

## From Boy to Man

### Intro

What I want to share with you today is the important transition from boyhood to manhood. Boys who are here, you are at a crucial point in your life. Fathers and grandfathers, we have the awesome privilege of investing in our sons and grandsons and passing the baton to them such that generations to come can be influenced for the positive and for the glory of God and for all eternity. I really want you to leave today encouraged and motivated and even provided with practical help.

### Prop: passing the baton

**1 Cor. 13** says when I was a child I used to .... But when I became a man I did away with childish things

**Ex. 20** we often here about the sins of the forefathers being carried to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation but the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of that verse says righteousness to a 1000 generations.

I really believe that if we take to heart what I share today it could make a huge difference in individuals, families, and even generations.

I love that quote from DL Moody ... “the world has yet to see what God could do ....”

### Pray

So much of who we are can be traced back to the first 17 years of our life when we are making some very important decisions, whether that be to follow Christ, who we hang out with, moral choices we make, the career we pursue, who to marry etc.

I am going to **hit 2 areas in this message**: the need for a rite of passage and manhood ceremony for boys and resolving boyhood wounds that many of us have.

Let's go into the rite of passage and manhood ceremony first. This has been on my heart for many years, I have seen the need for this in our culture, I've read some books (hold up books), and this year I finally had a manhood ceremony for my oldest son and it was a very special experience on many levels.

It is no surprise that this is a huge need in our culture today. Unfortunately for many boys they think you become a man by drinking, smoking, or having a sex with a girl. None of these make a boy a man. Not even getting a job and making money makes a boy into a man.

In the OT you had the father imparting a blessing on his son. In the Jewish culture you had barmitzva as this rite of passage but today we really don't have anything. Perhaps in some churches confirmation could serve as this. I am suggesting that we start a revolution within the Christian church whereby we become more intentional and proactive to disciple our sons and help them transition from boyhood to manhood. This can be done by a father and/or a grandfather or even a "big brother" type man in the boy's life.

Let me say this and listen closely: **I realize that many of us men feel very inadequate to father (because we never had a good role model or we just aren't confident) and thus we become uninvolved.** We tend toward passivity when we don't know what to do. Satan will tell us we aren't good enough. Well, we aren't, but with God's power we can and should do this. I feel inadequate just like the rest of you, but in our weakness we can see God's power come through.

We must resist this barrier of feeling inadequate (*my tract on weakness*), because our sons need us. Doing something, even if we feel it is very inadequate, is better than nothing. I so want to motivate us all today to be involved and to take an active role in intentionally "training up our sons in the way in which they should go."

For this to occur, we need to have an accurate understanding of what it means to be a real man from a biblical perspective. man.

**So, what does it mean to be a man? Here is the definition I want to work off of today.**

**A true man is one who is maturing physically, emotionally, relationally, financially, sexually and spiritually.**

**a. Physically.**

This will naturally occur simply by breathing and eating. I would say this fathers, when the boy begins to display hair in certain places and have body odor and shows interest in girls that is a clear sign that it is getting time to pass that baton and we need to be sure we are being intentional in our guidance and discipleship at this point because our sons are going to be very vulnerable and tempted to not follow God's Word. The enemy is prowling at the door of our homes at this point. Many of you know firsthand what this is like.

**b. Emotionally.**

Jesus is our best model of a godly man, and I am impressed with what I see in Him is this emotional combination of being what I call a man of steel and velvet. He was strong and committed and also compassionate and understanding.

God wants us men to be men of **steal and velvet**. Steal: strong, leader, stable, steady, able to do the right thing under pressure. And also velvet: feel deeply, connect emotionally with our wives, and cry about the right things.

This is a godly man. Biblically: head of the wife: lead. Live with her in an understanding way: velvet. Emotional maturity is one thing that I believe is crucial in going from boy to man.

The problem is, and we will get into this more later, many of us have an unbiblical and worldly view of what it means to be a man.

**c. Relationally.**

Again Jesus is our model: He had very healthy and deep relationships.

Maturing relationally: being able to have proper and healthy relationships with females and also deep brotherhood friends where we talk about more than just sports and outdoors.

