Lesson 11A - Authentic Manhood – The Glory of a Man!

When we focus on the cross and what Jesus did for us because of the Fall of man in the Garden, it is like coming into a movie 20 minutes after it has started. We tend to forget about the time in the Garden before the Fall when man and woman were in complete fellowship and intimacy with the Father as He had create them to be, in His image and likeness. Man and woman were a complete reflection of who the Father is really like. The glory of the man and the glory of the woman together were a perfect reflection of the glory of God.

This same image of man as he was in the Garden is what the Father wants to restore through the finished work of Jesus on the cross. As we look at the life of Jesus on the earth and some of the passages in Scriptures, we can begin to piece back together what Father intended for man to look like and how he was to live in fellowship with Him, his wife, children, and other people.

Robert Lewis in his teaching on *The Quest for Authentic Manhood* talks about the "Four Faces of Manhood," the **King**, **Warrior**, **Lover**, and **Friend**. These four categories make a good framework on which to build a picture of what a real man looks like and does.

The Face of a King

Jesus came not only to reintroduce the concept of a loving Father, but also that of the Kingdom on earth. Both are embodied in the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father…Thy Kingdom come…" **Matt. 6:3-13** **Through** the work of the cross, we are "adopted" back into the family and have become sons and daughters of our heavenly Father. However, our father is not just any father, He is the King! That means we are royalty, prince and princesses, and joint heirs to the Kingdom. As every king does with his children, he gives us a tutor, the Holy Spirit, to train and teach us how to be a king, how to dress, act, behave, rule, and reign. We are to represent and reflect the King to everyone we meet.

Every man is meant to pass on the qualities of a king or queen to his sons and daughters.
Courageous moral integrity – a real man resists the temptations to do evil or get involved in sins of the flesh (**Prov. 20:7, Rom. 8:1-11, Jam. 4:7-8)**
Righteousness - is the desire of his heart because he wants to bring pleasure to his Father – he is honest and just with all his decisions **(1 Cor. 15:34, Eph. 6:14, Phil. 1:11)**
Strong work ethic – we should put in an honest days work, all our work should be unto the Lord, to bring Him glory and honor (**Ec. 9:10, Eph. 4:28, Col. 3:17**)
A man of your word – a man is only as good as his word – regardless of the cost, we should always keep or word to someone else. If you can't trust your own word, how can you trust Father's?
Spiritual leader –**A** man is the head of his house (**Eph. 3:23**) the man named woman "ishshah" in marriage a man names his wife with his own name signifying his headship over her (**Gen. 2:23**) – then in **Gen. 2:24** man is to initiate, first he asks her to marry him and then he leaves his family and start a new home with his wife - we need to be the spiritual leader of our home – take authority over evil forces, set and be the example of a Godly man, pray with and for the family regularly, study the Word and share it with your family, have your family be involved in a good church and take responsibility for the spiritual and physical well-being of everyone in your family.
Faithful – remain sexually pure to your wife and children, be faithful to Father and keep His Word, honors all convents that he makes, marriage, mortgages, loans, contracts, work, etc.

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Servant-Leader – a leader takes the initiative and acts on it - we lead with courage and confidence, but with the attitude of truly serving those who he leads – work with and alongside of those we lead, concerned for their well-being
Accepts responsibility for his actions - a leader determines how everyone else will respond – as a man goes, so goes the family - Abba held Adam accountable for their sin (it wasn't sin until the man ate of the apple too – they were one until then – it wasn't until then that Abba called man "Adam") Abba spoke to Adam about the disobedience (**Gen. 3:8-9**) – we take ownership of our problems – we don't blame shift like Adam did in the Garden – "If we have a problem, I have a problem." – we take correction with the desire to become more Christ-like – we are quick to ask forgiveness – we seek self-improvement
Accepts responsibility for training his children – need to train them up in the way they should go – introduce them to their Messiah – teach them the scriptures – train them to be real men and women.

The Face of a Warrior

When we think of a real man, this is the area that we tend to think of first. It seems to appeal the most to our true masculine side to be wild, adventuresome, dangerous, risk taker, and powerful. There are enemies to conquer and battles to fight. John Eldridge in his books *Wild at Heart and The Sacred Romance* focuses on this face of a real man. "There is a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue." He state that we were made for beauty, adventure, and intimacy.

