



What the Bible Says to Men Pt 1: Built to take Dominion!

The Scriptural Foundation of Manhood

June 4, 2023

The Three Goals of this Series:

1. To Encourage God's sons to wage the good warfare for Him.
2. To Equip and Edify men to stand on Scriptural truth in a time where true masculinity is hated.
3. To Extol and Exalt the LORD who is glorious in His Truth!

Our Road in June

1. Built to take Dominion
2. Weaknesses and Susceptible Sins
3. The Power of Strong, Prophetic Fatherhood (Father's Day)
4. The Manhood Manifesto Revisited

Holy Text: Genesis 2:4-20

1. Recall the summary of God's creation of mankind that we've discussed quite a bit lately:

Genesis 1:26-31 (KJV) *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. 31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

- On the sixth day of creation, God created Mankind, male and female, in His own image.
- This means that unlike the animals, Man has the communicable attributes of God. Only man was created with the capacity to be personal with God. Only man has the ability to love, reason, show mercy and grace, plan, be self-aware, and communicate with Him.
- The word for "man" in Gen 1:26 is *âdâm* in Hebrew. It means "ruddy," or "of a red color" or "red earth."
- This makes sense: Adam was created from the dust (dirt) of the ground. (Gen 2:7)
- God blessed Man (their name is Adam, Gen 5:2) and commanded them to (Gen 1:28):
 1. Be fruitful. Be productive, bring things forth, increase.
 2. Multiply. Increase, produce abundance, make more of, have children!
 3. Replenish the earth. Fill or make full. Fill the earth with people!
 4. Subdue it. In the Hebrew, it means "to tread down; positively to conquer, keep under, subdue, bring into subjection."
 5. Have Dominion. The Hebrew means "to tread down, that is, subjugate; prevail against, reign, (bear, make to) rule, (-r, over), take."

- Beloved, perhaps you've not thought of this, but this *creation command* to have dominion is deeply imbedded into Adam and his progeny. This God-given desire to intentionally “win or take territory” and see it brought under his dominion rule is just as intrinsic to a man's life as a women's desire to bear children.
 - And just as godly women find their foundational joys in helping and supporting, likewise a man needs something to conquer: to give himself to and strive for.
 - A man without a mission will suffer spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. He'll either shrivel up and become a shell of who he is supposed to be or misuse and direct his strength towards his lusts, violence, or power.
2. In Genesis 2, we read more detail concerning Adam's creation and calling.
- Prior to the creation of Eden, Scripture describes a land that lacked the lushness for which Eden is known. (vv.4-5)
 - Why? Two reasons: God had not yet sent rain and there was no man to till the ground. (v.5)
 - Instead, a mist went up and watered the land. (v.6)
 - Some believe this verse describes the condition of the earth on Day Three, prior to any vegetation (Gen 1:10). Others believe this was a situation unique to the region of Eden, since it seems like Eden *may have been* planted after Adam's creation.
 - Nevertheless, God made Adam out of the dust and man became a living soul! (v.7)
 - The narrative then describes the creation of Eden. Incredibly, the Scriptures read as if Eden was created not only for the glory of God, but also for man!

Genesis 2:8 (KJV) *And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

- Eden is described as a lush, pleasant, nourishing, well watered (sourcing four rivers) place filled with riches like gold and other precious stones! (Gen 2:9-14)
 - Two special trees were there and they are noteworthy: *The Tree of Life* and *The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*.
 - By giving Adam dominion over this garden, in which were these trees that gave life and knowledge of spiritual realities, God was handing him an incredible responsibility!
3. So God put Adam in the garden to “dress” and “keep” it. Adam was to dress (till) or work the garden and guard it. (v.15)
- **Important point: Work for man was created before sin was in the world!**
 - **Not only that, but man's true work is first connected to what God creates and God desires! The Christian must not attempt to separate man's purpose from God's purpose!**
4. Furthermore, man's work had regulation: Adam was commanded to do and don't do. Man is not free to do whatever he pleases. (vv.16-17)
5. Also, as we have been reminded, Adam would need help! So a suitable helper would be created! (v.18) God is kind to give man what he needs to accomplish his work.
6. As a part of his dominion, Adam was given the privilege of naming the animals God had created. God brought animals to Adam “to see what he would call them!” (v.19-20)

This is an amazing thing. God is totally sovereign over all His creation, and yet He cedes naming the creatures to Adam! Matthew Henry (1662-1714) writes that this is:

