

MARRIED WELL
WHAT IS A REAL MAN?
GENESIS 3:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Illustration
2. What is a real man?
3. A study of two men will give us a clear definition: Adam and Jesus Christ.
4. Herman Ridderbost – “Adam and Christ stand against each other as the two figures at the entrance of two worlds and two creations: the old and the new. And in their actions and fates lie the decisions for all who belong to them because all men are comprehended by them.”
5. Romans 5:15, “For if by the one man’s trespass the many died, how much more have the grace of God and the gift overflowed to the many by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ.” V.18, “So then, as through one trespass there is condemnation for everyone, so also through one righteous act there is life-giving justification for everyone. For just as through one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.”
6. These are the two captains of the human race.
7. They are the leaders of two distinct masculine destinies.
8. Through one man, masculinity was lost; through one man, masculinity was found.
9. Men, your life will reflect the Adam of the Old Testament or the Adam of the New Testament.

10. 1 Corinthians 15:45, "The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. V.47, "The first man was from the earth and made of dust; the second man is from heaven. Like the man made of dust, so are those who are made of dust; like the heavenly man, so are those who are heavenly. And just as we have borne the image of the man made of dust, we will also bear the image of the heavenly man."

11. Conventional manhood vs. authentic manhood

12. What is a real man? 4 aspects to our definition

13. Genesis 3:1-6

I. A REAL MAN REJECTS PASSIVITY

A. v.6, "So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, **who was with her**, and he ate it."

B. That phrase leaps off the page.

C. True masculinity does something. Adam is standing there but did nothing.

D. Yale sociologist Steven Clark, "For whatever reason, men have a natural tendency to avoid social responsibility."

E. The second Adam, rejected passivity.

F. In fact, you see more real manhood in the manger of Jesus Christ at Christmas than you do in Adam in the Garden.

G. Philippians 2:5-8

H. Jesus rejected passivity.

II. A REAL MAN ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY

A. Adam had three specific responsibilities in the Garden.

1. A will to obey

- a. Adam refused to obey the will of God.
- b. Jesus obeyed the will of God.
- c. John 4:34, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work."
- d. Psalm 40:8 a Messianic Psalm, "I delight to do Your will, my God."
- e. Matthew 26:39, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will."

2. A work to do

- a. Adam fell in this regard, but the second man fulfilled His mission.
- b. John 17:4, "I have glorified You on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do."

3. A woman to love

- a. Adam had a woman to love but failed her.
- b. Jesus had a woman to love – His Church.
- c. Ephesians 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives, just as also Christ love the church and gave Himself for her."

B. How does a man accept responsibility?

1. He has to be told to accept responsibility.
2. He has to be trained.
3. He needs to be honored by other men.
4. He needs to be transformed to accept responsibility.

C. Adam abdicated his responsibility; Jesus accepted His responsibility.

III. A REAL MAN LEADS COURAGEOUSLY

A. Adam abandoned his post of leadership; Jesus chose to lead courageously.

B. Jesus led in three specific ways:

1. He set direction all through His life. "Follow Me."
2. He provided protection to those around Him. "I am the good shepherd, and I lay down my life for My sheep."
3. He made provision. "I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."

D. Ephesians 5 shows us those same three things:

1. **A man sets direction.** "the husband is the head of the wife." "Follow me."
2. **A man provides protection.** He should protect his wife so she has no stain. She is blameless. Adam allowed his wife to be stained and blamed in the Garden.
3. **A man makes provision.** He "provides and cares" for his wife.

- E. Men, have you come to that point in your life where you accept those responsibilities?
- F. To be a courageous leader, there is one obstacle you have to overcome – feelings.
- G. Book - EQ, IQ is intelligent quotient, EQ is emotional quotient. The book said that a person's emotional quotient, or emotional stability is the greater predictor of success.
- H. A man who bows to his feelings can never be a real man.
- I. Jesus 40 days in the wilderness. Satan attacked him emotionally. Jesus said, "no, I'll wait."
- J. Ralph Waldo Emerson – "Nothing can bring a man peace but the triumph of principles."
- K. Nothing can bring a man the deepest satisfactions of his masculinity more than the triumph of truth in his life.
- L. The first Adam abandoned his post of leadership; the second Adam chose to lead courageously.

IV. A REAL MAN EXPECTS A GREATER REWARD

- A. The first Adam sought a greater reward, the second Adam expected a greater reward.
- B. Adam thought he was going to beat God's best for him.
- C. You will never beat what God already wants to give you. He's got it all.
- D. Jesus knew that if He stayed the course He would get God's best.

E. Hebrews 12:1-2, "Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of God's throne."

F. Hebrews 11:24, "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the short-lived pleasure of sin. For he considered reproach for the sake of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since his attention was on the reward."

G. 2 Timothy 4:7-8, "I have the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. In the future, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved His appearing."

H. Hebrews 11:6, "Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him."

I. You've got to expect a greater reward.

CONCLUSION:

1. What is a real man?

- a. Rejects passivity.
- b. Accepts responsibility.
- c. Leads courageously.
- d. Expects a greater reward.

2. Illustration – Dale Kinsler, Chris Lott