



SHEPHERDS

Reclaiming man's role in the world!

Man, what are you?

Psalm 23:1-6

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on March 15, 2025



Pastor Rick Lancaster

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Opening Comments

- Today we begin a new series: **SHEPHERD: Reclaiming man's role in the world!**
- This series is for men!
- The culture we are living in has drifted so far from the simple truth of the gospel that we could easily despair about the future.
- We shouldn't despair; our God is still on the throne.
- If He does allow the culture to continue to decline, it will be to make His glory more glorious when He reveals Himself.
- Last month we talked about the reason for this series.
- The culture is so confused that many cannot even tell us what a woman is, or a man for that matter.
- That confusion has led to absolutely disgusting and horrific things.
- On Thursday I saw on X a woman introducing months-old baby boy that she was transitioning to be a girl.
- She was bragging about getting him hormones to prevent him from turning into a boy.
- My first of many questions is, "Where is that boy's father?"
- Where are the men in our culture?
- Why aren't they standing against the decay, corruption, and perversion we see all around us?
- The purpose of this series is to examine the question, "What is a man?"
- Before starting this series, I did a casual survey and asked the question, "What one word best defines the role of a man in this world."
- I expected three different responses and wasn't disappointed.
- Every single man came back with one of these three words: leader, provider, protector.
- Out of those three words, which one best describes the role of men in this world?

- My position is that none of them best describe the role of men.
- Each of those words describes only a portion of the role of men.
- I would say that all three of those words apply to what a man should be.
- Before we look at a different word, let's remind ourselves of a spiritual truth relating to men. **Genesis 2:18**
And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."
- God created humans in His image and there are many characteristics of God that are imperfectly manifested in humans.
- In this verse, we see the reality of the community of God – He is three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in perfect unity and community.
- We were created to be in community with God and others.
- Marriage and family are the two communities we are most active in.
- There is also work, school, neighborhood, hobbies, and church.
- So, if we are going to define real biblical manhood and the role of men, it must be in context to community.
- Going back to our three common words used to define a man's role.
- Is a man always only a leader, or only a provider, or always only a protector?
- The obvious answer is, no, of course not!
- We were created in God's image to be part of a community.
- The Bible teaches that God made us for something else. **Romans 8:29**
For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- If you are a Christ-follower, then God's plan for you is that you would be like His Son Christ Jesus.
- So, any definition we use to define the role of a man must be a reflection of the God-Man Christ-Jesus.
- Open your Bible to **John 10**.
- There are many words used to tell us about Jesus.
- Words like Messiah, Savior, Lord, God the Son, God in the flesh.
- He referred to Himself as Light and Water.
- The Bible depicts Him as both the Suffering Servant and King of kings.

- We would all acknowledge that none of those titles could be claimed by any of us.
- They are reserved for Him exclusively.
- But here in John 10 we find a title that we can aspire to as men of God.
- **John 10:7-10**
- First, Jesus establishes a couple of spiritual truths.
- The sheep are God's people, including you and me.
- Jesus is the door, which means He is the only way anyone can become one of God's people.
- He also states that we have an enemy who is seeking to steal, and to kill, and to destroy the good things God intends for His people.
- That brings us to the title that relates to us as men of God.
- **John 10:11**
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
- It is my belief that the word that best describes what God would like to see His men become is shepherds of God's people.
- I believe some will be called to shepherd the lost, but our focus in this series is the flock of God.
- We might think that is limited to the spiritual leaders of the church. **1**

Peter 5:2-4

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

- The Bible also teaches that overseers, or elders and pastors, are to be found within the body of the church.
- They are to be manifesting the traits of an elder or pastor before they are chosen to be elders or pastors.
- And if they are to be drawn out of the body then every man can and should be striving to manifest the traits that would qualify them to lead in the church.
- Every man is called by God to be a shepherd, maybe not in the church, but certainly in whatever community God has placed them in.
- Not every man is yielded to God's will in this matter.

- **John 10:12-13**

- Many men, including men who call themselves Christians, are not fulfilling their role of shepherding the flock God has entrusted to them.
- If they were, we would be seeing far fewer divorces, fewer kids getting involved in crimes, drugs, and promiscuity.
- And then it would have a ripple effect in all areas of life and culture.
- Our culture is broken, and that is partly because most men don't know what they are.
- Too many men are just hirelings.
- They are doing some of the tasks of a shepherd, but their motivation is wrong and they are not vested in the flock.
- This small group of men may not be able to change the world.
- But you would be amazed at what God can do with very little.
- Jesus tells us more about Himself as the Good Shepherd.
- There is a concept in this next part that is vital to being a shepherd of God's people.

- **John 10:14-16**

- Jesus says, 'I lay my life down for the sheep.'
- The most literal interpretation of that is that Jesus is going to die for His people, but there is more to it than that. **John 15:13**

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- In that verse the context is not about dying.
- It is about setting one's life aside so that they can fully express love for others.
- As shepherds we should be willing to die for those we have been given care of.
- But dying physically is the last resort option because if you die for them, you can no longer shepherd them.
- The more noble act is to set your life aside so that you can shepherd them to God.
- This means putting your dreams, desires, wishes, cares, and hopes into the hands of your Good Shepherd, Christ Jesus and trusting Him to do what He will with them.

- This frees you up to focus on the dreams, desires, wishes, cares, and hopes of your flock.
- This is sacrificial love.
- It is the heart God desires each of us would have for our little flocks.
- This series will be about unpacking what it means to be a shepherd.
- Turn to **Psalm 23**
- This psalm has been a source of comfort for thousands of years.
- We are going to use it as the basis for the rest of this series.
- A very useful little book was written by Phillip Keller – A Shepherd looks at Psalm 23.
- I have ordered some copies and will make them available to anyone who wants one.
- Let's read Psalm 23
- **Psalm 23:1-6**
- Psalm 23 was written by David who was a shepherd before he became the king of Israel.
- Obviously, this psalm refers to the Lord and His care of His people.
- As we go through this I will be expounding on the Lord's care and then relating it to our role as shepherds of God's people.
- For many men, this is going to require a paradigm shift.
- It will require changing the way you view yourself and your role in the world.
- It will mean changing the way you relate to the people in your life.
- For example, your family is a small flock.
- God is calling us to care for our flock.
- This might be a brand-new concept for you. That's okay.
- We are going to take our time and figure it out together.
- We will see how all the other titles we might use for a man's role in the world are a part of the overall role of the shepherd.
- I would like to leave you with three things.
- First, pray for your role as a shepherd. Ask God to start opening your heart to this new paradigm.
- Second, ask God to change the way you view the people around you.
- Ask Him to help you see them as God's flock entrusted into your care.

- Ask God to reveal to you if you have acted as a hireling rather than a shepherd.
- If yes, repent and ask God to help you to change.
- Guys, what are you?
- It is a simple enough question, but the answer can transform your life.
- And not just yours, but everyone God ordained to be in your flock.
- Men, shepherd the flock.
- **Let's pray!**