

Series Big Idea: Men and women are created in the image of God. While we share this design blueprint, we represent different variations of his uniqueness. Instead of placing higher and lower values on our representations of God, we need to embrace how our uniqueness is lived out. This series explores four pillars of biblical manhood: the defender, the spiritual leader, the lover, and the connector. When we live out these four pillars, we step into intentional living and purposeful leadership of our families, friends, and world.

Message Big Idea: In the beginning, man and woman were tempted by the devil. During this temptation, Adam has the opportunity to defend Eve and God's creation. Instead of stepping into this role, Adam stood by and was silent. Men (and women) face the same temptation today--to watch the world and everything happening go by. Whether your role is employee, manager, husband, or father (or a combination of these), God has designed you to defend. How do we defend? We make the decision to show up and be present, we realize everyone has different emotional needs, and we are prepared to lead spiritually.

Main Idea: Defenders move from silence to action.

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, Genesis 1, 2, and 3,

Reflection/Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think society defines what a man is supposed to be like? What are some examples?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. Guard in this sense means to defend. Has someone ever defended you? What was that experience like?
3. In Genesis 2 & 3 we read that Adam stood in silence as Eve was having a conversation with satan about the fruit. Have you ever been in a situation where you should have spoke up but didn't? Share your experience.
4. Adam needed not only to be present physically, he needed to be present mentally. Where in your life do you need to show up and be present? What are some steps you can take to make sure this happens?
5. Adam also needed to defend spiritually. He had total access to God and his words and yet he ignored them and because of that got Eve and himself thrown out of the garden of Eden. His NOT taking God's words seriously led to the downfall of mankind. Where do you need to take your relationship with God more seriously? What are some next steps for you?

Made from Mud- Unique Not Better: The Defender

Nick - June 3, 2018

Message:

Good morning, my name is Nick Farr and I'm one of the teaching pastors here at Pantano. This morning we kick off a new teaching series called "Made from Mud-Unique not Better."

Right here you see some of that mud.

These next several weeks couldn't come at a more perfect time with everything that is going on in the media in regards to how we live out masculinity and women not feeling very protected.

Men, I know what it's like to struggle. I struggle with how to be the best man that I can be.

Society confuses us too. We get all sorts of messages like:

Act tough, keep your emotions to yourselves, never let anyone see you cry, we must provide for our family by making the most money, we're told we need to always have the answers, and I could go on and on. But a problem exists with each of these. They aren't who we're supposed to be.

Society has tweaked God's design for what it means to be a man and how we're supposed to live out our masculinity. But this message isn't about beating down men, but calling us to live at a higher level than we have been. I don't have all the answers and I'm not perfect at this at all, but we have to move forward. Where do we find out how to do this? In the Bible. We've got to look to the source and let it rise above everything else.

From the beginning, the Bible tells us that God created both man and woman in his image. He's given each of us different reflections of his personality and while each of us are unique, neither is better than the other.

But here's the problem. We may know it up here (head) that we're both unique and highly valued, but we don't fully know this down here (heart). We say we respect and honor each other but sometimes we don't really act like it. Ladies, you know exactly what I'm talking about. Many of you have your own stories. Does the #metoo movement sound familiar? The #metoo movement for all the different views on it shows us at least one thing: We have a real problem. Something has to be done and men, as a fellow man, we've allowed this to go on for far too long. This should have never happened. It was never supposed to happen. God didn't design us to live and act this way. Some of us are fighting the good fight and have stepped up to the plate to be better men and I applaud you for that. Continue being that lighthouse!

So as we go into these next four weeks, we hope to accomplish a couple different things. The first is, we want to challenge men to step into God's unique design for our lives. For today's topic, that is the role of DEFENDER.

All of this, before I go forward, is founded in the idea that both men and women were created by God, in his image, for a purpose. We're both equally loved. We're both equally empowered. But,

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as I hope we discover together, that looks different for a man and a woman. This doesn't make one better than the other, it just makes us unique.

So how do we learn how to embrace our masculinity from a biblical perspective?

Turn with me to 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 pg 788.

Paul says to the Corinthian church:

¹³ Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

You might be thinking, "Nick, this verse is for everyone, how can it give us a major definition of Biblical masculinity?" I would agree that this verse applies to everyone, but what we're not seeing here in the english translation is a greek word that's been translated to the word "courageous."

In the original Greek, it actually reads, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; act like men; be strong." This entire passage reads from the context of "acting like men--to be brave...to take action."

In 1 Corinthians 16, we're going to learn how we can take away and this passage actually functions as the blueprint for these next four weeks.

1. We need to be on guard. (Defend)
2. We need to stand firm in the faith. (Spiritual leadership)
3. We need to be courageous, or act like men. (We model ourselves after Jesus).
4. And we need to be strong. Our strength comes from having others around us. No lone rangers here.

And so today, we're going to be looking at this first charge for men--to be the DEFENDER.

To understand how we strayed so far away from our role to defend, we must look back to the beginning of life in the garden of Eden. Turn with me to **Genesis 2:15-17 pg 2.**

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

God gave crucial information to Adam **BEFORE** Eve was formed. It was Adam's job to pass along that information to Eve. This was part of his purpose and we know that Adam did just that. In chapter 3, the devil is talking to Eve in the form of a snake. He asks her in Chapter 3 vs 1:

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“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” That implies that Adam had told her about the rule from God and we know that he did from later verses.

Let’s keep reading. Look over with me to chapter 3 vs 6:

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. **She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.** ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸**Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.** ⁹**But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”**

¹⁰**He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”**

¹¹**And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”**

¹²**The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”**

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So we just learned a couple things about Adam, Eve, and their disobedience.

