



The Manhood Manifesto 2023: 10 Biblical Declarations for Men

June 25, 2023

Beginning Exhortation from Scott Brown:¹

What does it mean to be a man with children? Here it is:

- *Manhood goes after it.*
- *Manhood rises up and teaches.*
- *Manhood directs.*
- *Manhood protects.*
- *The pinnacle of manhood is Jesus Christ who gathers disciples and conquers his enemies.*
- *He crushes the head of the serpent.*
- *He contradicts His enemies.*
- *He speaks the truth.*
- *He destroys the works of the devil.*
- *Manhood does not wait for womanhood to power up.*

Parents, Men, Fathers, this is how you ought to approach taking your children to church. It is a pivotal discipleship event. Each week we send you the preaching text and the songs to sing so you can teach your children. We do this to give you a resource to teach them. First, we want you to teach your children what the preaching text means. Then teach them what the songs mean and how to sing them with vigor.

Brothers, let's shake off all sloth and get after it. Let nothing stand in your way. We are looking for a mighty flock of men!

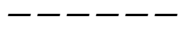
"I will increase their men like a flock. Like a flock offered as holy sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem on its feast days, so shall the ruined cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they shall know that I am the Lord." (Ezekiel 36:37-38)

Richard Baxter makes it clear just how much we need families to do their part to teach the younger generation:

"We must also have a special eye upon Families, to see that they be well ordered, and the duties of each relation performed. The life of religion, and the welfare and glory of church and state, depending much on Family-government and duty. If we suffer the neglect of this, we undo all. What are we like to do ourselves to the reforming of a congregation, if all the work be cast on us alone, and masters of families will let fall that necessary duty of their own, by which they are bound to help us! If any good be begun by the ministry in any soul in a family, a careless, prayerless, worldly family is almost sure to stifle it, or at least very much hinder it. Whereas, if you could but get the rulers of families to do their part, and take up the work where you left it, and help it on, what abundance of good might be done! I beseech you, therefore, do all that you can to promote this business, as ever you desire the true reformation and welfare of your parishes!"

Richard Baxter and William Orme, The Practical Works of the Rev. Richard Baxter, vol. 14 (London: James Duncan, 1830), 97–99

¹ <https://churchandfamilylife.com/resources/638e5b72b72b5c7f1aa6b088>



Today's Text: A Reminder from 1 Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (KJV) *Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. 14 Let all your things be done with charity.*

The Context of 1 Corinthians 16:

1. As Paul concludes the letter, he writes a few personal notes as he does in other inspired epistles.
2. In this case, in the context immediately surrounding our Text, he gives an update on Apollos, exhortations to be subject to and recognize leaders like Stephanus and others, and he reads greetings from close friends like Aquila and Prisca and the church that met in their home. He encourages unity, to be displayed by “a holy kiss” (a common greeting in antiquity) and warns the church to love the LORD or be accursed.
3. Here is the way I'd like you to approach this passage: **PERSONALLY.**
 - Paul had taught this church much in this letter. They were to stand firm in faith as they received the Word. *How have YOU received the Word?*
 - What Paul taught requires maturity (acting like men not boys)! *Have YOU matured?*
 - Paul essentially reformed the church in critical areas and called them to be strong in the doing. *Are YOU strong in the doing?*
 - For those standing firm in faith, maturing, and walking in strong obedience, *are YOU doing all that in Love?*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Although set in the midst of final greetings, our Text still feels like an imperative. This holy text sums up the mindset needed for the brethren to adhere to the Holy Spirit's instructions in the midst of the corruption of Corinth, and the persecution of the Roman empire. The men were instructed to 1) Act like men and 2) Do all things in love (charity). Men/Fathers and sons need the same exhortation today!