Many men are shallow in their relationships. They can only talk about investments or sports or politics but don't really talk about personal things and things that matter and their feelings and their heart. This by the way is what many wives are crying out for.

Boys need to mature in this area by working to have a good relationship with dad and also with other godly peers. And to observe dad loving mom.

**a. Financially**

This is the provider part of our role. This is the issue of having and maintaining a job and learning to assume responsibility. I believe this is at the core of manhood and this is a very important aspect of boys transitioning.

**Ex.** In my opening statement to Michael at his ceremony one of the things I affirmed in him was that he had gotten a job and was doing very good at his job.

**b. Sexually.**

Of course this is a huge area because a boy around 13 or so is starting to experience his sexuality and is curious about girls and pornography becomes attractive. The world tells our boys that you become a man by having sex or fathering a child and this is obviously not what God says makes a real man.

A real man is not someone who can have sex with as many woman as he can. Any male animal can do this. A man of God seeks to be sexually pure. We aren't talking perfection here but we are talking about this being what he seeks and when he falls he repents and gets back up. We will be talking about this issue at our next men's service in **April 11**.

There will be sexual challenges along the road and the key is that we are maturing and obeying God along the way, whether that be as a young man with hormones running wild, whether it be in a marriage where not much is happening, impotence, etc.

**e. Spiritually.**

Here is the most important area, because this area has the most impact on all of the other areas. I love the bumper sticker that says “A real man is a man of God.” He has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He seeks the Lord. He seeks to be pure. He goes deep with God. He is not satisfied with a surface relationship. A real man seeks to mature in his relationship with God. He seeks after God like David in **Ps. 42**

This is my definition of manhood. There are other good ones out there, and one is in your handout from **Al Mohler** (Pres of a Baptist seminary and author). Look that over. Some good things here, and these points you can use as you guide your son or grandson toward this manhood ceremony.

Let me now walk you through this handout:

*Walk them through the handout (be brief) ... any questions?*

*Have Duane B. share about what he did*

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## **Resolving Past Issues**

One of the things I am observing through these ceremonies is that for the men who come it often is quite emotional because it brings to the surface issues from their boyhood years that are still affecting them in negative ways. I call these common manhood wounds. See if some of these hit home for you:

### **“Common Manhood Wounds”**

Many men today are walking around with deep wounds in their life and so many can be traced back to things in their growing up years, when they were a boy, and these things became significant roadblocks in becoming the mature man God wants each of us to be.

What are some of these? As we go through these, if you find yourself feeling some of these kind of deeply, don't be embarrassed. Let God surface for you today whatever he would need to.

### **1. An absent father.**

This is the man who either had no dad or his dad was very uninvolved in his life or too busy or even abusive in some way. There just wasn't a healthy relationship with his father.

This often results in a man having to fend for himself, becomes overly independent and in his own world. It also can affect his view of God and seeing God as a distant father or a disciplinarian.

If this absent father for you was in any way abusive then that will lead to even deeper issues.

### **2. A dominate mother.**

Absent father and dominate mother are the 2 most common childhood experiences of those who are homosexuals. Many men who were raised with dominate mothers go to one of 2 extremes: overly controlling or overly passive.

When you are raised in a family with a dominate mom, you will often either become overly controlling to make sure a woman never dominates you again or you give in to passivity and don't feel confident to lead in your marriage and thus allow your wife to lead just like you saw your mom lead.

### **3. Divorced parents.**

A divorce can cause a huge emotional upheaval for a boy and cause him to feel very unloved, abandoned, and often he blames himself for the parents breaking up – 'I must have done something wrong to make mom or dad leave.' Some of you know what this is like.

### **4. Chasing the world's image of manhood.**

When one doesn't have God's perspective then you are left with the world's, and the world says you have to be tough and strong and self sufficient and

need no one. You have to be successful and show no emotion and see women as sex objects and never show weakness.

For many men this has created a skewed view of manhood and this is why many men are not content and are like dog's chasing their tails. One of the biggest reasons for the midlife crisis is because men get into their 40's or 50's and maybe don't have a lot to show for it from the world's standpoint and are then challenged with "what have I really done? Am I really significant?"

