

## Biblical Pillars for a Family Foundation

### Pillar Number 5 – You ‘Da Man!

#### I. Review

- A. A biblical home will be Christ-centered (Pillar 1), Truth-filled (Pillar 2), Grace-practicing (Pillar 3), and United at the top (Pillar 4).
- B. The last thing we said was that to fulfill the “united at the top” design, men and women need to **understand their unique roles**.
- C. **Gender confusion** so epidemic now is connected to not knowing roles.
- D. 30% of US adults never marry and 45% of US adults whose marriages end in divorce or death of a spouse never remarry (2013, *Pew Research Center*, <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2014/11/14/four-in-ten-couples-are-saying-i-do-again/>). This means that at any one time, only about 51% of all American adults over the age of 18 are married (compared to 70% in 1960), the lowest in history (2011, *Pew Research Center*). Others never have children by adoption or by birth. But since the majority of the Bible’s teaching on men and on women is within their roles as married and parents, and since the Genesis 1-2 design is for adults to marry and become parents, we will use those pictures as our primary definition of God’s intent for men and women. Those not married or without children can still learn from God’s design and apply aspects to themselves.

#### II. What does it mean to be “Called of God”? (Applies equally to male and female)

We first need understand the concept of “call.” It is the foundation of a man, woman, boy or a girl having any prescribed roles. If God **has not called** us to anything particular, roles are up to our choosing. If God **has called** us in a unique way based on our gender, it is important to learn those roles He has designed.

- A. “Call” implies God’s “right to rule” (**Jer. 18:1-6; Lu. 6:46; 1 Cor. 10:31**)
- B. It suggests that we are each part of a “Larger Story” (**2 Corinthians 5:15**; Illustration Matthew 1:1, ff – **Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary**)
- C. It will be connected directly to that for which we were uniquely and purposefully made (Psalm 139:13-16; **Ephesians 2:10**)
- D. Together, man and woman were called to a responsibility in Genesis 1:26-28 – namely, to multiply, fill the earth and have dominion or rule over the earth and its creatures as stewards of His creation.

#### III. MAN – First Call - Manage his Work/Home (Environment) – Genesis 2:15

*Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.*

Remember that for Adam, home and work were one – the garden. When home and work are separated, the needs of one can overwhelm and blind us to the needs of the other. In our case as men, we need to apply what God says here about ‘the garden’ to both the work and home areas of our lives.

- A. Cultivate – ‘*habad*’: To work, to serve, to till, to dress – has to do with detailed, hands-on, up-close care for his place – a hands-on manager
- B. Keep – *shamar*: Hedge, guard, protect, attend to, preserve, save, watch – has to do with a more general oversight, more like a executive manager
- C. In essence, the idea is responsible management and guardianship.
- D. Implies a defined territory

**IV. MAN - Called to Manage his Home (Family) – 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12**

Here is the idea that he is to “oversee” his family’s well-being, their development and their self-government. [Economy = Oikonomia in Greek (*household order*)]

- A. Household – finances, facility, order
- B. Children under control – relationships of mutual respect
- C. With dignity – not combative or abusive

**V. MAN - Called to Provide**

This is one of the most misunderstood and neglected aspects of man’s call. God’s design was that the man would use his gifts and skills to provide for his family.

Genesis 2:15 – Through work, he meets family needs for food, covering.

- A. 1 Timothy 5:8 – denying his faith if he doesn’t work to meet needs of his mother or mother in law; how much more the case for immediate family?
- B. His call to provide is **the primary provisional responsibility** in the home. **It is also his first responsibility**. Proverbs 31:16, 24 shows us that a woman can work to supplement the needs of her home provided that her first job is done. But it does mean the man is the one God looks to for providing the family’s basic needs.
  - 1. One problem occurs here commonly in our day – man doesn’t take responsibility but expects his wife to help shoulder it. They lose their proper functioning and kids are misinformed.
  - 2. Second problem: women often work outside home when her first job isn’t yet done. What’s more, they often do so because they are pursuing a higher standard of living. (See 1 Tim. 6:6-8)

**VI. Call to Love – Eph. 5:25-33 (Col. 3:19) / 1 Peter 3:7 – How does he love her?**

- A. As Christ does the church
- B. Sacrificially
- C. Sanctifying her
- D. As themselves, both emotionally (inside) and out (physically)
- E. Cherishing and nourishing
- F. Understanding
- G. Protecting
- H. Honoring

**VII. Call to Lead – 1 Corinthians 11:3 (Ephesians 5:23a)**

- A. Again, example is like Christ – Christ leads man, and man leads woman
- B. Requires forward look and awareness of needs before they come – “provision” is made up of two words – “pro” meaning *forward* and “vision” meaning *see* – that is, he sees ahead what the needs are.

