

**Welcome to
Lakeview Church's
Marriage and Family
Ministry**

Our Vision
To Help Equip and Empower Couples Grow
Closer to Christ and Each Other

Marriage and Family Ministry

- "**Leadership**" and "**Submission**" - Has to do with how God designed men and woman, **NOT** how he assigned value and worth.
- It is not "**capabilities and competencies**" but of **Design**, God's Design which is **inherent** in the personhood of both men and women.

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Complementarian or Egalitarian?

- ✓ We adhere that the Complementarian perspective of Manhood and Womanhood is Biblical.
- ✓ We take the position that at CREATION - God instilled in men and women the inherent "**capabilities and competencies**"; He assigned each "**complementary roles**", in order for them to fulfill their God-given responsibilities and roles.
- ✓ We reject the Egalitarian belief that these differences are a result of the FALL, SIN or CULTURE¹.

¹ Note: Because of the Fall, Sin and Culture, the way in which we live out our God-designed roles and responsibilities in our marriages and families is the root of many if not most of our marital and family problems. Learning to live out our roles and responsibilities in a God honoring manner the Goal of this Ministry.

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Will Living According to God's Design Really Make a Difference?
YES!

"Biblical Manhood and Womanhood is a deeply satisfying gift of grace from a loving God who has the best interest of His creatures at heart. This is fulfilling in the deepest sense."

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▶ Review Verses and Questions from C. 1:

- **Understanding Scripture:**
 - Our Value and Worth is based on our **Relationship with God in Christ.**
 - Our Value and Worth is inherent to who we are.
 - Our Value and Worth is **NOT** dependant upon our roles and responsibilities.
 - God desires our **obedience** in living out our roles as men and women, as husbands and wives.

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▶ Review Verses and Questions from C. 1:

- **Discussion Questions - What was:**
 - New;
 - Interesting;
 - Challenging;
 - Encouraging to you
- What helped you?
- What, from Chapter 1, did you try to apply to your life?

◦ Your Feedback on the Questions

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Goal for this session is to take a closer look at
"Biblical Manhood"

What does a "*Mature/Maturing*" male look like?

What "*Roles and Responsibilities*"?

The Dad Song! [Dad Life]

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Mature Masculinity

At The Heart of Mature Masculinity is a Sense
of Benevolent Responsibility to Lead,
Provide For and Protect Women in Ways
Appropriate to a Man's Differing
Relationship.

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The "Heart of the Matter"

This is not an all inclusive definition, but gets
to the heart of the matter.

Piper: "*I have tried to unfold at least **SOME** of
what Masculine personhood involves.*"

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“Mature” Masculinity

- ▶ Understanding, Accepting and Developing (i.e. Maturing) our SENSE of “Benevolent” Responsibility to:
 - Lead
 - Provide
 - Protect
- ▶ Discuss: If you don’t “Feel” this way – then:
 - Are you IMMATURE?
 - Are you holding DISTORTED view of masculinity?
- ▶ **Maturing** in our Masculinity, we are *in the process* of accepting and executing our responsibilities and losing our “distortions”.

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“Sense”

- ✓ Due to circumstances beyond our control, we men may not be able to “fulfill” our responsibilities, however, in “sensing” the obligation, you sense that it is your duty, to fulfill.
- ✓ To be a “Mature Man” to all women...which **varies** based on the different levels of relationships – but the sense is there.
 - A “Mature Man” is not only mature at home or at work, but his maturity extends to all areas of his life.
 - A “Mature Man” will **live out** this sense of Benevolent Responsibility towards all women.

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“Benevolent Responsibility”

- ▶ **Benevolent**– For the Good of the Woman
 - To show honor to the woman (1st Peter 3:7)
 - Not for any self-aggrandizing goals.
- ▶ **Responsibility**– We men bear the “unique and primary” responsibility, given to us by God, to exercise our role and responsibility to lead.
 - As we “mature”, we are no longer to abdicate¹ our God-given responsibilities to our wives

¹ - Abdicate: To give up or renounce one’s authority, duties or office.

