

## Four Pillars in Eden

In the chapter, Four Pillars in Eden, Stu Weber lays out what it means to be a man, and how to exercise each of the four roles. He says, "Every man is commissioned by his Creator to provide as a Servant-King, to protect as a Tender Warrior, to teach as a Wise Mentor, and to connect as a faithful friend. He lays out a few descriptions of what happens when we fall out of plumb - page 63 contains a chart that that really helped me see how I'm supposed to maintain balance. It gives new meaning to the phrase, "You're out of line!"

The pillars support the image we are to uphold, because it is the image of God which we reflect. The pillar of King supports vision, Warrior supports strength, Mentor supports wisdom, and Friend supports Love. Each pillar stands on a foundation. The pillar of King stands on provision, Warrior stands on protection, Mentor stands on teaching, and Friend stands on connection.

Stu (I keep typing Stud when I type his name - now there's a Freudian slip) graphically shows what happens when I fall out of line. If I walk away from my role as King, I abdicate. If I impose my will, I'm a tyrant. If I flee my role as Warrior, I'm a coward. If I'm abusive in my drive to win, then I'm just a brute. If I ignore my role as Mentor by failing to learn, then I'm a dunce. If I teach in a way that only elevates me instead of those around me, then I have become a know-it-all. If I withdraw from my role as Friend, I become a loner - living in isolation and denying myself support. If I demand submission from others, then I become a smotherer and I alienate everyone around me.

For me, the most crucial question in the whole chapter was, "Does this particular situation confronting me right now require the King, the Warrior, the Mentor, or the Friend? When my daughter was courting disaster a few years ago, I came at her as the Mentor, then as the Friend. When she wouldn't respond the way I wanted, I took on the role of King and commanded her to do what I wanted. When her world fell apart by bad choices, I told her that other girls in her situation often ask where their father was to protect them from their own bad choices. And she looked at me and asked that question with such hurt in her eyes that I thought I'd die. You see, I know first-hand what it means to fail in my role as Warrior.

I need to stay in line, neither too far to the left, nor too far to the right so that the 4 pillars of my life accurately reflect the image of God - but I also need to exercise each role appropriately. I think that is going to be the hardest part for me. It seems like it would be easier for my wife to do that - after all, women are multi-taskers by their nature. But I've only got one choo-choo running on my track. I only do one thing at a time. If I play one role, it's far easier to stay in that role for a while instead of having to constantly adjust to changing circumstances. It is so hard in the moment to stop and ask myself, "Which role am I supposed to play here, and how can I play that role faithfully?" In my mind I think, "No problem." In my heart I fear, "No way!" It's like wondering how I'm going to react when the bullets start flying in a battle.

When Adam failed Eve, God asked, "Where are you, *Adam*?" What are you up to? Where are you supposed to be? Stu puts it this way, "Where was the King in you Adam? It appears you have not watched over your home. Where was the Warrior in you, Adam? Why didn't you stand between your wife and the evil in your world? Where was the Mentor in you, Adam? When your wife conversed with that evil one, where was your influence? Where was the friend in you, Adam? When your wife was wandering off giving attention to evil influence, where were you?" Those are ringing indictments. I stand convicted on every charge, just like Adam did.

It isn't a gift from God to play out these roles. God bids us to play the man. Playing my roles well is an act of courage and a demonstration of accountability and obedience. I am doing what I am supposed to do when I'm supposed to do it. That's what being a man is all about. I take responsibility. I put myself in the line of fire. I do my duty to the best of my ability. I train myself to do what is right. I uphold the standards that have been given to me, no matter what the cost. I am sacrificial in my devotion to God, country, and family. And why do I want to do these things? Because I want to wear the badge of honor when I walk off the field of battle, and to march in the victory parade. I train for life just like I'd train to run a race, and I run

that race to completion, or die trying. I don't want anyone to point at me and say, "He failed in his mission and as a result thousands died, beginning with his family." This is a war. I need to start acting like it! This life I lead is the battlefield on which I engage the enemy. The weapons I use aren't the weapons of this world, but they have the power to demolish every stronghold of the enemy so that God will be glorified (2Cor. 10:3-6). The battle belongs to the Lord (He ordains the outcome). I just have to stand firm, like a pillar in the holy temple.