### **5. Pressure to perform.**

Many who are raised in families where your father did not provide unconditional love, you were perhaps pressured to perform: whether academically, athletically or financially. You never felt OK with yourself unless you scored the most points, or made straight As or got the degree or job you felt you had to get. I know of many men that are in a career to get dad's approval and they have never felt like they ever received the blessing. I have had many men say to me I just wish I could hear my dad say "I am proud of you."

### **6. Involvement in sins.**

Especially if the sin was addictive in nature or something that easily has carried over into adulthood, like pre-marital sex, pornography, drugs, alcohol.... So many men who struggle with these things trace the origin to their childhood...

One of the men who came to Michael's ceremony wrote a piece entitled "don't make the mistakes I made" and he shared about many of the sins he committed that he greatly regrets .... Pornography (*"I still see those images"*)....

### **7. Unbiblical view of self.**

More and more I am seeing that how we view ourselves has a huge impact on our behavior and I see many men that either think too highly of themselves and thus do not humble themselves before the Lord and depend on Him or they think too low of themselves and thus do not have the

confidence to go after life. An accurate view of self is that we are nothing without God but everything with God.

So often this inaccurate view of self is related to something in our childhood, whether it be the constant message that we didn't measure up or again the pressure to perform or any kind of abuse will often lead to an unbiblical self image. It can even be from a church that did not teach the love of God and was legalistic.

**Chall.** Which of these can you relate to?

Now, how can we get over these wounds? How can we get healing? Let me offer a few things here.

### **Healing from Wounds:**

#### **1. Grieve the loss.**

I know a dear brother who never really knew his dad and at a retreat with some men he realized how much this affected him and he just cried as he came to grips with this. He needed to grieve this loss. You might need to grieve some loss today, something that was absent in your growing up that is affecting you today.

Grab hold of the father heart of God. Allow God to become the father you never had.

#### **2. Forgive the sin.**

If you have been sinned against, you will need to forgive that person. I would bet many of you need to forgive someone of significance in your past, especially your father for many of you.

**Eph. 4** forgive as you've been forgiven

#### **3. Allow God to be your perfect father.**

God calls himself our father for a reason. He is the perfect father that we all need to come to. He loves and understands our pain and can heal us. If we will do life his way, we can spare ourselves a lot of pain and hurt and heartache. We must commit our lives to Him and living according to His Word.



Praise God his forgiveness and grace is available to us today no matter what we have done up until this point.

Some of you need to come clean today and confess your sin and hurt and invite the perfect father to take over your life.

**TS** But what about the past? Well, some sins do have greater consequences, but you can still:

**4. Hold on to Romans 8:28.**

Learn from the past and allow God to guide you now. Anything negative in the past can become a positive when surrendered to the Lord.

**5. Renew your mind.**

Especially related to what true manhood is and sexuality. We are bombarded from our past and from our culture concerning what it means to be a man and most of what we here is so unbiblical that we must be in the Word regularly and having our minds renewed about life, ourselves, relationships, God, everything....

**TS** And to help with this we also need to:

**6. Pursue godly men.**

Commit to developing healthy relationships from this point on. I really want to plug the iron man groups and our connection groups. You have to be intentional about deep relationships or they will not happen. Also, seek to go deep with your wife. Work at this!!!!

**Ex.** TG groups, iron man groups, Chris Heidel for those struggling sexually.

**7. Get outside help.**

If some of these things, or even 1, hit home for you, please consider getting help from P. Jimmy, a group, or someone.

Be willing to do the hard work to get to the root. For example, if you tend to be a workaholic that is probably related to that endless pursuit of feeling good about yourself and seeking to get your sense of worth from your accomplishments vs. your identity in Christ. You need to discover the unconditional love of God and his total acceptance of you regardless of what you achieve. Ask God to show you the root!!!

**TS** Part of that outside help needs to include this:

**8. Receive healing prayer.**

This is where you have one or more people pray over you for supernatural healing. My iron man group has done this and it can be very powerful and life changing. We have prayer appointments here on Thursdays....part of this should include you asking God to reveal to you anything you need to deal with. This may also involve spiritual warfare prayer ... doing the steps to freedom...

**Any questions/testimony?**

**Prayer Time (allow time for this; welcome tears; ask God to speak to men)**

**Me leave (Mention April service on purity) – Roy/Chris takes over.**