



# **SHEPHERDS**

Reclaiming man's role in the world!

**Act like a Man!**

**1 Kings 2:1-3**

**Men's Breakfast**

**Sermon given on February 15, 2025**



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# Act like a Man!

## 1 Kings 2:1-3

### Opening Comments

- Today we begin a new series: **SHEPHERD: Reclaiming man's role in the world!**
- This series is for men!
- It was conceived because of something I am sensing in the world right now.
- The image in my mind is of a young man staring into an abyss wondering who he is and what his role in the world is.
- President Trump is doing some things that are challenging people, especially young men to examine the way they view the world and their place in it.
- Trump announced that the official position of the US government is that there are only two genders – male and female.
- He also banned men from competing in women's sports
- He has also banned transgender procedures on minors.
- We have gone through more than a decade of an aggressive attempt to make masculinity in men toxic and evil.
- 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. <sup>27</sup> 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.

- There is a strong move away from these perverse gender ideologies that is causing young men to question what they thought they believed.
- I believe I am sensing something of an awakening of the true nature of men and an awareness of who men were made for.
- 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.
- For generations there have been forces at work trying to make you ashamed of being a man, especially a conservative, Bible-believing Christian man.
- 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 2:1-3**
- David is old – before he dies, prepares his son to take over the kingdom.
- We see three key traits of manhood in these verses
- The first **Trait of Manhood: Strength.**
- God made men stronger than women.
- The world record for the bench press by a man is 782 pounds.
- The women's record is 457 pounds.
- Men generally are stronger, faster, and have quicker reflexes than women.
- That's not boasting, it is just the reality of how God made us.
- But it is not the only kind of strength God gave men.
- **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.
- Kelly and I faced with the same information – have radically different responses to it.
- Years ago, my then five-year-old granddaughter took 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 go.
- **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 more 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.
- She could get up about four feet so there wasn't much risk of serious harm.
- **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 first trait of a man - **Strength**
- The second trait of a man – **Manly**
- **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'.
- This is where it gets challenging for many in our culture.
- Feminism was originally a movement to give women opportunities in the world that they had been excluded from based on their gender.
- It was a call for equality.
- I have no problem with that – women should have the same opportunities as men.
- But then it devolved into a conversation of equity.
- Equity seeks equality of outcome – we both get the same thing.
- The problem with equity is that you must ignore merit.
- Instead of choosing someone based on ability, experience, or skill, you choose them based on some immutable characteristic like gender.
- That, of course, devolved into DEI – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Social Marxism.

- That opened the door for Transgenderism to flourish.
- This is where men are finding it difficult to relate to who they are.
- All these conflicting messages from the world are fighting against the instinct God implanted within men leaving them lost and wandering.
- What does it look like when you are acting like a man?
- We cannot look to the world for that answer. They don't know.
- 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.
- One last thought from our text and then we will close.

• Third trait – **Obedience**

• **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. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> 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*. <sup>13</sup> 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. **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.**
- 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!
- There are men in the world who need to see an example of what real manhood looks like.
- **Let's pray!**