He’s not guided by the complaints of others as much as by his own care for those under his charge – he knows their need.
- C. Means being in front, living in such a way as to influence the direction others choose to go
  - 1. Common Mistake #1: abdicate leadership when others don’t follow
  - 2. Common Mistake #2: abusively force the compliance of others

- D. Leadership sets the stage for its followers to have every reason to follow. (It doesn't mean that he will be followed. Just see Jesus – for example, “*He came to His own, but His own received Him not*” – John 1:11)
- E. Leadership requires death to self in a unique way – you can't just do what you want to do and actually lead as God would have you
- F. Includes example, direction setting, awareness of where the followers are, preparation, character of integrity and humility
- G. Quality can be seen in 1 Thess. 2:7-12; 1 Timothy 3:1-12; 1 Peter 5:2-3
- H. Really, each man is called to be an ELDER (shepherd – role similar to *shamar*) of his home.

**VIII. Call to Serve –**

- A. John 13:1-17 (see especially vv. 14-15)
- B. Philippians 2:3-8
- C. Could be said to be **DEACON** (servant – role similar to *habad*) of his home (Acts 6; 1 Timothy 3:9-13)

**IX. Quick Definition of a Man (Robert Lewis, *Authentic Manhood Study* and his book, *Raising a Modern Day Knight*)**

- A. Rejects Passivity
- B. Accepts Responsibility
- C. Leads Courageously
- D. Waits expectantly for the *Greater Reward*

**X. Homosexuality**

Even though many same-sex attracted men develop that from the earliest days of their lives, before they even know what sexual attraction is, homosexual attitudes and behavior frequently reflect stepping away this call to initiative and loving leadership meant to characterize a man. When a man is in a risky place where rejection and failure are possible, homosexual acting out is often part of the avoidance of such risk. Part of a man's movement away from homosexual impulses involves risking other centered living and experiencing rejection.

**XI. Homework**

- A. Good verses to look at on your own that help shed light on this topic include Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-25, 3:1-24, Deut. 6:1-9, Psalm 78:1-8, Psalm 127-128, Proverbs 31, 1 Cor. 11:1-16, Eph. 5:21-33, Col. 3:18-21, 1 Tim. 2:8-15, 1 Tim. 3:1-14, 1 Tim. 5:1-16, Titus 2:1-8, 1 Peter 3:1-7.
- B. Everyone read the summary on page 5.
- C. Men do questionnaire on page 6.
- D. Optional reading: "Why It's Great to be a Guy" and three others on pp. 7-10.

P.S. Good books and web sites:

Rocking the Roles

Robert Lewis

Men and Women: Enjoying the Difference

Larry Crabb

Real Family Values

Robert Lewis

One Family at a Time

Dennis and Barbara Rainey

[www.cbmw.org](http://www.cbmw.org)

[www.familylife.org](http://www.familylife.org)

## Appendix One: Godly Men Overview/ John Morrison

Here's a quick survey of the Bible on some of the things it says about the role of a man. What are his unique jobs? How do they fit with the general roles of one generation teaching, training, trusting, providing, and protecting the next?

First, **1 Tim 5:8**: he works diligently to meet the physical, financial needs of his family. That is, he works hard at his job, seeking from his employer feedback on how he can serve better. He works as unto the Lord so that his family's needs are met. If his wife contributes to the income of the family, he still sees the meeting of the needs of his family as essentially his responsibility. He takes responsibility for their solvency.

Second, **1 Pet 3:7**: he loves his wife and shows it by a commitment to understanding her, honoring her, treating her as an equal yet giving grace to her as to one weaker. He listens not only to her words but her meanings. He values her even when her ways are not like his. He makes effort to show honor to her, partly by learning the language of love to which she responds - not the language of love which comes most easily to him. For example, while loyalty and touch may appeal most to him, words and deeds of service may mean the most to her.

