



REAL MOMENTUM

Helping Men Win. It's What We Do.
Local Church Events // Men's Ministry Coaching
Strategic Mission Partnerships

A Man & The Culture

Keith Boggs
keith@realmomentum.org

2 Timothy 3

Dr. Crawford Loritts, "One of the reasons why our culture is in the mess that it is right now and continues to go down that path is because our families are in a mess. You cannot deny it. The stats don't lie. There is a correlation between the condition of our homes and the condition of the culture."

When you here tonight's topic... I have a disclaimer

We're not short on resources for Christian families...

The need is not the content and the how to's, the need is a passionate commitment and making sure that as for me and my house, we're going to serve the Lord.

I need to say this from the very beginning, and that is

The home owns spiritual development. Not the church, not the Christian school, not all these other things.

The bottom line, in the Bible from the very—all the way through—the homes owns spiritual development. It cannot be delegated... it's a non-negotiable.

God intended the family to be the determinative relationship in all of life.

The family is a huge piece of who we are.

The family is the foundation of society.

The condition of the family will determine the condition of the world we live in.

Gen 1:26-28

Glorify God and to transfer God's purposes from one generation to the next.

We intentionally send image bearers into each generation... living for the honor and glory of God.

God's intent was that when people look at the home and look at the family in succeeding generations they see the glory of God and they see the purposes of God being stewarded during that moment in history.

A few years back the Barna Group discovered that there is not a distinguishable difference between the trends in the church and the trends in the culture.

The only difference was the belief structure... but the beliefs of those in the church did not translate into behavior.

1. Action Steps in Addressing the Culture

A. Looking back: examining our past.

- Taking the time to tell our stories to each other. (Hopefully, you did that as a table group last week.)
- “Connecting the dots” between the past and the present.
- Making better sense of why we are the way we are.

B. Unpacking: engaging our trouble spots.

- We must intentionally look for trouble spots from our past that are “alive” and active in our lives today.

“Trouble Spot” = any unresolved issue from the past where lack of closure adversely impacts and shapes the direction and dynamics of a man’s life now and those he is responsible for.

- We must courageously step into any trouble spot we find and seek to resolve it. In some cases, this will take the counsel and support of others.

2. Trouble Spots that Undercut Our Manhood & Shape the Culture

1. The dad wound.

- It’s impossible to overstate the impact of dad on a son’s life.
- Whatever your dad was like in your life, know this fact:

When you grew up and left home, you didn’t leave your dad behind. He went with you... as feelings and impressions you now carry within yourself.

- A lot of the hurt in men’s lives today comes from the absent dad.

“Daddy gave me a name, then he walked away. I will never be safe, I will never be sane; I will always be weird inside, I will always be lame. Daddy gave me a name, then he walked away. Daddy gave me a name, then he walked away.”¹

“Father of Mine” by Everclear

- Absent dads often bring on another trouble spot: “too much” mom.

This can lead sons to either becoming overly dependent on women or overly dominant towards women later in life.

2. The lack of a clear manhood vision.

- Manhood is not something you should “just know.”
- Manhood is not something that “just happens.”
- Real manhood is taught.

It is a learned lifestyle.

You see it modeled in men; you hear it talked about by men; and you receive skills from men to practice and apply it.

If you've missed this instruction or parts of it, this becomes a trouble spot that will hold you back as a man.

3. Unprocessed trauma.

- Life is turned upside down. It's no longer safe, or fair, or just.
- "Why me? And where is God? I mean, really?"

Let me say this, the increase in divorce over the last 30-40 years has left us emotionally wounded and a generation with incredible scars that they got to deal with. It's even affected how some of us parent... some of us parent out of fear because the loss of relationship in our own background (parents who divorced or just dysfunctional stuff).

Tony Nolan, "We call come from a bad neighborhood, it called earth and it's under a curse." Listen... Trauma breeds in a man fear, religious cynicism [sarcasm, distrust, skepticism, scorn, doubt, suspicion] dark feelings of insecurity, mistrust, anxiety, loneliness and more.

- Ongoing negative feelings from trauma usually need the help of others to resolve—and that help has got to come from men in the church who know God and love God with a burden to minister to men where it's messy.
- **In the US, suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds. (kids 11, 12, 13, dealing with biological parents that don't like each other—that's a lot to ask them to carry.)**

4. Addictive habits.

- The big three: alcohol, drugs, pornography.
- This trouble often starts early in life and then stays late.

90% of adult addicts started using their addictive substances before age 18.

**"Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit."
Proverbs 25:28**

- This trouble comes with the big lie, "I can handle it." And then it grows into a ticking time bomb.

5. No close friends. (this is why Wednesday nights are so important)

- Isolation is at best unhealthy, and at worse deadly.
- Real manhood is a team sport.

“Two are better than one... for if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the man who falls when there is not another to lift him up.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

- Every man needs at least one close friend

“There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24

6. Spiritually stuck.

- “Why would a loving God let this happen?”
- “These ‘believers’ betrayed me.”
- “I trusted God and it didn’t work.”
- “My parents are spiritual fakes.”
- “I struggle with doubts about God.”
- “My church was a terrible experience.”

3. How To Address Your Trouble Spots & Transform the Culture

A. Name it.

B. Share it.

“In an abundance of counselors there is victory. Proverbs 11:14

“He who walks with the wise, will be wise. Proverbs 13:20

“Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. James 5:16

If you’re open and transparent with others, you have the opportunity to be the best version of yourself.

Humility and Honesty are key to a bright future.

C. Engage it.

- Get a plan together that trusted family members and/or friends are willing to support you in.
- Take action. Courageously address your trouble spot as planned. Call on God to help you.

“God is our refuge and strength. A very present help in time of trouble. Psalm 46:1

- Refuse to run from what’s hard.

“If you can’t overcome hard, you’re never going to have any great victories in your life. Coach Nick Saban