



Be a Man

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13–24

*“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith,
quit you like men, be strong.*

Let all your things be done with charity.”

What does it mean to be a man and why is this question so important?

If possible, take two minutes as a group to watch the recent Gillette ad that has been sweeping through society. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koPmuEyP3a0>)

Everyone is asking the question—what does it mean to be a man?

This question gets at the heart of our series and is foundational to every relationship, role, and responsibility that every man will have in his life.

As we have seen, no matter how impacting and helpful the answers to a question like this that are given by a culture, the best answers and the truest answers will come from God’s Word—and specifically from His divine design.

I. THE FIRST MAN

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” (Gen. 2:7)

A. What a Man Is:

1. *Man is a Spiritual Being*
2. *Man is a Physical Being*
3. *Man is a Cultural Being*

“Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him.” (1 Cor. 11:14)

- Men and women are naturally different as evidenced in the natural creation order.

- It is not right for men to act like women—men should act and dress like men and women should act and dress like women.
- Society influences the norms of masculine and feminine expression within a particular culture or time period.

4. *Man is a Psychological Being*

Question: In light of 1 Cor. 2:14, what are some ways in which Christian men will see masculinity differently than non-Christian men in their culture?

Question: What are some obvious good ways in which our culture recognizes and expresses masculinity? What might be some objectionable ways masculinity is commonly expressed in our culture?

B. What a Man Does:

God gave him two primary responsibilities to fulfil this plan—*The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **work** it and **keep** it.* (Gen. 2:15)

1. *Man Was to Work—Be Productive*

2. *Man Was to Keep—Be Protective*

Paul instructed Christian men at Corinth to be strong and “act like men.” (1 Cor. 16:13). The word for “act like men” means to **exhibit courage and bravery** in the face of danger.

*True manhood is man’s **response** to God’s calling for men to **gladly** assume sacrificial responsibility.*

Discussion: Do you feel that Christian men, especially those at your stage in life, view masculinity as a specific and important calling from God? Why or why not?

Question: What are some specific areas of masculinity that you believe call for courage and bravery from men who desire to embrace and exhibit biblical masculinity?

II. THE SECOND MAN

As the perfect man, Jesus Christ exemplified perfect masculinity. His example can be summed up in one main image—that of a loving shepherd.

A. What the Second Man Was: A Shepherd

- **As the great shepherd** Jesus led appropriately.
- **As the good shepherd** Jesus loved sacrificially.

This is how God intends for biblical men to embrace, exercise, and fulfill their masculinity.

B. What the Second Man Did: He Served

How did Jesus exhibit perfect masculinity?

- He perfectly submitted to His Father’s authority
- He sacrificially served with joy
- He cared for and protected the weak
- He urgently, diligently, and passionately led the way
- He practiced self-control
- He treated women with the utmost respect and made them better

Question: What are some ways the illustration of a shepherd (who he is and what he does) helps inform your own understanding of biblical masculinity?

Conclusion

Christ is the ground and goal of all true masculinity. He displayed biblical masculinity as it was divinely designed and in so doing opened the way for all Christian men to follow in His steps.

But, this will not come naturally or easily. Remember I said at the beginning that these truths are “spiritually” understood—they will require the Spirit to teach us and enlighten us from His Word. Which means that as men we will need to work hard and

strive after spiritual maturity—the kind of maturity Paul talks about to the men at Corinth—
“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I
became a man, I put away childish things.” (1 Cor. 13:11)

Biblical masculinity is not for immature children—it is for men!

Discussion: What are some common perceptions or misconceptions about masculinity that are promoted and advanced by our culture today?

Discussion: If your group watched the Gillette ad, what concerns do you think are being raised by the culture at large and how should those concerns impact us as believers?

Discussion: As a woman, how can you cultivate an atmosphere where biblical masculinity can flourish?

Reflection: What was the most impacting insight you gained from this message? How might you apply that insight to your life right now?