Third, **Eph 6:4, Col 3:21** he guards himself from causing his children to stumble, especially into exasperation and anger. He pays attention to where his inattention, teasing or expectations pressure his children to frustration. He steers away from that.

Fourth, **Eph 6:4, Deu 6:4-7, Prov 1:8** he instructs and disciplines his children in the Lord, looking to their formal instruction in the ways of God and to their natural, informal inquisitiveness about the Lord and about life's lessons. That is, he takes responsibility to learn how to take time in the scriptures with his children. He seeks input from his wife, from church elders, his pastors or minichurch leader, his friends, older men in the Body how to instruct. Where in the Bible do I go, how often should we meet, how long do we meet, how do I keep kids from being bored, how do I get answers to questions I don't know, how do I deal with my own doubts, shortcomings. He also accepts the role of a discipler in the normal, day-to-day realities of eating meals together, working in the yard or house, disciplining corporally or with words or restrictions. He oversees and participates in times of recreation, going to bed, friends, etc. He takes it upon himself to learn how to make the most of these opportunities to teach, train, and trust.

Fifth, **Gen 1:28, 2:15; 1 Cor 7:33** he tends the "garden" which God has given him to manage, namely the physical plant of his family's surroundings. That is, he takes responsibility for and works on making his house or apartment a home, an attractive, orderly, welcoming place that reflects the beauty of God's creation and His heart. That is not to say he makes himself a slave to his home, but manages what's been entrusted to him so it can bring God glory. Through doing so, his wife feels provided for, his children learn skills they need for life, the man gets a diversion, others are made welcome. This, too, is a place where he may sometimes need help.

Sixth, **Gal 6:10 1 Tim 6:17-19** he attends to the needs of the community of which he is a part, the believing community first and the unbelieving community next. He looks in prayer to the pressing needs of the people of whom his family is a part. Where is someone lacking an air conditioner, washer, drier or a car that runs? Where is someone lacking a job or an extra job to make ends meet? How can I pray for and help meet those needs? And he does the same for the unbelieving community.

## Appendix Two: Self-Administered Rating System – Men

1 = poor      3= weak      5= moderate      7= strength      9=discipler

1. Abides in Christ in genuine, regular, heart-felt way. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Works diligently to meet physical, financial needs of family. Assumes responsibility for that area. Solicits feedback from employer on how to improve. Sees to it that budget, bill paying, giving are honorable to Lord. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Loves his wife and shows it by commitment to understanding her, honoring her and treating her as equal, yet with care of a weaker vessel. His love for her is a growing movement towards what makes her know she is loved. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Guards his eyes, mouth and loyalties for his wife. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Guards against causing children to stumble into anger through his inattention or demandingness. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Instructs and disciplines his children, formally and informally. He discipless them in faith, in responsibility, in preparation for adulthood. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Tends the "garden" God has given him to manage, namely the physical plant of family surroundings. Not slave to house but finds ways to use it to God's glory as a house of prayer, hospitality, service, etc. Blesses his wife in so doing and instructs his children in stewardship. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Attends to the needs of the community of which he is a committed part. This applies first to those of the household of faith and second to those of the unbelieving community. Gives time, sweat, money, prayer, gifts to bless them and does so as part of commitment to the gospel in all its forms. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

56 – 72 We need your help discipling other men

45 – 55 You are on your way – keep growing, serving, leading – Work on one area

38 – 44 This area needs to be a priority growth area for you in the next year or two

< 38      Your marriage and family will suffer. Get a mentor and some tapes/books. Work on this diligently for the next three years. It will change your life.

2-3 Areas of Strength \_\_\_\_\_

2-3 Areas of Weakness \_\_\_\_\_

What can be improved on? How? What accountability is in place for that? Who do you know with strength in this area who can help you with encouragement, advice & prayer?

