



REAL MEN

Rediscovering Biblical Manhood!

Real Men have Gravitas!!

Isaiah 6:1-8

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on September 21, 2024



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Real Men have Gravitas!!

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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!**
- This series is about men rediscovering what it means to be a real man.
- This is necessary because for several generations, the liberal left has been erasing the lines between men and women and redefining words and terms to mean something they don't.
- In this series we have examined traits or characteristics of Biblical Manhood.
- Biblical Manhood is about defining manhood based on what the Bible says, not what our culture says it is.
- The title of this morning's message is, 'Real Men have Gravitas!'
- How many of you used the word gravitas in a sentence this week?
Gravitas (Latin): dignity, seriousness, or solemnity of manner.
- This was a trait that was expected in Roman leaders.
Gravitas was one of the ancient Roman virtues that denoted "seriousness". It is also translated variously as weight, dignity, and importance and connotes restraint and moral rigor. It also conveys a sense of responsibility and commitment to the task.
- God is the perfect expression of gravitas.
- Jesus is a perfect expression of God's gravitas (**John 14:9b**).
He who has seen Me has seen the Father...
- We were made in the image of God to reflect God's attributes into the world.
- One of those attributes is gravitas.
- Gravitas, seriousness, or dignity is something every leader should aspire toward.
- This is true wherever you find yourself as a man.
- You might not think of yourself as a leader – as someone who is at the top or in front of others.
- You can lead as someone who oversees no one by being an example of what a good follower does.

- When I am looking for a leader in the church, that is one of the characteristics I am looking for.
 - A good leader is a good follower.
 - A Real man is a good leader.
 - A Real Man has gravitas.
 - He is serious about leading – it is important to him that others know that he is serious about being a Real Man.
 - He carries himself with a sense of dignity – he conducts himself in a manner that is worthy of respect and honor.
 - Everyone has some gravitas because they are created in the image of God.
 - But, as fallen creatures, the gravitas imputed to us by God is corrupted and tarnished by sin.
 - But then Jesus died for us that we might live a different way – we can, through the Holy Spirit live like Christ with gravitas.
 - The more like Christ we are, the more gravitas we have.
 - That is part of the process we call sanctification (**2 Corinthians 3:18**).
But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.
 - As you guys well know, this is a gradual, sometimes excruciatingly slow process.
 - Turn to **Isaiah 6**.
 - Where do we start? What is the first step on the path to being Real Men with gravitas?
 - Is it even something that every man should care about?
 - It begins by answering the question, ‘Why are you here on this earth?’
 - Are you here to be just like everyone else in the world?
 - Are you here to be born, to live, to die, and then to be forgotten?
 - Or do you have a purpose for existing – a reason for being?
(Ephesians 2:10)
- For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**
- Here in Isaiah 6, we get to listen in on a conversation God has with the prophet Isaiah.
 - It begins with a vision of the throne room of God.

- **Isaiah 6:1-4**

- This has a profound effect upon the prophet.

- **Isaiah 6:5**

- This is the response of anyone who has a true encounter with the Living God.
- The first step to living a life of gravitas is getting as close to God as is humanly possible.
- Exposed to the full glory of God Isaiah felt completely unworthy of the experience.
- The word ‘undone’ there means ‘destroyed’.
- Isaiah was brought to the end of himself and realized that he was worthy of God’s judgment.
- God is holy (**Isaiah 48:17**).

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God...”

- The word holy has the idea of being separate or set apart.
- What is God separate from or set apart from? Everything!
- He is unique from all other things, both natural and supernatural.
- In His holiness we also describe His other attributes and characteristics; like, glory, perfection, omniscience, omnipotence, and the rest.
- Confronted by God’s holiness, Isaiah becomes painfully aware of how far he falls short, and cries out in terror, believing he deserves to be destroyed.
- But that is not God’s plan for Isaiah.

- **Isaiah 6:6-7**

- If you had met Isaiah before this, you would probably have said he is a good man.
- But in comparison to the perfect holiness of God, Isaiah knew he was not (**Isaiah 64:6**).

But we are all like an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

- And then elsewhere, God makes a radical demand upon His people (**Leviticus 11:45**).

You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

- Peter quotes that verse in his first epistle and expands upon it (**1 Peter 1:14-16**).

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.*”

- God is calling us to be as holy as He is!
- I don’t know about you, but when I read that and think about it, my response is like Isaiah’s.

- **Isaiah 6:5**

- That is exactly how God wants us to feel.
- God is holy, but I am so far from holy – I deserve to be wiped out.
- But then through faith in Christ Jesus, I am wiped clean of my sin (**Colossians 1:13-14**).

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

- Once we have come face-to-face with the holiness of God and confessed our depravity, we are ready to be used by God.
- **Isaiah 6:8**
- Isaiah was confronted with the holiness of God which exposed his unholiness.
- Isaiah confessed his sin and God cleansed Isaiah of his sin.
- Only then was Isaiah ready to be used by God.
- Isaiah went on to live a life of gravitas – a life of serious dedication to God and God’s people – a life of dignity and honor.
- This life is not for everyone.
- It is available to every man, but not every man wants it.
- Listen guys, we must make a choice, we must choose to be Real Men, men living with gravitas – lives that make a difference, lives that are important to God and the people of God, lives that change the world.
- Or we can choose to be soy-boy Christians like most believing men in the world.
- Oh, they’re saved, they are going to heaven, but just barely.
- That is not a life of gravitas, it is pathetic and pitiable.
- A Real Man has no interest in just getting to heaven.
- A Real Man wants to live a life that leads others to heaven.

- A Real Man is never satisfied with his spiritual development – he is constantly seeking to go deeper with God.
- A Real Man enjoys this life but takes his role in it seriously.
- A Real Man knows God has a plan for his life and relentlessly seeks to discover it and do it.
- A Real Man knows that he exists to love God through faith and obedience and to serve others with love and truth.
- So, guys, what will it be? Will you be just one more soy-boy Christian, or will you choose to be a Real Man?
- Step one to being a Real Man – **Admit that you aren't there yet!**
- If you imagine in your heart that you are hitting it on all cylinders, then your heart is closed to the work God wants to do there.
- If you think you are good enough, you aren't, and you won't get better.
- Humble yourself and open your heart to the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Step two to being a Real Man – **Seek God's holy presence!**
- There are things in all of us that stand in the way of God using us the way He wants to.
- Unfortunately, we might not know what it is, or we might be unwilling to let it go.
- In God's presence, His holiness will force us to see those things how He sees them.
- There are many ways to get into God's holy presence – prayer, worship, solitude are just some.
- Abandon yourself into His presence and keep trying until you get there.
- Step three to being a Real Man – **Grow in your knowledge of God!**
- The better you know God, the easier it will be to experience His presence.
- We grow in our knowledge of God through His Word.
- Read and study the Bible – a Real Man makes the time – a soy-boy makes excuses.
- You can also read or listen to other books that teach us about God and our place in His kingdom.

- Step four to being a Real Man – **Serve God wherever He sends you!**
- Isaiah responded to God’s call even though God didn’t say where He was sending Him to.
- A Real Man doesn’t need to know where God is sending Him before he says yes to God.
- A very select few God will send to do the really hard work of the ministry.
- Isaiah left whatever his life was before and was sent to the people of Judah and Jerusalem to communicate God’s message.
- I abandoned a career that was going very well and became a pastor and then started this church.
- God is going to send most men to their homes, their workplace, their neighborhood, and their church.
- God is looking for Real Men who will say yes before they know the where, the who, or the how.
- He is looking for Real Men, men of gravitas!
- **Let’s pray!**