An instance of the creatures' subjection to man, and his dominion over them (Gen 2:19, Gen 2:20): Every beast of the field and every fowl of the air God brought to Adam, either by the ministry of angels, or by a special instinct, directing them to come to man as their master, teaching the ox betimes to know his owner. Thus God gave man livery and seisin of the fair estate he had granted him, and put him in possession of his dominion over the creatures. God brought them to him, that he might name them, and so might give, 1. A proof of his knowledge, as a creature endued with the faculties both of reason and speech, and so taught more than the beasts of the earth and made wiser than the fowls of the heaven, Job 35:11. And, 2. A proof of his power. It is an act of authority to impose names (Dan 1:7), and of subjection to receive them. The inferior creatures did now, as it were, do homage to their prince at his inauguration, and swear fealty and allegiance to him.

John Gill (1697-1771) said that this:

...was a trial of the wisdom of man, so a token of his dominion over the creatures, it being an instance of great knowledge of them to give them apt and suitable names, so as to distinguish one from another, and point at something in them that was natural to them, and made them different from each other; for this does not suppose any want of knowledge in God, as if he did this to know what man would do, he knew what names man would give them before he did; but that it might appear he had made one superior to them all in wisdom and power, and for his pleasure, use, and service; and therefore brings them to him, to put them into his hands, and give him authority over them; and being his own, to call them by what names he pleased:

7. In Scripture, a name is important. A name in the Bible always speaks to a purpose, past, present, or future. The one who names has some level of dominion over that which is named.

Built to Take Dominion!

1. A man, helped by his wife if married, was built to have dominion. What is *dominion*?

The Dominion Mandate is the command to establish the rule of Jesus Christ in all areas and jurisdictions of life (the Family, the Church, and the State); the intentional expansion of His Kingdom by His subjects, the preaching of the Gospel, the discipling of hearts, and the raising up of Godly generations that declare, "Thy Kingdom come, and Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

2. As we said recently in our Babylon series, this command isn't just about farming or husbandry; it is about living a God-honoring, Christ-like life of intentional, daily stewardship. And this command wasn't just given to Adam and Eve, but also to "Man," that is, all of Adam and Eve's spiritual and physical children.
3. Therefore, a man is to live with godly ***purpose*** rather than ***passivity***.
 - Passivity brings ***the calamity of complacency*** into man's life. This is contrary to his design.
 - Man is built to rule over...to take dominion...to bring things under the authority of his Master, Jesus Christ.

4. **Everything about biblical manhood (headship and authority, responsibility, provision, providing, protecting, preaching and being priestly in his home) has this “dominion edge” to it.**
5. **Having or taking dominion, by nature in a fallen world, necessarily means bringing order to chaos, fighting battles, wresting control away from wickedness and wickedness, and subduing things under Christ. There is a holy aggression and godly intentionality to taking dominion. This speaks to the fundamental nature of manhood. A godly man cannot easily “let things go” if those things are contrary to his dominion purpose and the glory of God!**
6. Men love the Courageous Warfare language in Scripture for this reason!

Joshua 1:6-9 (KJV) *Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. 9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

Psalms 144:1-2 (KJV) *A Psalm of David. Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: 2 My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.*

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (KJV) *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

Ephesians 6:10-17 (KJV) *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

Why? These kinds of verses:

- Align with our emotional and physical design!

- Appeal to our desire to protect!
 - Speak to a mission greater than ourselves, which men need!
 - Highlight our need for other mighty men to fight alongside!
7. Indeed, most of the men God used in Scripture were given massive Kingdom/Dominion purpose, for which they had to struggle mightily and fight for!
- Adam - For his progeny by way of thorns and thistles!
 - Noah - To build an Ark and save humanity from a global flood!
 - Abraham - To leave his father's house and, by faith, birth the lineage of the Messiah!
 - Moses - To deliver God's people and see them to the promised land!
 - Joshua - To conquer a land filled with enemies and giants!
 - David - To fight giants and lead God's people!
 - The Prophets - To declare holy messages that many people hated!
 - The Apostles - To lead the church and give their lives in the leading!

Areas of Dominion

Once again, *living life with great purpose* is critical to understanding the foundation of biblical manhood. Right from the beginning, Adam was designed and created to have relationship with God and to do the work to which he was assigned by God.

Here are seven areas over which a godly man will strive his entire life to take dominion:

1. His Faith

- **Proverbs 3:1-7 (KJV)** *My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: 2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: 4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*
- Even a man who has repented and believed in Jesus will be tempted to do things his own way. Sometimes it's easier to trust in logic than the LORD.
- A man will spend his life striving to take dominion over his sinful propensity to follow his own counsel and to trust in God instead.