### ***Appendix Three: WHY IT'S GREAT TO BE A GUY / © Dave Barry (1998?)***

- Phone conversations last 30 seconds
- You know useful stuff about tanks and airplanes
- A five day vacation requires only one suitcase
- Bathroom lines are 80% shorter
- You can open all your own jars
- Old friends don't give you grief if you've lost or gained weight
- You can go to the bathroom alone
- Your last name stays put
- You can leave a hotel room bed unmade
- You can kill your own food
- The garage is all yours
- You see the humor in "Terms of Endearment"
- You can be showered and ready in 10 minutes
- Wedding plans take care of themselves
- If someone forgets to invite you to something, they can still be your friend
- Your underwear cost \$7.50 for a pack of 3
- None of your coworkers have the power to make you cry
- You don't have to shave below your neck
- If you're 34 and single, no one notices
- Chocolate is just another snack
- You can quietly enjoy a car ride from the passenger seat
- Flowers fix everything (or duct tape)
- You never have to worry about other's feelings
- Three pairs of shoes are more than enough
- You can say anything and not worry about what people think
- You can whip your shirt off on a hot day
- Car mechanics tell you the truth
- You don't give a flip if someone doesn't notice your new haircut
- You can watch a game in silence for hours without your buddy thinking, "He must be mad at me"
- You can admire Clint Eastwood without having to starve yourself to look like him
- Wedding dress \$2000, Tux rental \$100 bucks
- You don't pass on the dessert and then mooch off someone else's
- If you retain water, it is in a canteen
- The remote is yours and yours alone
- You don't have to pretend you're "freshening up" when you go to the bathroom
- If you don't call your buddy when you said you would, he won't tell your friends you've changed
- If another guy shows up at a party in the same outfit, you might become lifelong buddies
- You think the idea of punting that small, ankle-biting dog is funny

#### **Appendix Four: Two Great Men: The Carpenter and the Legislator**

The carpenter I hired to help me restore an old farmhouse had just finished up a rough first day on the job. A flat tire had made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit, and now his ancient pickup refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

Then opening the door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles, and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward, he walked me to the car. We passed the tree, and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

"Oh, that's my 'trouble tree,'" he replied. "I know I can't help having them on the job, but one thing's for sure – troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang 'em on the tree every night when I come home; then in the morning I pick them up again."

"Funny thing is," he said smilingly, "when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before." -

***-Ron Levin, quoted in Reader's Digest***

#### ***Domestic Publicity: Making Goodness Fashionable The Home Life of William Wilberforce by Charles Colson***

He is remembered as one of the most influential men of his day—a man celebrated for his wit, humor, and great political achievements. But it was his approach to his family that got the attention of the British public.

William Wilberforce is remembered as the Christian leader and parliamentarian most responsible for ending the British slave trade and for reforming the morals of British society. But to the people of his own generation, he was the man who changed the way the British viewed their role as parents. He's an example of the priorities every father—even busy political fathers—ought to have.

Wilberforce did not marry until he was nearly forty. But as Kevin Belmonte notes in his new book, *Hero for Humanity*, once Wilberforce became a husband and the father of six children, he took up his new responsibilities with relish.

"At any given moment," Belmonte writes, "one might visit his home and find the master of the house . . . refreshing himself by throwing a ball." It was not unusual for him to excuse himself "from important deliberations with fellow MP's to go out on the lawn and have a race with the children." During a Twelfth Night party, Wilberforce and his friends played blind-man's bluff with the children for two hours. Busy as he was, it was not unusual for Wilberforce to scoop up his offspring and take them on a picnic, to see a juggler, or to visit a toy shop. Every Sunday, he took them to church, often singing hymns on the way.

At times his family resented the demands his political life made on their privacy. But as Belmonte observes, his hospitality "says much about Wilberforce's ability to make goodness fashionable."



As Wilberforce's brother-in-law James Stephen noted with eloquence, "Witnessing his domestic life is one of the best cures I know for prepossessions against religion [and] the best human incentives to the practice of it." And he added: "There is something peculiar in Wilberforce's character and situation that seem to point it out as the design of Providence that he should serve his Master in this high and special walk and should have, so to speak, a kind of domestic publicity—that he should be at home, a candle set on a candlestick, as well as abroad, a city built upon a hill"—beautiful words.

As Belmonte notes, it was through Wilberforce's example that British households "increasingly . . . became places where parents spent more time with their children, educating them, praying with them, reading with them, and playing with them." Eventually, Wilberforce resigned his powerful seat in the House of Commons in order "to take a more active role in educating and rearing his children." Though he continued his campaign against slavery, he gave his family priority.

