



SHEPHERDS

Reclaiming man's role in the world!

Men and Masculinity!

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on November 15, 2025



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Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **SHEPHERD: Reclaiming man's role in the world!**
- This series is for men!
- Let's open with a word of prayer. **Pray.**
- We are living in a time when the culture is deliberately redefining what was simple and clear into something that is confusing and grossly divisive.
- Things like the difference between men and women.
- It seems like the goal is make it so that there is no difference between men and women.
- That is illogical and denies the reality of human life.
- It also denies the clear teaching of Scripture. **Genesis 1:27**
²⁷ **So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**
- In making humans male and female, God implanted differences between males and females.
- We see that depicted in God's creation of the female. **Genesis 2:18**
¹⁸ **And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."**
- When God created Eve, He did not make her identical to Adam, but made her to be comparable to him.
- There are similarities between male and female, but the differences exist to complement one another.
- He did that on purpose.
- The differences are not just physical, but also include temperament, thought processes, and traits.
- Men tend to be more aggressive than women.
- Men tend to think logically while women tend to think relationally.
- Men tend to be more courageous and will take greater risks than women.

- We summarize these gender specific traits into the categories of masculine and feminine traits.
- These traits are hardwired into us by our Creator.
- Let's be clear, these traits are not exclusively manifested by one gender or the other.
- Women can be courageous, and men can be tender or gentle.
- The natural state God created us to manifest is men are masculine and women are feminine.
- The 1960s and 1970s saw the rise of feminism which encouraged women to believe they could do anything a man could do and ultimately that they didn't need a man in their life. **Gloria Steinem**
A Woman Needs a Man Like a Fish Needs a Bicycle.
- And then in the 1980s the term toxic masculinity was introduced.
- Natural masculine traits like aggression and boldness were described as evil.
- In the 2010s the MeToo movement pushed the idea of toxic masculinity to its logical conclusion – men started checking out.
- Rather than being canceled for being a man, they just withdraw.
- Turn to **1 Corinthians 16**.
- But that is a problem – the world needs men to be men – real masculine men.
- As men of God, we must look past our culture and determine how God wants us to live in the culture.
- We are going to look at just two verses this morning and then look to Christ as our example of godly masculinity.
- **1 Corinthians 16:13-14**
- In the middle of those two verses is the phrase, 'be brave'.
- In the NASB and ESV, that phrase is translated, act like a man.
- Paul is exhorting us to act in a way that is different from the way women act.
- There is a manly way we should live our lives.
- Verse 14 makes masculinity that is truly toxic something to be avoided and would be ungodly manliness.
- Love is to be our motivation, and our actions should be expressions of love.

- First, Paul says, ‘Watch’, or be alert, be awake.
- God does not want His men passively going this life.
- He wants us to be alert, watchful for the things God wants us to engage with.
- Then Paul says, ‘stand fast in the faith’.
- The image that came into my mind for this is being in the surf at the beach.
- One of the things I was taught while learning to scuba dive was never turn your back to the waves.
- You need to be watching for the waves.
- And when one approaches, you need to brace yourself so that it doesn’t knock you off your feet.
- That is what Paul is telling us here.
- There are things in this life that may want to knock us down.
- We need to be watchful. We have an enemy.
- Peter agrees with Paul and reminds us of that enemy. **1 Peter 5:8-9**
⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.
- To act like a man, a real man, requires faith.
- Not just any faith, because everyone has faith in or about something or someone.
- The faith a man needs to act like a man is faith in Christ based upon God’s Holy Word, empowered by God’s Holy Spirit.
- That means I trust God, in His Word, to tell me what a man is.
- I let God’s Bible teach me about masculinity that pleases Him.
- It means I look to the Holy Spirit to help me act like a man in every circumstance I find myself in.
- And to do that I must not care about what the world thinks about me or about what they think of my masculinity.
- I must not fear the world or what they can do to me.
- I must not be concerned about being called names like, bigot, chauvinist, misogynist, or some kind of phobe.

- As Christ-followers, our example in all things in life is Christ, including in masculinity.
- Turn to **Luke 9**.
- Jesus was a man but was He masculine? Yes!
- Everything Jesus did was faith-filled, godly masculinity.
- One of the abominations in progressive or liberal churches is to portray Christ as effeminate.
- What was the most masculine thing Jesus did while He walked on the earth?
- What example of masculinity in Christ can I try to imitate.
- Instinctively we might say it was the cross.
- The ultimate expression of manliness might be sacrifice. **John 15:13**
¹³ **Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.**
- I believe something happened before the cross that is an even greater display of masculinity than Jesus sacrificing Himself for the sins of the world.
- Just one verse here in Luke 9 says volumes about who Christ is.
- **Luke 9:51**
- What awaited Jesus in Jerusalem?
- One of the men, Judas, who heard Jesus say this will betray Him to the religious Jews who want to kill Jesus.
- He will be arrested and falsely accused.
- God in the flesh, sovereign over creation, betrayed and falsely accused of a crime.
- He would be mocked and beaten by His creation.
- Not just that but they were the people God chose out of humanity to be His special people.
- Jesus knew they would hand Him over to the Romans, who would beat Him, mock Him, and then send Him to Herod where He is mocked some more.
- He would be sent back to Pilate, and they would scourge Him almost to death.
- And then they made Him carry His cross out to Golgotha where they crucified the Lord of Creation.
- Even on the cross, they mocked Him relentlessly.

- Jesus knew everything that would befall Him in Jerusalem.
- He also knew that it was God's will that He go and be the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world.
- Jesus knew that and when the time came, He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.
- One of the traits of masculinity is a willingness to move toward danger when needed.
- Jesus wasn't moving toward danger; He was moving toward certain pain, suffering, and death.
- He was moving toward shame and humiliation at the hands of His creation.
- Jesus knew all that lay ahead in Jerusalem, and He went anyway.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- So, how do we apply what Jesus did to our lives?
- Jesus knew what was coming and He steadfastly set His face to move toward it.
- We usually don't know what is ahead.
- Life experience will give us an idea about what might be coming, but we don't know for certain.
- As men of faith what we do know is God knows what is ahead.
- One of the most masculine traits you can manifest is faith in God.
- Do you trust God with your life, your relationships, your career, your health, your finances, with everything?
- If you do, set your face to walk steadfastly with God into the future He is leading you into.
- Watch for His Holy Spirit to lead you along the best path to move forward.
- Stand fast in the faith – get to know God better and better every day.
- Believe God and allow the Spirit to conform you into the image of Christ.
- Be brave or act like a man.

- That means we don't draw back from doing the hard things, having hard or uncomfortable conversations.
- That means choosing to do what is right, even if it means making a sacrifice.
- Being a masculine man includes being strong.
- As men we are naturally physically stronger than most of the women and children around us.
- But true masculine strength is more than just that.
- It means having self-control to only use our strength to help others, especially those who are vulnerable or weaker than we are.
- It also means having the strength to control our emotions, especially emotions like anger.
- A strong man only gets angry at the things that make God angry.
- Jesus was strong, and yet He was gentle with those who were weak, physically, emotionally, or spiritually.
- But then, He could also use His strength to overturn the tables in the temple and call out the religious hypocrites to their face.
- And then He was willing set His face steadfastly to go to Jerusalem and the cross.
- And His reason for doing it was love.
- Men, do not be ashamed that God made you male.
- Act like a man and be masculine.
- Set your face to do the hard things with courage, faith, and because of love.
- You may get bruised and bloodied along the way but real men aren't afraid of that.
- We'll close with a Teddy Roosevelt quote from his Man in the Arena speech:

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again... but who does actually strive to do the deeds".

Prayer