
CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES



- I. [Sermon Recap](#)
- II. [Study Guide](#)
- III. [Devotional Material](#)
- IV. [Small Group Resources](#)
- V. [Announcements](#)

JUNE 15, 2025
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

I. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Gary's sermon begins by addressing the cultural shifts in understanding masculinity and manhood, noting how these roles are undergoing significant transformation. He grounds the definition of true masculinity in the biblical example of Jesus Christ, who embodies both divine and human qualities. Pastor Gary emphasizes that masculinity should not conform to worldly standards but rather reflect Christ's humility, obedience, and sacrificial love. He critiques societal tendencies to redefine masculinity through secular ideals and calls men to be alert and assume their roles as leaders, particularly within their families, as highlighted in 1 Corinthians 16:13-14.

In expanding on this call to action, Pastor Gary advocates for men to take a proactive stance in their spiritual and personal development. He stresses the importance of being alert, standing firm in faith, and acting like men, involving leadership, humility, and wisdom. Practical steps are provided for men to deepen maturity and effectiveness, such as conducting a personal SWOT analysis and creating a simple plan for spiritual leadership within their families. He encourages men to model after Christ by being present with their families, imparting wisdom, maintaining integrity, and showing unconditional love and respect, particularly towards the mothers of their children.

Finally, Pastor Gary highlights the urgent need for patriarchal leadership in society, noting its absence in areas such as government, education, and media. He calls men to act as 'men of God,' characterized by courage, insight, and compassion, fulfilling their roles with divine guidance and strength. The sermon concludes with a reminder of God's unwavering love and example of fatherhood demonstrated through Christ's sacrifice. By embracing these values, Pastor Gary asserts, men can bridge the gap between worldly perceptions of masculinity and their God-given responsibilities, thereby shaping a society that honors God through strong, loving, and wise leadership.

Chapters

Chapter 1: The Call to Biblical Masculinity

Introduction to the cultural crisis of masculinity and the biblical definition of manhood.

Chapter 2: Practical Steps for Godly Fatherhood

Practical advice on how to be a godly father and man in today's world.

Chapter 3: Embracing True Masculinity in Christ

The importance of emotional intelligence, unconditional love, and affirming identity in Christ.

Chapter 4: The Father's Heart of God

Reflection on God's fatherhood and our inheritance in Christ.

II.

STUDY GUIDE

Key Points

- Masculinity is under attack in modern culture, but the church can stand against it
- True masculinity is exemplified in Jesus Christ
- Men are called to be alert, stand firm in faith, and act like men
- Fathers should provide spiritual leadership and impart wisdom to their children
- Honoring one's parents is crucial
- Being present, emotionally intelligent, and a worthy confidant are important aspects of fatherhood
- Men should strive to close the GAP: Guidance, Affection, and Presence
- There is a need for strong, Christ-like patriarchal leadership in various spheres of society
- God the Father's love is the ultimate example of perfect fatherhood

Key Scripture

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Exodus 20:6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Malachi 4:6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Other Scripture References

Proverbs 4 (Alluded to) Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not

forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown." Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble. For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble. My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you. Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

Philippians 2:7-8 (Alluded to) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Genesis 1:27 (creation of man in God's image) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Luke 2:52 (Jesus growing in wisdom and stature) And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Galatians 5:22 (fruit of the Spirit) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

John 14:6 (Jesus as the way to the Father) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:9 (Seeing Jesus is seeing the Father) Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

Mark 14:36 (Jesus calling God "Abba") And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Romans 8:15-17 (believers as heirs with Christ) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Galatians 4:6 (Spirit calling "Abba, Father") And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Matthew 6:9 (Lord's Prayer - "Our Father in heaven") Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

John 3:16 (God's love in giving His Son) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Day 1: Embracing True Masculinity

Question: In what ways might our culture's portrayal of masculinity differ from the biblical model presented in this sermon, and how can we reconcile these differences?

Reading: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, Philippians 2:5-8

Devotional: Today we explore what it means to "act like men" from a biblical perspective. Paul's exhortation isn't about stereotypical masculinity, but rather embodying Christ-like qualities. Jesus, fully God and fully man, exemplified true masculinity through His humility, obedience, and sacrificial love. As you read, reflect on how Jesus demonstrated strength through servanthood and leadership through love.

How can you cultivate these qualities in your own life? Consider areas where you might need to stand firm in faith or show Christ-like love to others. Remember, true masculinity is not about dominance, but about reflecting God's character in how we lead, love, and serve.

Day 2: The Father's Heart

Question: In what ways can we embody the 'patriarchal leadership' described in the sermon while also reflecting Christ's humility and servanthood?

Reading: Luke 15:11-32, Romans 8:14-17

Devotional: Today we delve into the heart of our Heavenly Father. The parable of the prodigal son offers a powerful image of God's unconditional love and forgiveness. As you read, place yourself in the story - have you felt like the wayward son or the resentful older brother? Now, consider God's perspective as the father in the story. His love never wavers, always welcoming us home. Romans 8 reminds us that through Christ, we are adopted into God's family, able to cry out "Abba, Father." Reflect on your relationship with God as your Father.