A few observations jump out:

1. Men are commanded to **watch**. The Greek word here is *grēgoreuō* (gray-gor-yoo'-o); it means to “keep awake; to be vigilant.”
2. Men are commanded to **stand**. *Stēkō* (stay'-ko) is the Greek. It literally means to be unmoving. The implication is to persevere!
3. Men are commanded to act like **men**. The Greek word here is *andrizomai*; it means to “act manly, or to show oneself noble or brave! Men must be courageous!
4. Men are commanded to be **strong**. The Greek word here is *krataioō*. (Kra-ta-ah-o) It comes from a root word that means “mighty.” One definition from the Webster 1828 says, “Having physical passive power; having ability to bear or endure; firm; solid; as a constitution strong enough to bear the fatigues of a campaign.”
5. Men are commanded to do all things in **love**. *Agapē* is the word here. It carries the idea of affection, good will, benevolence, according to God and His Word.

What we glean from this Text and see clearly through the rest of Scripture is a spiritual and practical posture that men and fathers must have: a strong but tender watchfulness and vigilance...an ability to not be moved...a spiritual and practical stability...a noble

heart that is undaunted in the face of changing cultural winds...a man that loves God and others as himself.

Today, a man who is watchful, stands firm in the precepts of God, and is manly in that process isn't a popular fella! Nevertheless, a man's role is critical to Kingdom formation and expansion. Just as our sisters bring empathy and nurture, and man bring logic and steadfastness.

This "Manifesto," drawn from the whole of Scripture, is meant to be a sort of a checklist...a brief "Master's Class" for men. We need watchful, steadfast, manly, courageous, strong, and loving men and fathers, now more than ever!

The Manhood Manifesto²

- 1. I will embrace the call for men and fathers to **lead**. (Gen 2:18-25, 3:16; 1 Cor 11:3, 14:34; Eph 5:22-23; 1 Tim 2:12-14)**
 - In Scripture, we see the divine pattern of male leadership or patriarchy (father-led) over and over.
 - Biblically speaking, a man's leadership involves both setting direction and service. He points the way AND lays down his life.
 - A man who loves Jesus is a man who embraces this call to set a course AND self-sacrifice. He knows he is there, in part, to take the hits and endure the difficulties so his wife and children do not have to.
 - He says, "I'm going to lead gently, lovingly, and with patience, mercy and grace, but also with courage, firmness when necessary, and resolve."

- 2. I will increasingly **conform** to the precepts, principles, and patterns of biblical manhood and fatherhood. (1 Kings 2:2-3; Psalm 1:1-2; 1 Tim 4:16; 2 Tim 2:2; Titus 1:9)**
 - The primary manifestation of biblical manhood and fatherhood is this: such a man loves the Lord Jesus Christ and keeps His Word.
 - Everywhere you see the call to manhood you also see the call to loving obedience...
 - **Psa 1:1-2 (KJV)** *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*
 - **1Ki 2:2-3 (KJV)** *I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; 3 And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:*
 - Paraphrased from 1 Tim 4:16, a godly man and father "takes heed unto himself, and unto the doctrine; he continues in them: for in doing this he knows he shalt both save himself, and them that hear him."

- 3. I will not **harm** women; I will love my wife as Christ loves the Church. (Eph 5:28-29; 1 Pet 3:7)**
 - Because of Christ's cross, a godly man understands that the women in his life are made in the image of God, and if they are saved, are joint-heirs along with him...

² [The Biblically Healthy Household](#), p. 77, 2021.

- **1Pe 3:7 (KJV)** *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*
- A man and father therefore gives great care to his treatment of women. Scripture gives us certain words and phrases to describe this treatment...
- In Ephesians 5 we find word like “love,” “nourish,” “cherish,” and principles that suggest a desire to see her “sanctified,” “cleansed,” and “washed.” “Glorious without spot or wrinkle” is about as far away from harm or abuse as it gets!
- So a godly man decides he will not harm women. He will be a “safe place” for the women around him unto the glory of God.

4. I will ask the LORD for and utilize increased wisdom in my personal and workplace interactions. (Whole book of Proverbs!)