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“To Lead”

A. Nine statements of what it means to Lead as a mature male:

1. **“Servant leader”** - Sacrificing to lead for the good of the woman.
 - a. Christ lead His Church/Bride in both strength and service.
 - b. Moving forward to a goal - Holiness and Heaven.
 - c. Leading as serving in strength means Saying “NO”.
2. **Christ is the Ultimate Leader** - We are His Advocate; we speak for Him.
 - a. Lead our wives to depend on Christ, not on us, as she will stand before Christ.
 - b. We do not usurp Christ’s authority, but act on behalf of Christ to our wives.

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“To Lead” (cont.)

A. Nine statements of what it means to lead as a mature male:

3. **“Leader of the Caravan”**- Smart leaders use the resources and strengths of others.
 - We are to help bring out the best in our wives.
 - As Christ is preparing His Bride to be holy and pure, we too have the same calling.
4. Provide a **“General Pattern of Initiative”** -
 - Initiate and carry through the *spiritual and moral planning for family life!*
 - Others may “initiate” but the **tenor** of the household (*spiritual, moral, financial, children, priorities, church...*) is the responsibly of the husband to set and uphold.

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“To Lead” (cont.)

A. Nine statements of what it means to lead as a mature male:

5. **“Accepts Burden of Final Say”** - Decision making is focused on husband but NOT “Unilateral” - which is not usually a mark of good leadership.
 - Decisions must not involve sin - we are Christ’s Advocate.
6. **“Romantic Sexual Relations”** - Strong, tender pursuit.
7. **“Discipliner”** - Sets and upholds the family standards.
 - Not only involved, but leads in the discipline of children.

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"To Lead" (cont.)

8. **"Aware of Cultural Expressions"** - To understand and act in ways which are proper for a mature man to act towards a women to show her respect and dignity.

9. Our **"Disposition"** as a leader is a Call to:

- **Repentance:** For passivity, or our domination, neglecting, putting other things first. I.e. - For dropping the ball.
- **Humility:** A Christ-like disposition. To be a servant-leader.
- **Risk-taking:** Jump in the deep-end where we have been falling short: Prayer; Bible Reading, being disciplined in our lives, caring towards our wives, to do what men are called to do.

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To PROVIDE For

- A woman may **assist** in maintaining support of the family (Prov. 31).
- But, when *"there is no bread on the table"* it is the man who should **feel the main pressure to do something'**
- If circumstances prevent the man from providing, a **mature man still has a sense of responsibility.**
 - **Violation:** A man who abdicates his role through: Sloth, Folly or Lack of Discipline.
 - I.e. the 35 year-old man/child.

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To PROTECT

- Go get'em honey...
- A mature man **senses instinctively** that as a man he is called to take the lead in guarding the woman he is with.
- God-given responsibility to "step-forward" and put himself between an assailant and the woman.
- It belongs to masculinity to **accept danger to protect a women.**
 - **Examples:** War and Society (i.e. a sinking ship, a burning building, walking down a street).
 - Things that go "bump in the night".

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Relative Relationships to ALL Women

“Mature Masculinity” inclines a man to feel a responsibility for leadership and provision and protection towards women *in general*, not just toward wives or relatives.

Masculinity and femininity are rooted in who we are by nature – they are NOT simply reflexes of a marriage relationship.

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Appropriate to a Man’s Differing Relationship

- The responsibility of men toward women will vary according to the kind of relationship they have.
- Outside the home, the man does not have to take the initiative to take the lead.
- “Uni-sex” mentality: Where such “gentlemanly courtesies” becomes offensive to women.
- Challenges to training our sons and daughters.

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Conclusion

Page 14 – J. I. Packer – Hot button words

“While I am not keen on “*hierarch and patriarchy*” as terms describing the man–woman relationship in Scripture, Gen. 2:18–23 and Eph. 5:21–33...continue to convince me that the man–woman relationship is intrinsically nonreversible.

Effect– When IT IS Reversed, more strain will be put on the humanity of both parties if it were the other way around.

This is part of the REALITY OF CREATION, a given fact that nothing (*culture, society...*)will change.
