

## Manhood

I'm going to spend the next few weeks going through the Four Pillars of a Man's Heart with the guys. I thought the ladies could benefit just as much by understanding how important it is for a man to know his proper role. Women have more DNA than a guy (we only have 15% of their DNA). They have far superior visual, auditory, and multi-tasking capabilities than a guy. They understand the human psyche better than a guy. So what's a guy to do? Is a woman therefore superior to a man?

In today's culture, the answer we are hearing is "yes." The answer is wrong. But neither are men superior to women. They are supposed to be a balanced pair, each being incomplete without the other. Our children are learning that men are irrelevant - they are sperm donors instead of fathers, destructive instead of creative, domineering instead of caring, and to combat this false image they are being turned into passive, weak, alienated human beings who are no longer the bread-winners, no longer the leaders, no longer the warriors of old. The hatred for men that women's liberation has generated is destroying our children's understanding of gender and family.

N.O.W. (National Organization of Women) has done more to undermine the family than any other single organization I can think of. In 1972 they lobbied congress to force lending institutions to consider both incomes when giving a mortgage. That year the price of homes doubled, inflation started its rampant rise to 21%, and women were forced out of the home and into the workplace. With what impact? Our children were abandoned, smoking by women increased dramatically, as did heart-attacks, and a level of animosity in the home arose that we had never seen before. Men, not being able to exercise their leadership in the home without confrontation, simply withdrew into their caves and abandoned their families - emotionally if not physically.

Stu Weber says this gender reversal is an attack on the very image of God. He says that the Bible is the place to find out what gender is all about, as God intended it to be. Men and women are made in the image of God, male and female we are made. If you want to reject God, and reject the Bible, then you must first prove that what the Bible teaches is wrong. You must attack the image of God as it is embodied in man, both male and female. If there is a God, and if the Bible is true, then we are bound in our behavior, bound in our obligations, and bound in our gender. For those who hate God and revel in their sin, this is unacceptable to be confronted with a standard of right and wrong that is a constant reminder of sin. To erase sin, we must blur the standard.

The exceptional is used to prove NOW's point of view that gender is accidental and not beneficial. Hermaphrodites and homosexuals are held up as an example that gender is a matter of hormones released at birth. If the mind doesn't match the body in its gender, they say, then that is "normal." It is biologically OK, and therefore society is wrong to try to force gender roles on anyone. There are any number of things wrong with that particular argument but I'm not going to go into that. The question is, "What is a man?" and how does gender bear on that question? The issue is *identity*.

You remember I said that success in any enterprise is a matter of recognizing who you are, and what you are in. That's talking about identity. Stu Weber points to 1 Kings 2:1-3 where David encourages his son Solomon to take on the role of a man: "Be strong therefore and show yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, according to what is written in the law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn."

So the primary identity of a man is someone who is obedient to God, who recognizes that he is under authority, and who is circumspect in his behavior. But women have that same obligation. Where is the gender difference? Stu points to 4 pillars that apply to men only: a man is to be King, Warrior, Mentor, and Friend. Can't a woman be a friend? Of course she can. Can't she be a mentor? Yes, but if she is a friend to a man, or if she mentors a man, there is going to be sexual confusion, and emotional resistance on the part of the man. Men spend a long time breaking away from their mothers and they don't need

another one. So Paul cautions us not to have women teach men. Yet women tend to be excellent teachers - that's why we need them to raise our children and teach them well. Both sexes need to work within the framework that God has laid out without jealousy, without strife, and without resentment.

What about warrior? I can't think of anything less attractive than an aggressive woman seeking to dominate and conquer. What does attractiveness have to do with anything? Men are repelled by aggressive behavior. It stimulates their own warrior behavior and a fight breaks out. In Genesis we read that God told Eve, "Your desire will be to manipulate your husband, but he will rule over you." If there is a rejection of this fundamental rule of behavior laid down by God, trouble will ensue. It is a rejection of God, not the role he has assigned to each of us. Rebellion against God always leads to disaster.

I am interested to see where Stu goes with this. I hope you are too.