

The Way of the Cross for Men

Masculinity is not toxic;
sin is toxic.

The Calling of Men.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” (Gen 1)

The Calling of Men.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to *work it and take care of it.* (Gen. 2:15)

Both of Adam's jobs were affected by the Fall

1) Work (Serve)

2) Take Care of (Protect)

God told Eve, “Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you.”

Ephesians 5: 21-28

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5: 21-28

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Judges 2:20-3:6

²⁰ Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, “Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, ²¹ I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died.

Judges 2:20-3:6

²² I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their ancestors did.” ²³ The LORD had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua.

Judges 2:20-3:6

3 These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan ² (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience):

Judges 2:20-3:6

the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath. ⁴ They were left to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the LORD's commands, which he had given their ancestors through Moses.

Why did God want the men to know how to fight?

(1) Because we have an enemy. If you forget that you are in a fight, you are well on your way to defeat.

2 books:

Manhood: The Masculine Virtues America Needs

By Josh Hawley

The Toxic War on Masculinity

By Nancy Pearcey

Josh Hawley said, *“The Bible has much to say about evil, and much more to say about a man’s duty to confront it, in himself above all. Man’s commission to subdue the earth’s chaos and bring forth its potential means confronting the evil the chaos conceals.*”

And that begins with himself. The battle with evil is the proving ground of a man's character. Genesis is direct about this. To build the world into a temple, he must stand in evil's way, starting in his soul. That is truth today's men need to hear."

Why did God want the men to know how to fight?

(2) Because men are created to serve and protect. Men are created to live for others and not for ourselves. We were created for commitment.

1 Timothy 5:2

Treat...older women as mothers, and
younger women as sisters, with
absolute purity.

Why did God want the men to know how to fight?

(3) Because men need a cause bigger than themselves.

Why did God want the men to know how to fight?

(4) Because fighting is hard and men need to experience hard things.

Vince Lombardi:

"I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle — victorious."

Nehemiah 6:2-3

**“But they were scheming to harm me; ³
so I sent messengers to them with this
reply: “I am carrying on a great project
and cannot go down. Why should the
work stop while I leave it and go down to
you?”**

God given masculinity doesn't
leave brokenness in its wake. It
leaves the Kingdom of God in its
wake.