



SMALL GROUPS

Life alone isn't living. We SHARE community.

Beautiful Design

Week 3 – Man's Purpose

2/10/19

While male and female are equal in value and worth, God created each gender with different roles and responsibilities. This week we dove into the topic of the image of God as it relates to men. We'll spend three weeks talking about men – their purpose, hurdles, and redemption. We'll also cover the same topics about women a bit later in the series.

How do commercials, movies, and sitcoms depict men? Where do you think they have gotten it right, and where have they gone wrong?*

We could ask 100 people the same question, "What does it mean to be a man?" and we'd get 100 different answers. But let's talk about what God says.

Read Genesis 2:15. What was the job that God gave Adam to do?*

Like Adam, God has placed every man on the planet in a "garden" where he has the opportunity and responsibility to cultivate flourishing or create chaos.

MEN: Which of the following "gardens" has God placed you in?*
*(answers might include marriage, children, neighborhood, business, small group, gym, etc.)**

MEN: Of the three areas that man is to cultivate in his home (sacrificial love for your wife, spiritual direction, and provision), which of these comes easiest to you? Which is the hardest? Why?

WOMEN: Recognize the weighty responsibility that is placed on the men in your life. Are you praying that God would strengthen them for the task at hand?* In light of this study, what do you need to make?

The task that God has called men to is tough. It is not for the faint of heart, But the good news is that God has hardwired the masculine heart with the tools needed to accomplish this task.

What's a major distinction that separates headship from leadership?

What does it mean to lead one's home in a way that your failures point towards the gospel?

MEN: Do you feel the weight of the responsibility given to you? Explain*

How do you sense God has prepared you to carry out this task?*

WOMEN: What evidence do you see that God has prepared the men in your life to take up the responsibility of manhood?*

Unfortunately, too many men in our culture dismiss the opportunity and shirk the responsibility given to them by God. Instead of taking up the mantle to care and protect, they choose less noble adventures motivated by a selfish heart. The focus of their lives is skewed; it becomes all about them.

MEN: In what ways have you struggled to take up the responsibility God had given you?*

What wrong adventures or activities is your selfish heart drawn to?*

While the calling is strong and the task is tough, men will find fulfillment in carrying out the responsibility God has given them to war for the souls of their wives, the souls of their children, and the glory of Christ in the world.

Review Genesis 2. Which verses describe the account of God's fashioning of Eve?

Read Genesis 2:16-17. What command does God give to Adam?*

Notice that before God created Eve, He first gave to Adam a framework of His beautiful design for men. Why do you think this is?*

It seems that God wanted to establish Adam's responsibility before moving forward. If his role was unclear, the Garden—and especially Eve—would suffer. If any marriage, church, or society is to succeed and prosper, it needs men willing to wring out their lives for the sake of their wives, kids, and the kingdom. We need men to act like men by aligning their lives under God's commands in response to His beautiful design.

MEN: How can you encourage, admonish, and hold each other accountable this week, and in the weeks to come when it comes to headship of your home?

WOMEN: How can you pray for the men in your life this week? How can you encourage him in his responsibilities, while at the same time raising the bar for him in godly expectations? How do you need to get out of the way?

**Taken from, "a beautiful design," by Matt Chandler*