- In today’s crazy environment, a godly man has to realize that his desire to do good might be spoken of as evil. (Rom 14:16)
- He therefore heeds the words of Scripture and gives forethought to how he interacts with the people around him, that his “sound speech (and actions) cannot be condemned, that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about (him).” (Titus 2:8)
- I suggest:
 1. That a godly man and father considers whether it is wise to meet with ladies alone.
 2. That a godly man and father considers whether it is wise to have close female friends.
 3. That a godly man and father considers whether it is wise to have unguarded social medial interactions.
 4. That a godly man and father considers whether it is wise to expose himself to prolonged immodesty and other tempting situations.
- In other words, a true *Manhood Manifesto* includes the call to be watchful. Remember what our LORD commanded: **“Mat 26:41 (ESV)** *Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

5. I will not allow changing cultural movements and mores to strip me of my manhood. (Matt 13:1-23...the Parable of the Sower; Col 2:8)

- Now please understand—this declaration isn’t about being macho. It is however to understand but reject the current dislike and distrust of biblical masculinity.
- A man that has been to the Cross of Jesus is a man who stands upon God’s Word. He brings his God-given propensity for logic, order, and discipline to bear.
- He isn’t ashamed to square his spiritual shoulders and be steadfast, unmovable, and always abounding in the work of the LORD.
- A man of the Word knows he is in a spiritual war. He therefore becomes a spiritual warrior. He suits up each day as a soldier in the LORD’s army!
- So he isn’t always agreeable. He knows how to say “no, not in my house.” He isn’t afraid to go against the cultural tide.

6. I will be a continual learner (because I’m called to be a priest to my family). (Eph 5:26; 1 Cor 14:35; 1 Tim 2:8; 2 Tim 2:15)

- Scripture commands men to be ready to answer their wife’s and children’s spiritual questions. He is to be ready to wash his family with the Word of God.

- This means he must “Study to shew (himself) approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2:15)
 - Leaders are readers. He is a student of Scripture. He therefore submits himself to his elders for his own profit and growth. (Heb 13:17)
- 7. I will declare God’s Word in my **home**, (because I’m commanded to be a prophet to my family). (Gen 18:19; Deut 6:7; Eph 6:4)**
- God said this of Abraham: **Gen 18:19 (KJV)** *For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*
 - Men who lead in the church must “ruleth well his own house,” rule “their children and houses well,” and have “faithful children, not accused of being riot and unruly.” (1 Tim 3:4, 12; Titus 1:6)
 - This idea of ruling or managing suggests not just gentle shepherding, but when necessary, prophetically declaring and standing firm.
 - Most people are kinda ok with teaching; not so much with declaring. A godly man does both, and knows when to do so.
- 8. I will work hard and become an excellent **steward** (because I’m commanded to be a provider for my family). (Prov 13:7, 13:22, 22:7; 2 Cor 12:14; 1 Tim 5:8)**
- **Pro 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.*
 - **2Co 12:14 (KJV)** *Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.*
 - Since men are charged with leading their families, they are also responsible for their provision.
 - A godly man takes the time to consider the needs he sees around him. With wisdom from above, he thinks through issues regarding debt/borrowing, savings and investments, insurance, and inheritance.
 - He leads his family forward in this area, keeping the dominion mandate in mind.
 - He’s a hard worker and keeps his hand to the plow for God’s glory, and for the sake of his family, church, and community.
- 9. I will train hard and take care of my **body** (because I’m commanded to be a protector to my family). (1 Cor 6:19; 1 Tim 4:8)**
- 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)

10. I will attempt to teach the Gospel to and *inspire* both biblical manhood in my sons and biblical womanhood in my wife and daughters. (Ps 78:2-8; 1 Cor 15:1-4; Titus 2:1-6)

- This might be a man's most important declaration. He is charged with preaching and teaching the LORD's Gospel to His children.
- ***Psa 78:2-8 (KJV)*** *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.*

Closing Exhortation

Brethren, even if we tried, we could not overestimate your value and worth to God, the critical nature of your place and mission, and your importance to your household and the LORD's church.

Persevere.

Stay humble.

Be holy.

Love deeply.

Be accountable.

Fight the good fight!

Sisters, pray for the men in your life. Respect them. Know that you mean so much to them.

May the LORD help His church model for a much-confused world how men and women should worship God and interact one to another, unto the glory of Christ.

Amen.