Do you fully embrace His love and acceptance? How might this understanding change how you relate to others, especially if you are a parent? Let the reality of God's fatherly love transform your heart today.

Day 3: Standing Firm in Faith

Question: How can we be more intentional about 'being alert' to our current spiritual situation, and what practical steps can we take to conduct a personal SWOT analysis of our faith?

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18, Hebrews 11:1-6

Devotional: Paul's call to "stand firm" is echoed in his letter to the Ephesians, where he describes the armor of God. As you read, consider each piece of spiritual armor. Which areas of your spiritual life need strengthening? The passage in Hebrews reminds us that faith is the foundation of our stand. Reflect on the examples of faith given.

How did these individuals demonstrate unwavering trust in God despite challenging circumstances? In what areas of your life is God calling you to stand firm today? Remember, our strength comes not from ourselves, but from being rooted in Christ. Ask God to deepen your faith and equip you to stand firm in the face of life's challenges.

Day 4: Cultivating Wisdom and Emotional Intelligence

Question: How might heightening our emotional intelligence impact our relationships and spiritual growth, and what steps can we take to develop this skill?

Reading: Proverbs 4:1-9, James 1:5-8, 3:13-18

Devotional: Today's readings focus on the pursuit of wisdom, a key aspect of spiritual maturity. Proverbs portrays wisdom as something to be eagerly sought after, while James reminds us that godly wisdom is available to all who ask in faith. As you read, consider your pursuit of wisdom. How intentional are you in seeking God's wisdom for your life, relationships, and decisions? James describes the characteristics of heavenly wisdom as peace, loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, and bearing good fruit. Reflect on how these qualities might enhance your emotional intelligence and interpersonal relationships.

Ask God to grant you His wisdom and to help you apply it in practical ways, especially in your roles as a leader, parent, or mentor.

Day 5: Loving Unconditionally

Question: What does it mean to affirm someone's identity beyond their skills or talents, and how can we apply this principle in our families and communities?

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 1 John 4:7-21

Devotional: We conclude our study by focusing on love, the cornerstone of our faith and the ultimate expression of God's character. As you read Paul's description of love in 1 Corinthians, reflect on how this kind of love has been demonstrated to you by God and others. Where do you see areas for growth in your ability to love? The passage from 1 John reminds us that God is the source of all love, and that our ability to love others flows from His love for us. Consider how fully you have embraced God's love for you.

Are there barriers preventing you from fully receiving or extending this love? Ask God to help you grasp the depth of His love and to empower you to love others more unconditionally, especially those in your family and close relationships. Remember, as you grow in love, you grow in your reflection of God's character.

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Small Group Guide: Embracing Godly Masculinity and Femininity

Introduction:

Begin with a brief introduction of today's focus on understanding and embodying masculinity and femininity as reflected in Christ. Acknowledge the cultural shifts in gender roles and the biblical call to leadership and responsibility.

Opening Prayer:

Scripture Reading:

Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 together as a group.

Discussion Questions:

1. Understanding Masculinity:

- How does the sermon define true masculinity, and in what ways is it embodied by Jesus Christ?
- Discuss the phrase "act like men" as mentioned by Paul. What does this mean in a modern context?

2. Alertness and Awareness:

- Why is it important to "be on the alert" in our personal lives and spiritual journey?
- Conduct a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis in pairs to assess where you are in fulfilling your roles as individuals.

3. Role of Men and Women:

- How can men and women support each other in their respective roles within the family and the church?
- What are some ways to provide spiritual leadership and wisdom in your family or community?

4. Patriarchal Leadership:

- What does "patriarchal leadership" mean in the sermon, and how can it be balanced with inclusivity and tenderness?

- Discuss examples of effective patriarchal leadership in various settings (home, church, community).

5. Guidance, Affection, and Presence:

- The acronym GAP is used to describe key areas a father should focus on. How can these principles be applied in every believer's life?

- Share personal experiences where these principles have made a difference in your relationships or spiritual growth.

6. Building Relationships with Children:

- Discuss the importance of affection and presence in a child's life. How can we demonstrate unconditional love?

- For parents: What practical steps can you take to be more present and engaged in your children's spiritual development?

7. Honoring Parents:

- Why is it crucial to honor our parents according to the sermon? How can one do this if the relationship is strained or complicated?

- Reflect on ways to demonstrate honor and respect within your own family dynamics.

8. Turning Hearts:

- How can we work towards "turning the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers" as Malachi 4:6 suggests?

- What are the barriers that might prevent this heart connection, and how can they be overcome?

Closing Reflection:

Invite participants to reflect quietly on one thing they will take away from the discussion and how they plan to implement it in their lives.

Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer:

Note to Leader:

Encourage open and respectful dialogue, ensuring everyone can share their thoughts and experiences. Adjust questions as needed to better fit the group dynamics and focus on what resonates most with the members.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Gary continues his Wednesday study on the book of Revelation. It will be recorded if you're unable to attend in person.

The new youth curriculum continues Wednesday as well! It includes live worship, small groups, and a message.

June 21st is the women's event, consisting of floral arrangements and a message.

June 29th is a family service and Independence Day picnic following that. Remember, there is a pie contest! Bring a pie and a side if you're able!

Please contact info@cbchighlands.com or call the church office for more information.