Even while man was being formed in the Garden, there was an enemy plotting to take over the earth and set himself up as god. Father knew of this danger and charged man to subdue and have dominion over all the earth and to take the Garden and multiply it over all the earth. The Hebrew word for subdue is "kabash" which means to conquer, overcome, vanquish, bring under complete control, to rule, to force. Father knew it would not be easy and that there would be a fight to be won. Father gives each man a territory to explore, an adventure to take, a world to build. There is an element of danger, a risk, uncertainties, and a chance to be hurt. Man and woman would have to function in the capacity of a warrior to do it.

Sir William Wallace in Braveheart said, "All men die, but few men live." It strikes to the questions in every man's heart, "Who am I?" "Do I have what it takes to be a man?" Only another man, preferably your father, can bestow true masculinity and affirm that you do have what it takes. Only with this confidence can a man move forward in his strength to lead, protect, provide, fight, conquer, and care for his wife and family. Every man needs to know who he is, have a purpose in life, and have a cause bigger than himself to move into that will validate his manhood. The woman's role is to invite the man to be dangerous, passionate, and strong.

Men enjoy a good fight, but few realize that they are in a fight for their heart. (**1 Tim. 6:11-12**) You need to face adversity head on and keep standing when Satan tries to take his best shot at you. Fear is our worst enemy. If we do not know who we are, we tend to hide behind our masks and put on costumes in hopes of not being exposed or rejected. In **Rev. 2:17** it says that we will be given a white stone with our own personal name on it. Father validates our manhood and gives us an identity in Him. (Peter – the Rock, Abram – Abraham father of nations, Jacob – Israel, Saul – Paul) The test and trials of life are opportunities for our initiation into becoming an authentic man. We find our true identity and confidence through knowing that we are sons and daughters of our heavenly Father.

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In the time that Deborah was judge over Israel, she had told Barak to take 10,000 soldiers and go to battle against Sisera, commander of Jabin's army. Instead of going to the fight as a real man, he would not go without Deborah coming too. It was Jael, another woman, who had to kill Sisera by driving a stake through his brain. Deborah told him that there would be no glory for the man, but only to the woman for his cowardly attitude. Men must restore the glory meant for them by not being passive, facing the giants in their lives, and become true warriors.

The secret to the true strength of a warrior, however, is found in Father's words to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (**2 Cor. 12:9-10, 1 Cor. 15:43**) True manhood comes through a complete dependence on Abba. We must acknowledge that in our self we are nothing, we have nothing, and we can do nothing. It is only through Joshua that that we are more than conquerors and can we do all things.

Being a strong warrior takes discipline and training. This comes only through our quiet times with Abba and developing an intimate personal relationship with Him. Through our transparency with Him, we must bring our heart in contact with His and keep the communication lines open. We have to lose control and allow our self to become vulnerable, let our self be loved by Abba. Prayer and Bible study are the foundations upon which He can build the strength of a warrior.

The Face of the Lover

This is probably the most difficult and misunderstood aspect of authentic manhood. Because we are made in the image of Father, there is a longing in each man and woman for intimacy, beauty, and romance. Men have the same capacity to give and receive love that women do, it's just that this area of most men's life has been blocked or suppressed in us by the world system we live in. Men are told to be tough, don't cry, get over it, don't show emotions. Even well-meaning parents tell their children, "Don't cry. It will be all right." Most of the movies and sitcoms either portray the man of this tough, emotionless, hard hero or villain, or if they are more tender, they are cast as these weak, wimpy, dumb men that are controlled by a strong domineering wife.

The lover in a man is tender, compassionate, sensitive to the needs of his wife and children, and emotionally connected to them. In order to go there, however, a real man must first be in touch with his own emotions and feelings. Most men have stuffed their emotions and become disconnected with their feelings because of the hurts and wounds growing up. When you open yourself up to love you become vulnerable to being hurt or rejected. It takes courage and concentrated effort to overcome the past wounds and fears through forgiveness and taking everything to the cross. Then a man must recognize that he does have emotions and feelings and it is OK to express them.

We can't give away what we have not received. Once a man has his heart healed, he must open his heart up to Abba and receive His love through intimacy and quiet times alone with Him. Then out of this loving relationship with Abba, he can open his heart up to his wife, children, and others. Intimacy and love are built on trust and being transparent with another person. You cannot open yourself up to someone unless you can trust that they will not use what they know about you to control, manipulate or embarrass you. Trust is a very valuable commodity in a relationship and is difficult to get back when it has been broken.

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Building trust comes through your actions and words which open up another area that is difficult for most men, communication. A true lover learns how to communicate with the other person on more than a surface level. It must go beyond news, weather, and sports to a level that involves your thoughts, emotions, and feelings. It also involves all of the non-verbal areas of physical (nonsexual) touch, body language, eye contact, and tone of voice. Real men are good communicators!

