

**Biblical Steps of Manhood
Selected Scripture
June 15, 2014**

Randy Alcorn:

“At home, men are notorious for being oblivious to the huge leadership vacuum their passivity creates. They don’t realize how negatively their wives and children are affected by their lack of spiritual direction and leadership. God’s Word is calling the 21st Century man to man up!”

Five Biblical Steps in Becoming a Man:

- 1. A Biblical man steps into his maleness.**

1 John 2:14 (ESV) I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

James Dobson:

“The natural competitiveness and aggressiveness in men is often a testing and demonstration of their strength. But like Jesus, every man also needs to be developing moral, mental, social, and spiritual strength. That’s because all of our key roles in life will require greater strength in order to carry them out. If men do not develop a sense of their own fortitude, they will never attempt hard things, lead their families, fight for their country, or confront evil. Instead they will become irresponsible, passive cowards who are easily swayed and give up when the pressure is on.”

- 2. A Biblical man steps into his maturity.**

1 Corinthians 13:11 (ESV) When I was a child, I spoke like a child; I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

Stephen and Alex Kendrick:

A teenager's years are most often wasted in today's world. Father's have become increasingly silent and as a result, this generation of young men do not know why they are here or what God has called them to. So, they wonder into entertainment and live for the weekend rather than for eternity. Rather than being responsible men of their word, they are noncommittal and dependent upon their mothers. Rather than initiating serious conversations with wiser men, they goof off with fools in sports bars. Their identities are wrapped up in pleasing themselves and wasting their time, not bettering society and training up the next generation."

It's sad when the son has to tell dad to stop playing XBOX when he should be reading him nightly devotions. It's sad when a forty-year-old dad won't talk with his hurting teenage daughter because it takes away from his golf game or fishing tournaments. It's sad when a dad won't go to church with his family because in his view, Sunday is his only off day of the week. Too many men want to be respected by their wife and kids without investing time and discipline into them.

I challenge every dad here today to relinquish every leftover and foolish act of childhood from his past. Your childhood days are long gone. It's time to resolve in your heart to repent of foolishness, and learn to act your age. Be a man of God and start today leading your family to greater things!

3. A Biblical man steps into his responsibility.

Genesis 2:15 (ESV) The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Father's Day Principle:

Every man, whether he is married or not, is responsible for his seed. When he isn't, he leaves behind neglected children that will struggle the remainder of their lives with unmet needs and even develop anger and resentment toward the man who brought them into this world. Responsibility reveals our character and commitment. The more maturity a man shows, the more responsibility God trusts him with.

4. A Biblical man steps into Godly independence.

Genesis 2:24 (ESV) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

I am of deep conviction that even if a man never marries, God still created him to leave home and stand on his own two feet. He should pay his own bills, live independent, grow spiritually, and develop physically into a responsible adult. A grown man should not need his parents taking care of him when he is in his adult life. Every man should be a fountain and not a leech.

5. A Biblical man steps into personal accountability.

Father's Day Principle:

Every privilege we have in life starts with responsibility and accountability. Having no responsibility always leads to irresponsibility.

Romans 14:10 (ESV) Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

Everything in a man's life should change when he realizes that he is only one heartbeat away from having to stand before God and give an account for his life.

Every man in this church should get serious about a Life on Life discipleship partner. We all need men in our life who have permission to ask us the hard questions and keep tabs on our spiritual condition. Most men do not have the personal discipline to read scripture daily, study daily, and pray daily unless another man of God challenges him routinely. Accountability will not keep a man from sin, but it will make sin more difficult.

A Father's Day Resolution

I resolve before God to take full responsibility for my wife, my children, and myself.

I resolve to love my family, protect them, serve them, and teach them the Word of God as the spiritual leader of my home.

I resolve to make God's church a priority in my families life and to teach them to support it on a weekly basis.

I resolve to be faithful to my wife, to love her and honor her, and to be willing to lay down my life for her as Jesus Christ did for the church.

I resolve to teach my children to love God with all of their hearts, all of their minds, and all of their strength.

I resolve to train my children to honor authority and live responsibly.

I resolve to pray for others and treat them with kindness, respect, and compassion.

I resolve to work diligently to provide for the needs of my family.

I resolve to forgive those who have wronged me and reconcile with those I have wronged.

I resolve to learn from my mistakes, repent of my sins, and walk with integrity as a man answerable to God.

I resolve to seek to honor God, be faithful to His church, obey His Word, and do His will.

I resolve to diligently work with the strength God provides to fulfill these resolutions for the rest of my life and for His glory.