



REAL MEN

Rediscovering Biblical Manhood!

Real Men must be Holy!

1 Peter 1:13-16

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on June 15, 2024



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Real Men must be Holy!

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Opening Comments

- Today we continue the Men's Ministry series: **REAL MEN: Rediscovering Biblical Manhood!**
- Let's begin with a word of prayer. **Pray!**
- The premise behind this series is that God created humans to be male and female.
- He did that on purpose and with a purpose.
- The ultimate purpose was to create a world full of people who would worship Him and glorify Him.
- God could have filled the earth with 25 billion people who did that.
- Because God is a God of relationship, He chose to use the relationship of one man and one woman in holy matrimony to do it.
- We have all read Genesis 3 and know that God's plan was corrupted when sin entered the hearts of humans.
- God's plan was corrupted but it didn't change.
- God is still working in the world to raise up a people who glorify Him and worship Him alone.
- For several generations, our culture has gone through a radical transformation.
- From the 'free sex' movement of the sixties to radical feminism to Marxists taking over our college campuses.
- One of the latest attacks to God's plan is radical gender ideology.
- These things and many others have drastically damaged the image of God that He implanted into His highest creation.
- What is the answer? God is the answer!
- How is God going to change this world? Through His men!
- This doesn't mean women do not play a part in bringing healing to this sick world.
- Men were created to lead, and women were created to help them lead.
- But men must lead.

- We must remind ourselves often what God's plan is and then choose to live our part of that plan in the world around us.
- This world is confused about a great many things but the one thing that might be causing the most damage in our culture right now is what a real man is.
- A real man is not some abstract mythical being.
- He is clearly defined in the pages of God's Word.
- This series is about rediscovering what the world has lost.
- It is likely that you may already know everything that I am about to say this morning. Maybe not! Be open to the Holy Spirit!
- Turn in your Bible to **1 Peter 1**
- This is the fourth message in this series.
- The first one was Real Men can be Violent.
- Jesus is both the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world and the Lion of the tribe of Judah who will defeat all God's enemies and establish His kingdom on the earth.
- Real men must walk through life manifesting the Lamb to everyone we encounter.
- But we must be willing to let the lion out when it is right and necessary.
- The second message we Real Men can Hate.
- God is love and everything He does is motivated by love.
- The Bible also teaches there are things that God hates.
- The world needs to see God's love from God's men, but in our heart, we must love what God loves and hate what God hates.
- The third message was Real Men seek Truth!
- In a world that is consumed by the lies of Critical Race Theory and gender fluidity truth must be sought diligently.
- The more pervasive the lie is, the more faithfully we must seek the truth so that we are not seduced by the lie.
- Here in Peter's first epistle or letter, he opens by reminding how amazing it is that God saved us through Christ Jesus.
- Let's pick it up in verse 13.
- **1 Peter 1:13**

- ‘gird up the loins of your mind’ – The idea here is get ready to think hard about this.
- The typical garment of a worker was a tunic that hung down to about mid-thigh with something resembling a belt around the waist.
- When working they would gather up the lower part and tuck it into their belt.
- This allowed them to work unencumbered by their clothing.
- So when Peter tells us to gird up the loins of our mind, he is telling us to deal with anything that might get in the way of working hard with our mind.
- He will tell us later what our mind should be working on.
- He then goes on to say, ‘be sober’.
- There are several definitions of this word.
- The first and most common is, ‘not intoxicated’.
- Another is, ‘marked by sedate or gravely or earnestly thoughtful character or demeanor’.
- It means taking the things you think about seriously.
- This is the definition that best applies, though the other is implied with it.
- As real men we need to try not to be distracted by unimportant things.
- Notice that the first two things Peter mentions are in the mind.
- ‘rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ...’
- Hope is the fruit of what we believe to be true.
- As we seek the truth found in God’s Word, especially as it relates to the revelation of Christ – and choose to believe that truth, the fruit of hope is born.
- Hopelessness is the fruit of not knowing, believing, and trusting God and His Word.
- Peter continues this focus on the mind in the next verse.
- **1 Peter 1:14**
- Obedience is one of the defining marks of a Real Man.
- Before coming to Christ, we were spiritually ignorant of the things of God.