Besides being in touch with your emotions and feelings, lovers must also be sensitive to the spirit of those who they come in contact with. This first requires sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and being led by your inner voice of the spirit. He is aware of how he is affecting those around him and includes them in his life. He also has compassion and empathy for where the other person is at and what they may be going through. He is sensitive to the needs of the other person and makes an effort to help them when he can. He also lives with understanding with his wife. (**1 Pet. 3:7**)

The Face of the Friend

A man becomes a friend when he is able to connect with another person. Friendships don't just happen they are made through spending time together, being loyal and accountable, truthful, and trustworthy. Being a friend is not all one-sided, but is a give and take relationship where both bring something to it. There must be a sense of love and respect that is present all the time. (**Prov. 17:17**)

A true friend will not stand by and watch his friend struggle, but will come to his aid and help him through adversities. A friend should have the freedom to make corrections or point out weaknesses that need to be dealt with. (**Prov. 27:17**) They offer their strengths to each other and are open to constructive criticism. The goal is to help each other become more Christ-like.

Friendships are built on common interest and have fun experiences together. They support each other's mission. Every marriage should start as a friendship between a man and a woman that evolves into love and passion.

A Biblical Definition of Manhood

How we fulfill the qualities of authentic manhood will largely affect our satisfaction with life. True satisfaction in life comes from integrity, honor, and making right choices (stay with Jesus)

When I become a man, I accept the role to be a leader, a life-giver, responsible for my actions, a protector, a provider, a truth giver. An authentic man obeys God's call and understands His will. The ability to accept responsibility is the evidence of a man. We do it from a desire to honor Abba.

Without leadership men begin acting like boys and never reach their true masculinity

Abba gave man 3 things to do:

1*) A will to obey* – will to fight (**Ps. 40:8, Matt. 26:39, John 4:34**)
2) *A work to do* – an adventure to live – a call to follow (**John 17:4**)
3) *A woman to love* – a beauty to rescue (**Eph. 5:25**)

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We have two Biblical examples of manhood, Adam and Jesus. (**Rom. 5:17-19**, **1Cor. 15:45-49**)

The first Adam represents death, natural manhood – "earthy."
- It is based on instinct, reasoning, knowledge, and reaction.
- It draws life from others and uses others for its own gain.
- Has a living soul, but nothing more.
- Focused of what a man does. Passivity and blame shifting (become the invisible man in the family – abdicate our authority and leadership)
- In competition with others
- Based on personal rewards, self, and success

The last Adam (Jesus) represents life, set on a Kingdom course.
- It is based on revelation and inspiration lived by every Word of God.
- It empowers other to do their best with nothing in return.
- Has a life-giving spirit to energize, build, and encourage others.
- Based on what a man is – rejects passivity – takes responsibility
- Focused on community with others
- Based on eternal rewards, others, and significance
- He set direction, provided protection, and made provision

The expectation of a greater reward compels a man to stay the course and have courage to press on:
Jesus – endured the cross and hardships because he expected a greater reward (**Heb. 12:1-2**)
David – in hard times he didn't despair (**Ps. 27:13**)
Moses – endured the people of Israel and resisted the temptations of Egypt (**Heb. 11:24-26**)
Paul – fought the good fight of faith and stayed the course for the greater reward (**2 Tim. 4:7-8**)

A real man is one who:
Rejects Passivity
Expects Greater Rewards from Abba
Accepts Responsibility
Leads Courageously

"Go and show yourself a man!" - David's charge to Solomon **(1 Kings 2:2)**

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Lesson 11B - The True Image and Value of a Woman

Where do we get our identity and value? Do we get our value from the clothes we wear, what we do, what society we are from, or what someone else says about us? We often get our identity from our **roles of being a wife, mother,** and more. We can also feel good about ourselves through **a job** or being **involved in ministry.**

The world has tried to take both men and women away from their strengths. The world tries to tell women who they are and how a real woman should act. But most of what we have learned about being a woman takes away from how God created us. We may feel we don't measure up (being aware of our failings). Our hearts long for more than the daily routines and endless duties. Father God desires to see every woman hold her head high about being a woman created in His image and equipped to help the body of Christ, His bride.

