

Marriage & Family Ministry

What's the Difference – Chapter 2

Discussion Questions

Discussion and Action Items – Topics to Think About and Discuss:

- Q1.** Think of a man in your life who exhibits true masculinity. What is it about him that makes him truly masculine? (Feel free to identify real or fictional characters).
- Q2.** As if life wasn't tough enough being responsible for our own actions; we men are told that we are also accountable for our wives. Is this supported by Scripture? How do the following two passages speak to this issue?
- **Genesis 3:7-13, 17-18** – Who did Adam listen to and who should he have listened to? Does this have any bearing on your understanding of male leadership?
 - **Matthew 2:13-15** – Why did the angel of the Lord appear to Joseph and not Mary? Does this have any bearing on your understanding of male leadership?
- Q3.** **To Lead.** Piper lists out nine (9) statements regarding male leadership.
- Assess yourself on each one, from 0 – 5 (5 = the best) as to how you are doing.
 - Select two of your lowest scores and make a commitment to improve on them. Write down some action items.

Statement (pgs. 8-11)	Score	Action to Improve
1. <i>Servant Leader</i> – Serving and Sacrificing for the good of others.		
2. Serve as Christ's " <i>Advocate</i> "		
3. Effective Leadership		
4. Setting a " <i>Pattern of Initiative</i> " in your household		
5. Accepting the " <i>Burden of Final Say</i> "		
6. Leading in <i>Romantic Sexual Relations</i>		
7. Taking lead role as " <i>Discipliner</i> "		
8. Aware of <i>Cultural Expressions</i> – towards women in general		
9. Disposition in: " <i>Repentance, Humility and Risk-taking.</i> "		

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Discussion Questions – (cont.)

Q4. **To Provide.** Read Ephesians 5:25-30. According to this passage, what kinds of things ought a husband provide for his wife?

Question: Do men find it easier to provide for their wives financially or spiritually?
Support your answer.

Q5. **To Protect.** What are some ways in which a mature man can protect women who are outside of his family?
What must a man be careful of when exercising his masculinity in relation to other women?

Q6. If your son or another young male ask you “*What does it mean to be a man?*” how would you answer him?
- How has your study of Piper’s book changed the way you would have answered this question prior to your study, such as biblical insights and new perspectives?

Q7. What challenges will you, as a husband and as a man, encounter as you set out to mature in your manhood according to God’s design?