- Over time, our knowledge and understanding grows.
- Peter is warning us about the danger of slipping back into old habits or lusts. **Romans 12:1-2**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* 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.

- Living in a world that is actively seeking to change the way you think requires a serious effort to resist it.
- If we do not take it seriously and work hard at it, we will be led away by an enemy who seeks to destroy us, our marriage, our family, our church – this whole world.
- Don't get me wrong – it is not all on you.
- But God has determined to influence this world through His people by His Spirit in the name of His Son.
- We do that by resisting the world's efforts to press us into its mold.
- But it is not just about resisting temptation and fighting the lies.
- **1 Peter 1:15-16**
- Peter is telling us that we must be holy in everything we do.
- To understand what he is saying we need to understand what the word 'holy' means.
- It has two basic meanings and they both apply here.
- First is the idea of perfection or purity.
- God is perfect and pure.
- That's what John means in **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.

- That is a bit of a problem for us because none of us is perfect, not even close.
- Our problem is a nature that is inclined to sin.
- The second understanding of the word 'holy' is 'to be set apart'.
- God is holy! He is perfect and pure, and He is set apart.
- There is nothing like God. **Deuteronomy 4:35**

To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself *is* God; *there is none other besides Him.*

- Peter is calling us to radical holiness, the perfection and purity of God and to be set apart from this world and to Him.
- There are many pictures of that in the Bible but one of the clearest is the tabernacle and the items found within it.
- The tabernacle and everything in it were holy.
- They were not holy because of what they were – they were holy because of why they existed.
- They were created and then set apart for use in the worship of God.
- Guys, we were created by God to worship Him.
- As men, not only were we created to worship Him, but we are also ordained by God to lead others to worship God.
- And once we, by faith, received Christ, we were set apart to serve God.
- If you are a believer, we are holy **1 Peter 2:9**
But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...
- We are holy – set apart for the purpose of serving God – to worship Him and lead others to worship Him.
- But we are not perfect or pure.
- That’s where the beginning of our text for today comes in.
- Let’s read our text again.
- **1 Peter 1:13-16**
- To be holy as God is holy, we must do the hard work of cooperating with the Holy Spirit to transform our mind.
- What that means is that we must systematically set apart every part of our lives.
- We must be brutally honest before God and examine every bit of our life and ask God if we are perfect and pure in that area.
- For example, is your role as a husband set apart unto the Lord?
- Are you pure and perfect in your relationship with your wife?
- And this is where being set apart is so important.
- If my role as a husband is set apart unto the Lord, who determines what purity and perfection is?
- There is a saying I have stopped using, ‘Happy wife – happy life!’

- A better saying would be, ‘Happy God – happy life!’
- My wife doesn’t determine what a perfect husband is.
- Neither does her mother, or her children, or anyone else in the family.
- The world certainly doesn’t have a say in that.
- God, creator of men and women, creator of marriage, is the only One who can tell me what purity and perfection is.
- And I discover what God says about that through His Word and by His Spirit.
- And because God’s Spirit inhabits His people, we can go to them to help us discern God’s will on specific issues.
- But only as they agree with what God has revealed in His Word.
- Brothers, we need to gird up the loins of our mind and do the hard work of setting every part of our life unto God.
- Setting perfection and holiness as our desire and goal.
- Trusting God will do the heavy lifting to transform our minds.
- This world is messed up and God is seeking men who will stand in the gap and help Him do something about it.
- We do that by setting our lives apart to God and striving for purity and perfection.
- Real Men must be holy!
- Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us be real men!
- **Let’s pray!**