We shared about the feminine attributes of God earlier, but I want to remind you of God's plan. **Acts 3:21** speaks of the Father restoring a revelation of **who He is (both masculine and feminine)!** God is a spirit, not a gender being. (**Gal 3:28)**

Gen 1:26-28, Gen 5:1-2 – Both refer to God making man (mankind) in His image and likeness. His whole image was in one being. **Women are made in the image of God as much as men are!** In the beginning man and woman were one and they walked as one. - When God separated Adam masculine from Adam feminine, He related to them as one. **She was taken from his side, not to be kicked around or treated as a slave.**

The fullness of His image was expressed **both in dominion and nurture.** We are more familiar with His **masculine qualities: initiating, doing, being active, and the strength to stand for truth in adversity.** But have we seen the feminine qualities of our God that are displayed more in women of **being responsive, receiver, kind, gentle, ability to be still? Women are relational to the core**! **We lost the power of relationship in the garden – relating to God and each other**. Relationships haven't been valued, seen as a priority, and most people haven't understood how to develop healthy, intimate relationships.

Gen. 2:20 – God wanted man to be in relationship with another like himself, so He created for Adam an "**Ezer kenegdo**", or woman. In the Hebrew "ezer" is used 20 times in the O.T. and every other time it is used to described God Himself. **Ps. 121:1-2** – He's the God who comes through for you. The word means a lifesaver. In Hebrew the word "neged" means opposite or towards. Woman was to be a lifesaver or sustainer to come along side him, and not just a "helper," "companion," or "helpmeet" found in the English translations.

In the beginning, Adam could trust his heart to his wife and that she would care for it. Her emotional strength would allow her to create an atmosphere for his life to flourish. He would use his physical strength to surround her so she could flourish. But the fall changed it all and we **lost the dominion of the one heart of two people!** Now we have men dominating women and women manipulating men, which is part of the curse. Order changed to chaos. We lost the image of our true roles!

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The Bible records the stories of many women in both the Old and the New Testaments. Let's look at several of these women and see the **godly qualities** they possessed:

1. **Rahab** – (**Josh. 2:1-21, Josh. 6:21-25, Matt. 1:5, Heb. 11:31**) God doesn't look at our past, He looks at our hearts. She was a prostitute that hid the Israelite spies. Rahab had heard of the signs that God had performed for His people. She had a **reverential fear of God**. She **showed kindness** to the spies by hiding them. Though she was a foreigner, she believed in the Israelites' God and didn't disqualify herself. She also **boldly asked that she and her family to be saved.** She is listed in the genealogy of Jesus Christ in **Matt. 1:5** and in the hall of faith in **Heb. 11**.

2. **Sarah** – (Gen. 12:4-5; Gen. 20; Heb. 11:11) She **fully trusted her husband**, Abraham when he told her God had told him to leave all that they knew and go to the land He'd show them. When he was in fear about others killing him to get to Sarah, Abraham lied that she was his sister. Rather than getting upset, she **submitted to what he chose to do and looked to God to protect her**, which He did!

3. **Esther** – (**Esther 1:8-12; 2:15-19**) Though Esther was an orphan; she held her head high and didn't look around for she knew she was in God's hands.
- Esther **willingly submitted** first to Mordecai's instructions and later to Hegai, the chief eunuch. - There was no striving in her nor did she see herself in a competition.
- Esther was **content** even with a year's preparation time before she went before the king.
- She requested nothing when she got ready to go to the king, but she let Hegai choose for her.
- There was an **inner strength and beauty which came from the presence of God in her life.**
- The inner beauty and confidence that Esther had attracted the king. She was captivating and inviting.
- She was not focused on the king's position or what she could get from him. She had **no mixed motives.**
- Esther was **focused on giving** and blessing the king, not taking something for herself. She **wanted to love and care for the king's heart**.

4. **Ruth** – (**Ruth 1:14-17**; chapters **2-4**; **Matt. 1:5**) Naomi, her husband and two sons went to Moab during a famine. Ruth married the one son, but all the men died, leaving Naomi, Ruth and Orpah widows. When Naomi told them she was returning to Bethlehem where she had come from, Ruth clung to Naomi. Ruth embraced Naomi's God and let go of her past. She showed **great love and devotion** to her mother-in-law. **Rather than thinking of herself, she displayed loyalty, faithfulness, and a desire to care for her mother-in-law.** Ruth **submitted and trusted Naomi's instructions rather than trying to come up with her own plan.** In the end, Boaz, a wealthy relative, became her husband. Their child was also in the lineage of Jesus. He was the grandfather of David. Our backgrounds don't stop God from doing great things in and through us!