1. Adam was with her. (Vs 6) Adam was SILENT. He knew. But he stood beside Eve, listened to the snake, and didn’t take action. Once Eve had taken a bite, he wanted his turn and he took a bite too.
2. When God came looking, both of them hid, but God called out to Adam. Why didn’t God say, “Eve? Where are you Eve?” I think it’s because God had entrusted Adam with the job of defending Eve from dangerous situations. God’s looking for Adam to ask what happened.
3. Adam threw Eve under the bus. Not only did he NOT defend Eve (he was silent), he didn’t even take responsibility for his fault. He blamed everything on her. (vs 12)
 - a. We’re still throwing others under the bus for our own actions. How many times have we said, “you made me act this way or you made me do this”?

On that day, Adam didn’t do what he was designed to do. He didn’t defend. Here’s the connection to today: We still do what Adam did all of those many years ago today. We stand by idly and watch injustice happen. We’re silent when we should speak up. The curse of Adam’s silence goes deep, even to this day. Which brings me to my main point today.

Defenders move from silence to action.

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But why are we so silent? Why do we fail at our call to defend? Ladies, I want to share something with you that you may not realize. Men don't speak up and we fail to take a stand because we're afraid. We're afraid that if we do stand up it might not be good enough, or we can't sustain it. We worry about acceptance, judgement, and so we just disengage from our call. We're actually encouraged by global masculinity to keep these things to ourselves...to play it safe. But this is exactly what Adam did! He kept silent.

Silence leads to disengagement. We disengage all the time. Men, we come home from work, we shut off, we need our break time, we have our phones out all the time, we have our hobbies to preoccupy us, sports, really anything to keep us from having to deal with the real issues around us. We have to flip the switch and re-engage! We were never designed to stand in silence and surrender. We were made from mud to DEFEND.

Guys, this doesn't just apply to wives, this goes for everyone. We're all (men and women) are called to defend our spouses, defend family, defend friends, co-workers, acquaintances, strangers, we're called to give voice to the voiceless, and stand firm. Is it scary to step into battle? Heck yes it is, but it's what we were designed to do. God has empowered us with all of the tools that we need to stand forward and claim the title of DEFENDER.

So how do we claim that title and DEFEND?

Let me start out with what NOT to do. This isn't a license to get bossy all of the sudden. God isn't saying that we get to create arbitrary rules and then enforce them whenever we feel like it. God isn't saying that we get to walk all over those people around us. God is not telling us to view women as these weak little women who need a big guy to come and defend her. Let's not over correct here. No, what God is saying is that we need to be proactive. We have to step into action and put ourselves out there.

Let's go back to Genesis 3 here. I've got a couple of observations I'd like to unpack.

The first observation is deceptively simple: be present.

In order to defend, we need to be present.

- But here's an important distinction. Adam was present with Eve in the garden but he wasn't PRESENT in the conversation.
- Men, we put in a heck of a lot of effort at work and so when we come home, it's easy to just veg out. It's easy to give less of your time and attention to those around you. But in order for us to defend, we have to know what's going on. In order for us to know what's going on, we have to be present.
- In trying to do this, I've made the mistake of turning this into "meetings" with my wife. Someone once gave me the advice to spend 10 minutes with your spouse the moment you get home. It's undivided attention time. You talk about your day. What did I interpret that as? I sit down and get my daily briefing. It didn't go over to well.

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- Adam could have asked “Eve, why all the sudden do you want to eat this fruit? Everything has been going good now, why do we need to change it?” But he didn’t. He was physically present without being fully present.

As we navigate learning how to be present, we need to become aware on not just how to pay attention and ask good questions, but we need to learn how to engage what’s on the inside too.

The second observation and way for us to defend is to do so **spiritually**.

- Adam heard God's Word for him. In chapter 2:15 God talked to Adam about the tree. Adam knew God better than any else except Jesus himself. But here Adam didn't take God's words to heart. He knew them but he didn't live them out.
- God always provide for our future need in his word now. He told him about the tree and the penalty of death BEFORE Eve was created and this action of disobedience happened. The problem was is that Adam did use God's words when the moment came up to use them.
- Let's understand this: Adam had an awesome spiritual relationship with God. He had God speaking with him, physically walking with him in the garden, and because he didn't apply God's word to his life which lead him and eve to fall out of eden.
- When we don't take God's word seriously we don't defend spiritually
- We need to internalize God's message for ourselves so that we can better share it with those around us. We must be in the Word of God. It's important because that's where we find our purpose. It's our compass. If you aren't then that's a major issue.
- How can we love people to Jesus if we aren't spending time with Jesus?
- Take a Bible with you. Download the reading Plan. Grab one at Guest services. Take the initiative and get involved in a Group.
- How many times to we let others around us lead us spiritually when we we need to step up and read for ourselves, listen for ourselves, and engage not because we're told but because we choose.
- Next week we're going to have a time for open baptisms and I really want you to spend this week thinking about this area of protecting spiritually. If you're not in the place you need to be with Jesus, maybe you haven't even accepted him, maybe you need to come forward and rededicate, then next week is for you. Spend this week thinking about it.

Defenders move from silence to action.

From the very beginning the potter made us to live and function a specific way. God has given us everything we need to move forward and reclaim our purpose. We can and we must move from silence to action.

Where are you not being present?

Where are you checking out? Your wife? Kids? God's Word? Church?

Where do you need to step up and defend?

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You were created to do this. You are good enough. God is for you and he's given us everything we need to accomplish our mission. Women, support the men in your life when they step up. Encourage, help, guide, be the partner we need to move forward together.

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