His efforts paid off handsomely: One son became a bishop, another a clergyman. All of his children adored him.

Sadly, these days too many Christians in business or politics neglect their families. The demands of the job seem too great—I know all about that. And the competition is too fierce. Wilberforce is a reminder of what every Christian father should be in spite of the great demands and fierce competition. For the sake of his children—and for the sake of his witness—he must be "at home, a candle set on a candlestick, as well as abroad a city built upon a hill."

For further reading:

Kevin Belmonte, *Hero for Humanity: A Biography of William Wilberforce* (NavPress, 2002). <http://link.crosswalk.com/UM/T.asp?A1.25.8832.1.59170>

William Wilberforce, *A Practical View of Christianity* (Hendrickson, 1996). <http://link.crosswalk.com/UM/T.asp?A1.25.8832.2.59170>

Christopher D. Hancock, "The 'Shrimp' Who Stopped Slavery," *Christian History*, Winter 1997. <http://link.crosswalk.com/UM/T.asp?A1.25.8832.3.59170>

Kevin Belmonte, "William Wilberforce," *Wilberforce Forum Website*. <http://link.crosswalk.com/UM/T.asp?A1.25.8832.4.59170>

Richard L. Gathro, "William Wilberforce and His Circle of Friends," *Wilberforce Forum Website*. <http://link.crosswalk.com/UM/T.asp?A1.25.8832.5.59170>

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## **Man to Man: Who is Watching You?**

Even if you don't intend to leave a legacy, you will.

by Crawford Loritts

<http://www.familylife.com/familyroom/article>

I remember sitting in front of the television as a child, spellbound by the performances of Sammy Davis Jr. He was enormously talented as a dancer, singer, comedian, and actor. He performed with an energy and magnetic charisma that sprang from natural talent, not technological spectacle or electronic enhancement. And he became a standard, a model for other entertainers to follow.

One of his most-committed disciples was Gregory Hines, the award-winning entertainer who starred both in film and on stage. When Davis died some years ago from complications from throat cancer, Hines paid tribute to his beloved mentor during the memorial service.

Hines described how he and his brothers, when they were kids, used to sneak into Harlem's Apollo Theater to watch Sammy Davis Jr. perform with his uncles. He was inspired to model his own performances after those of Davis—who eventually helped him get started in the business. Through the years a deep affection and bond developed between them.

And then Hines told a moving story about visiting Davis a few weeks before he passed away. Hines knew the disease was terminal, and he wanted to say thank you and good-bye to the man who had done so much to shape his career.

When Hines walked into the house, he was struck by the toll the cancer had taken. Always a slight man, Davis was even more frail and emaciated. The cancer had robbed the singer of his voice, so Hines did most of the talking. He told Davis how much he had meant to him, thanked him for all he had done for him. He said good-bye and affectionately kissed Davis on the cheek and got up to leave.

As Hines walked toward the door he heard the shuffling of feet. He turned and saw Davis behind him. The mentor had one last message, one last charge, to give his student.

Davis pretended as if he had a basketball in his hands and passed it to Hines. That gesture said it all: "I have gone as far as I can. This is the end of the line for me, so what I have I give to you. The ball is in your hands. You have to take it to a time that I cannot see." Gregory Hines left the house determined to do all that he could to keep, preserve, and build on the legacy.

I am moved by that story because it is a compelling picture of the nature and cycle of influence God has called all of us to have upon others. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are on our journey toward heaven—our home, and our ultimate reward. But long after we are gone, until the Lord returns, heaven's work continues. And those we influence—friends, family members, and associates—continue to live. They go to a time that we cannot experience or see. Every life is a transition to another era.

The truth of the matter is that to live means to influence. Even if a person doesn't intend to leave a legacy, he or she will. That issue is not even on the table. Every life is a personal story about destiny that is read by those who know the person. We are all telling a story.

Think about that. Each day you are shaping your legacy. Your values and convictions, and how you live them out through your words and your actions, will influence everyone around you. If you are a parent, this is especially sobering because your children will grow up to be like you in ways you can hardly comprehend.

When we die, our work is complete. It is finished; we can't do it over again. The question is: What kind of legacy have you left the next generation?

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