5. **Mary, Mother of Jesus** – (**Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:19; John 19:26; Acts 1:14**) Mary was a young teenage village girl whose parents had arranged a marriage for her. When the angel told her she was to have God's son, she simply **trusted and believed**. She **totally yielded her life to God for His use** and said, "Be it to me according to your Word**!"** Mary possessed great **strength to stand against all the ridicule** and comments other people made about her being pregnant outside of marriage. The Bible says she "pondered" things about Jesus in her heart. She **waited** for God to fulfill her son's destiny. She remained a **faithful mother to the end** and wanted all that Jesus' death and resurrection had to offer including receiving the Holy Spirit.

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6. **Woman at the Well** – (**John 4:4-28**) Jesus truly placed great value on women and individuals. He did not reject her or despise this woman for her sin of adultery. He loved her and saw her as a valuable person. Her questions to Jesus showed her desire to know God more. After Jesus told her all about her life, she didn't keep it to herself but ran off to town to tell the others. She was quite the evangelist!

7. **Mary, Lazarus' sister** – (**Luke 10:39, 42; John 12:2-3**) Mary not only chose to sit at Jesus' feet and be in a face-to-face relationship with Him, but later after Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, she lavished her extravagant love on Jesus by anointing His feet with costly perfume. Her great sacrifice showed the depth of her love. She valued her relationship with her Lord and she didn't care what others thought.

8. **Other Women:**

a. **Bathsheba** (**2 Sam. 11:2-27; 2 Sam 12:24; Matt. 1:6**) She ended up as King David's wife and bore a son, Solomon, who was also in the lineage of Jesus Christ. No matter what man does, God can use our messes in His plans.

b. **Woman with the issue of blood** – (**Mark 5:25-32**) She displayed great courage by going against the customs and traditions of her day. She believed what she had heard about Jesus and was determined to not let anything stop her. She boldly spoke her faith and received!

c. **Syrophenician Woman** – (**Mark 7:25-30; Matt. 15:22-28**) She boldly asked Jesus to heal her sick daughter though she was not Jewish. She didn't give up when Jesus told her He hadn't come for the other nations. She fell at his feet and worshipped Him. Her actions showed Jesus her great faith and she received her daughter's healing.

d. **Nameless woman** – (**Luke 7:37-47**) While Jesus was eating dinner at a Pharisee's house, a woman known for her sin cleaned Jesus' feet with her tears and hair. She then anointed them with a flask of fragrant oil. She was not concerned about what the religious leaders thought. She showed her gratitude to Jesus for forgiving her sins. She lavished her love on Jesus without shame! **Jesus always elevated and valued the women that crossed his path.**

e. The first person Jesus appeared to after His resurrection was **a woman**.

1 Peter 3:1-8 – These verses can help us walk as godly women towards our husbands.

1. Women **should not to be anxious** and able to adapt. Their behavior can win their husbands.

2. **Walk in a meek and quiet spirit** – inner beauty. Meekness is strength under control. We can be strong, respond softly, and not be spiritually intimidating.

3. **Be submissive and yield to your husband**. It takes faith to believe that, even if he's wrong, God can get a hold of him. In the Amplified Bible **verse 2** says "feel for him all that reverence includes to respect, to defer to, to revere him – to honor, esteem, appreciate, prize and in the human sense, to adore him that is to admire, praise, be devoted to, deeply, love, and enjoy your husband."

4. **Women are not to give way to hysterical fears. (Amp.V. 6 -**Let nothing terrify you, not afraid with any amazement) We will be daughters of Sarah if we don't fear. Women go too often to fear rather than trust that God is greater. We must stay in God's order and stay out of the husband's place. Let him have headship even if he's uncomfortable.

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5. We must realize our husband is also a brother in the Lord. Do you treat others courteously and with compassion?

A godly woman let's God work on her first; then she will reflect the image that God originally planned. As He redeems each of us, we can then take on a redemptive spirit to aid in God redeeming our spouse.

Keeper of the Home

A **woman at rest is comfortable** in who she is in God's eyes and how He made her. As women we have the **ability to create atmospheres**. Our focus should be to **keep our houses in a cool condition. We are to be a controlling factor, not a controlling spirit.** Our homes should be a place where our families can walk in peace and harmony and Father God is welcome!
-Women are strong when they draw things close to their heart.
-Women can see strengths and talents in a man and their children which they can speak to and draw out.

Prov. 31:10-28 – This passage affirms the images and qualities of a true woman of God. While none of us will walk in all of them, as **husbands if you will praise your wife** for the godly qualities you see in her even if they are small, those will be what increase!

The world's system has dishonored women, walked all over them, and corrupted the whole of womanhood. In these last days, **when the true feminine is restored, the bride will be revealed!** May we see again the true image of what a woman is in Father God's eyes!

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