2. His Fears

- **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (KJV)** *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*
- In order to pray, live holy, grow in the Scriptures, serve his church, defeat the devil, and preach the gospel and make disciples, a man will have to exercise tremendous dominion over his fears.
- Men greatly fear failure...being thought of as less than, inferior, or not up to par.
- A man must learn to fear God rather than man and care less about what man does or says about him.

3. His Family

- **Titus 1:5-6 (KJV)** *For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*
- The instructions for the leaders of Christ's churches serve as a divine model for manhood. Part of that instruction is proper governance of one's household and family.
- A man has to master himself, but he must also strive to master or exercise gentle and loving headship over his family. This is easier said than done as individuals have their own proclivities and weaknesses.
- Job rose up early in the morning and prayed for his children, because it "may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually." (Job 1:5) A father knows he must do likewise if he is to succeed.
- He knows that "The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise *child* shall have joy of him." (Prov 23:24)

4. His Finances

- **1 Timothy 5:8 (KJV)** *But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*
- **Proverbs 13:22 (KJV)** *A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.*
- A dominion minded man sees his time, talent and treasure as a stewardship from God. He therefore seeks to exercise proper stewardship over all that he has been given.
- In the New Testament, we see that God wants His stewards to grow what they have been given (Matt 25:14-30; 1 Cor 4:2)
- Money and other resources are no different. A godly man will attempt to grow wealth and make provision for his household and the Kingdom of God. These resources are tools in God's hands for God's glory.
- A good man is unashamed in his desire to give his children a "leg up." Indeed, "...for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children." (2 Cor 12:14b)

5. His Field (Vocation)

- **Colossians 3:23-24 (KJV)** *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*
- A godly man sees his daily work as daily dominion! Therefore, he strives to be excellent and rise in authority and responsibility (dominion).
- As we said in Building a Financial House...

God has great dominion and Kingdom purposes in work:

- To learn to honor God
- To serve others
- To provide for ourselves and our family
- To be a witness for Christ
- To leave a spiritual and financial legacy
- To learn discipline and develop godly character¹

6. His Fitness

¹ *Building a Financial House*, McLeod, p.25, 2021.

- **1 Timothy 4:8 (KJV)** *For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*
- “A godly man and father understands the reasons for his strength. He is designed as a protector. Therefore he must give some consideration to staying strong in all areas, spiritually, mentally, and physically. (Spirit, soul, and body)
- The Scripture that says “bodily exercise profiteth little” (1 Tim 4:8) doesn’t mean it’s not important; it means that compared to spiritual exercise it is a small matter because the results are short lived.
- More and more, I’m urging men (and women!) to consider what they eat and to exercise regularly.
- I suggest that a man also consider training to defend others. Many men in Scripture defended others and were prepared to do so, including Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, and the Apostles (who at times carried swords!). Even Jesus knew how to use a whip! :)
- This isn’t about being macho; it’s about being positioned to be the “strong man” in the house when enemies are afoot. (Mark 3:27)”²

7. His Future

- **Psalms 78:1-8 (KJV) Maschil of Asaph.** *Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: 3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. 5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: 7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: 8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.*
- A dominion-oriented man is not only concerned about bringing now under Christ’s rule, but also then!
- He thinks through how his spiritual, emotional, financial, and physical legacy will impact his children's children by God's grace.
- He's willing to sacrifice and work hard now to promote Christ rule and the benefit of his children then.
- He wants to lay Memorial stones of help (Ebenezers) now so that his lineage will see and hear Christ when they cross the same paths! (Joshua 4)

Closing Thoughts:

We learned that Eve’s creation was oriented around Adam:

- She was created for Adam to help him(Gen 2:18)
- She was created from Adam; they are interdependent (Gen 2:21-22)
- She was brought to the man. Her husband is her head. (Gen 2:22)
- She was named by the man. She takes upon her his vision. (Gen 2:23)

Adam’s creation was oriented around his purpose: having dominion over God’s creation...

² <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2018/6/the-manhood-manifesto-10-biblical-declarations-for-men>

Genesis 2:7-8 (KJV) *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. 8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

Genesis 2:15 (KJV) *And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*

Yes, both Adam and Eve's primary purpose was to glorify and worship God, as is ours! But how they were to go about that day to day is organized differently and is manifested not only in their worship, but in their particular focus and work. Recall:

1 Corinthians 11:7 (KJV) *For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.*

Attack your purpose in Christ men. It is fundamental to who you are, by God's holy design.

Amen.