.
- Ask God to speak to your own heart about what this means.
- **Let's pray!**