

# Masculinity Is Not Toxic, It's Needed

**Text:** Genesis 1:26-28; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

## Introduction

In today's culture, masculinity is often portrayed as the problem. We hear terms like "toxic masculinity" used to describe aggression, abuse, selfishness, and domination. While sinful behavior should always be condemned, the problem is not masculinity itself—the problem is sin.

God created men intentionally and purposefully. Biblical masculinity is not toxic; it is necessary. Families need godly men. Churches need godly men. Communities need godly men. Children need godly fathers and male role models.

The world does not need less masculinity; it needs redeemed masculinity.

Paul instructed believers:

*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."* (1 Corinthians 16:13-14 NIV)

Notice that strength and love are not opposites. Biblical manhood combines both.

## I. God Created Men With Purpose

### Genesis 1:27-28

*"So God created mankind in his own image..."*

Masculinity is not a cultural accident. It is part of God's design.

Before sin entered the world, God created Adam and gave him responsibility. He was to work, cultivate, guard, and steward God's creation.

The biblical picture of manhood includes:

- Responsibility
- Leadership
- Protection
- Provision
- Service

A man is not defined by his hobbies, appearance, income, or athletic ability. A man is defined by his willingness to fulfill God's purpose for his life.

The enemy attacks masculinity because masculine leadership reflects God's order. When men abandon their God-given responsibilities, homes suffer, churches weaken, and society becomes unstable.

The question is not whether masculinity is needed. The question is whether men will embrace God's version of masculinity.

## II. Toxicity Comes From Sin, Not Masculinity

### Genesis 3:17-19

After the Fall, God's design became corrupted by sin.

Sin twists masculinity into:

- Domination instead of leadership
- Aggression instead of courage
- Pride instead of humility
- Selfishness instead of sacrifice
- Passivity instead of responsibility

The abuse of something does not eliminate its proper use.

Money can be abused, but money itself is not evil.

Authority can be abused, but authority itself is not evil.

Likewise, masculinity can be distorted, but masculinity itself is not toxic.

Many people confuse sinful behavior with biblical manhood.

A bully is not masculine.

An abuser is not masculine.

A selfish man is not masculine.

A passive man who refuses responsibility is not masculine.

Biblical masculinity is strength submitted to God.

The strongest man in the room should also be the most surrendered to Christ.

### **III. Biblical Men Lead Through Sacrifice**

#### **Ephesians 5:25**

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."*

The model for manhood is Jesus.

Jesus possessed tremendous strength.

He confronted religious hypocrisy. He endured temptation. He stood against evil. He faced the cross.

Yet His strength was always expressed through love and sacrifice.

#### **Jesus Redefined Leadership**

The world says: "Lead by power."

Jesus says: "Lead by serving."

The world says: "Make others serve you."

Jesus says: "Serve others."

The world says: "Demand respect."

Jesus says: "Earn trust through character."

Real masculinity is not about control. It is about responsibility.

A godly man asks:

- How can I serve?
- How can I protect?
- How can I provide?
- How can I lead others toward Christ?

Jesus carried a cross before He wore a crown. Godly men do the same.

## IV. Families Need Godly Men

### Joshua 24:15

*"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."*

The spiritual condition of many homes rises or falls on the spiritual leadership of fathers.

Children need fathers who:

- Pray
- Worship
- Love their mothers
- Teach God's Word
- Model integrity

A father does not need to be perfect.

He simply needs to be faithful.

Studies consistently show that when fathers are engaged and present, children are more likely to thrive emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

God never intended fathers to be absent from the discipleship process.

Many fathers provide food, clothing, and shelter.

But children also need:

- Guidance
- Discipline
- Encouragement
- Spiritual direction

A father's greatest legacy is not wealth.

It is faith.

# V. The Church Needs Godly Men

## 1 Timothy 2:8

*"I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing."*

The early church was filled with men who prayed, served, sacrificed, and advanced the Kingdom of God.

The church needs men who will:

- Lead their families spiritually
- Teach God's Word
- Serve faithfully
- Pray passionately
- Live holy lives

## Deeper Understanding

One of Satan's greatest strategies is to convince men that faith is weak.

The truth is that following Jesus requires enormous courage.

It takes courage to remain pure.

It takes courage to forgive.

It takes courage to stand for truth.

It takes courage to live holy in an unholy culture.

Weak men follow the crowd.

Strong men follow Christ.

# **VI. Jesus Is the Perfect Example of Masculinity**

## **Hebrews 4:15**

Jesus was:

- Strong but gentle
- Courageous but humble
- Powerful but compassionate
- Holy but approachable
- Firm but loving

He welcomed children.

He defended the vulnerable.

He confronted evil.

He washed feet.

He carried the cross.

No man has ever demonstrated masculinity more perfectly than Jesus Christ.

## **Deeper Understanding**

The goal of every Christian man should not be to fit society's definition of masculinity.

The goal should be Christlikeness.

The closer a man grows to Jesus, the better husband, father, leader, worker, and servant he becomes.

## Conclusion

The answer to society's problems is not less masculinity.

The answer is redeemed masculinity.

The world needs men who:

- Love God passionately
- Lead courageously
- Serve sacrificially
- Protect faithfully
- Live holy lives

Masculinity is not toxic when it is surrendered to Jesus Christ.

The greatest men are not those who dominate others.

The greatest men are those who allow Christ to rule their hearts.

## Invitation

Men, God is calling you higher. Not to worldly toughness. Not to selfish ambition. Not to passive indifference.

But to holy strength.

Will you become the man God created you to be? Will you lead your family toward Christ? Will you stand for truth in a confused culture?

Will you surrender fully to Jesus and allow Him to shape your character? The world does not need fewer men.

It needs more godly men. It needs men who look like Jesus.

**Key Sermon Statement:** *"Biblical masculinity is not toxic—it is strength under the control of the Holy Spirit, expressed through sacrificial love, courageous leadership, and holy living."*