

Father's Day

Genesis 1:26; Psalm 1:1-2, 92:12-14;

1 Corinthians 7:1-5, 15:42-58; Hebrews 11:32-34

June 19, 2022

What Does it Mean to be a Real Man?

INTRODUCTION

Our culture is filled with stereotypes about what it takes to be a “real man,” which usually involves expectations about men’s emotions, occupations, and attitudes—even how they dress and what they say.

The Bible, however, has a different take on what it takes to be a man. Rather than judging manhood based upon our culture’s superficial measurements, the Bible defines six aspects of masculinity: sexuality; strength; accepting our own weakness; recognizing our own worth because we are created by God; maturity; and wisdom. As a man grows in these six aspects of masculinity, he becomes increasingly dependent upon God and becomes a better husband, father, and leader in his church, home, workplace, and community.

This week’s study will involve quite a bit of flipping through your Bible since there are many mentions of the word ‘man’ regarding these six aspects. As you delve into this word study, think about these facets not only in your own life (if you are a man) but also in the lives of the men that you know well (fathers, husbands, sons, grandfathers, etc.).

Memory verse: “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” —Ephesians 6:4

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?

1. The first aspect of Biblical manhood is “aner” (Greek), which emphasizes a man’s difference (especially sexually and anatomically) from a woman. What does Paul say that a husband (aner) must do for his wife? (1 Corinthians 7:1-5)
2. The second Biblical facet of a real man is “ischuros” (Greek), which describes the “mighty man” in competition or battle. What does Hebrews say that Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah, et al. have in common? (Hebrews 11:32-34)
3. “Thnetos” (Greek) describes the mortal man. What does Paul say will eventually happen to our physical bodies? (1 Corinthians 15:42-58)
4. “Anthropos” (Greek) or “created man” is the fourth aspect of real manhood. What does Genesis tell us about who was created and why? (Genesis 1:26)
5. The fifth expression of masculinity is “teleios” (Greek), which describes the “mature man.” What does Psalm 1:1-2 say that a blessed (mature) man does?

6. “Presbuteros” (Greek) describes the wise man that has been following Jesus for many years. He is a sage to his family and church but relies entirely on the Lord. What does Psalm 92:12-14 say this man is like?

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. “Aner” implies not only the sexual distinction of a man vs. a woman but also describes the maturity of men in respect to their marriage. Read through the following uses of “aner,” and explain how a mature man relates to women (especially his wife). (Genesis 1:27; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; 1 Timothy 3:2-3, 12)

2. “Ischuros” describes a man’s strength and boldness in battle, athletics, etc. What does scripture tell us about the source of Biblical strength? (Psalm 60:12; Hebrews 11:32-34)

3. Where “ischuros” describes the bravery of man, “thnetos” describes a man that accepts his own mortality and vulnerability. What does the Bible tell us about the mortal bodies of man? (Psalm 8:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:42-58)

4. God did not create man to simply be biological organisms. “Anthropos” describes a man in God’s image. What does God’s creating man to be like Him imply for our relationship to Christ? (Genesis 1:26; 2 Corinthians 5:16-17; Colossians 3:9-10)

5. “Teleios” describes a man’s maturity. What are 2-3 characteristics that describe a man that has grown to be mature in Christ? (Psalm 1:1-2; Ephesians 4:11-15)

6. “Presbuteros” describes a wise man that disciples those in his circle of influence. Why did Paul instruct Titus to appoint this type of men as elders? (Psalm 92:12-14; Titus 1:5-9)

