

Letters From My Father
Week 13
1 Timothy 5:1-8
“Godly Masculinity”

Introduction

Help, Lord, for no faithful one remains; the loyal have disappeared from the human race. They lie to one another; they speak with flattering lips and deceptive hearts. May the Lord cut off all flattering lips and the tongue that speaks boastfully. They say, “Through our tongues we have power; our lips are our own — who can be our master?”

“Because of the devastation of the needy and the groaning of the poor, I will now rise up.” says the Lord. “I will provide safety for the one who longs for it.”

The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in an earthen furnace, purified seven times. You, Lord, will guard us; you will protect us from this generation forever. The wicked prowl all around, and what is worthless is exalted by the human race. **Psalm 12**

“Toxic masculinity.” That seems to be a phrase heard over and over again in our world today. But what exactly does that even mean? This was once used as a term to describe a man who was a bully or otherwise abusive in some way. But these days, with the rise of radical feminism, the term toxic masculinity has come to represent manliness in general. Apparently, this new and so-called “woke” generation is all about the feminization of men. No one thinks its a good idea for men to act like men any more. Are we supposed to evolve as a species, to become “softer”, more gentle? It has gotten so bad in fact that if a gentleman attempts open a door for a lady, he may receive a feminist rant for his trouble.

But what does *The Bible* have to say in regards to the roles of men and women? Answer: Plenty! It may not be popular these days, but God intended for the two sexes (there are only two by the way) to be completely different. And in fact, the differences are designed to compliment each other in every way. Isn't it amazing that when we do things God's way, they actually make sense? Women are created to be weaker than men, and men are created to be stronger than women. (Try explaining that to the NCAA these days.) And because of our innate differences bestowed upon us from creation, we are to function differently in society. Imagine that!

Now, all of this should be obvious, and go without saying, but our culture has become so corrupted by “the doctrines of demons” as Paul would say, that everything about the human race has been turned upon its head. We are seeing things happening in our world today that we never would have imagined even twenty or thirty years ago. And when you see large scale movements designed to unravel centuries of tradition; when you see the structure of the family being destroyed; when gender becomes a fluid and relative term, rather than a biological reality, you can rest assured that Satan himself is the mastermind behind it all. We are witnessing firsthand a demonic attack upon the Creator and His design for humanity. And it is time for the people of God to stand up and be recognized.

In Paul's writing to Timothy, his “son in the faith”, he reminds him of how a man should conduct himself around God's people. The advice he gave the young pastor is not only good for ministry, but also a perfect example of what godly masculinity was meant to be. After all, God has designed us for a purpose, and to function properly within this design is to have the most rewarding and fulfilling life possible.

Have you ever noticed that all the people, who seem bent on changing God's designed roles for the sexes, seem to be so angry? Now, I do not claim to know everything, but I have learned in my life that when I am on the right path, there is a sense of contentment that accompanies my steps. Can I get a witness? If your lifestyle is causing you to be perpetually angry and annoyed, then perhaps you might be heading in the wrong direction. God's ways always leads to inner peace.

Abundant peace belongs to those who love your instruction; nothing makes them stumble. **Psalm 119:165**

Keeping this in mind, let us re-examine Paul's advice to Timothy on the conduct and role of a godly man within the church. He is to be *Polite* (respectful), a *Protector*, morally *Pure* in his dealings, as well as, a *Provider* for his family, along with those in need. The world desperately needs more men who will demonstrate godly masculinity.

He is Polite (Respectful vs. 1)

Don't rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers....

1 Timothy 5:1

A godly man is not a bully. Pretty simple reality. Timothy had been sent to Ephesus to correct the false teachers and false doctrines within the church, but Paul insisted that all correction be done in the proper way. He had already warned Timothy that some of the older members of the congregation would most likely resent him, being that he was a much younger man sent to admonish and correct the elders of the church. So Paul had instructed Timothy to earn their respect, rather than demand it.

He was to treat the older men as fathers, and the younger men as equals (brothers). It is important for us as Believers to understand that the church is a family. It is the family of God. And we have been adopted into this family. Therefore, each and every member is to be treated with respect.

He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace that He lavished on us in the Beloved One.

Ephesians 1:5-6

We are not some collection of strangers. In Christ, we are family. And family members are to be loved and respected.

Have you ever noticed that the people who are trying so hard to undermine the family in our society are also the very same people that are the most disrespectful of others? They act as if their opinion is the only one that matters, while everyone who disagrees with them must be silenced, and often, violently so. Why is that? Because the devil wants to see humanity devolve into self-absorbed animalistic behavior, rather than behave in godly wisdom. God designed the family to be the cornerstone of civilization. And Satan would like nothing more than to destroy this foundation of society. Without family we have chaos. And the church is the family of God.

Man is the stronger sex, and therefore, without self-control he is very capable of forcing his will upon those who are weaker. No doubt that Timothy, who was in his mid-thirties at the time of this writing, could have bullied the older and more frail men in the congregation in order to "crack the whip", as it were. But Paul admonished him to treat these men as he would his own father, with honor. So you see, godly masculinity always respects. The man of God is not a bully, but is polite. He loves as Christ loves, and you can see it by the way that he treats others.

But the fruit of The Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23a

He is a Protector (vs. 2a)

...older women as mothers....

1 Timothy 5:2a

Most men would be willing to fight in order to protect their mother. And to slander our mothers is an insult that most of us would not take lying down. Paul commanded Timothy to treat the older women in his congregation as he would his own mother. And boys take care of their moms! As I am writing this, I cannot help but think of our adopted son Marvin, who lives in Guatemala. Every time that Sandi and I travel to some of the more dangerous places in that country, I don't even have to give a second thought

as to her safety. For Marvin always walks close beside her with his head on a swivel looking around for any possible danger. He loves her dearly, and you can see it by the way that he is protective of her.

I often wonder in this day and age, where masculinity is so often derided, do women really want a man who does not love her enough to protect her? I find this so very hard to believe. I guess when a mugger jumps out of the bushes, the so-called “toxic masculinity” isn’t such a bad thing after all, now is it? Again, men are the stronger sex, and therefore God expects us, in fact commands us, to be the protectors of the weaker sex. It is the order of creation. Men are supposed to live in peace, but be ready to stand and fight, when necessary. In fact, I think that some people would really be surprised to see all that God actually has to say on the subject. In Paul’s famous “love chapter” (**1 Corinthians 13**), he states that “*love bears all things.*” The word he used that is translated “bears” is *stego* in the Greek, and it means to protect or to ward off that which threatens. If a man loves his wife, his children, his mother, or anyone for that matter, he will become their protector. It is in his very nature to do so. Godly masculinity protects its loved ones. I think its high time for men to be men once again.

He is Morally Pure (vs.2b)

...and the younger women as sisters with all purity.

1 Timothy 5:2b

It seems clear to me by reading Paul’s correspondence to his son in the faith, that Timothy was in fact a single man. Now, we do not know this for sure, but some of the things that Paul says to him would lead us to believe that the young man was unmarried. And as such, there would be many a temptation for him to sin sexually in a city so corrupt as Ephesus.

A big part of ministry is counseling those who are in need of spiritual guidance. And Timothy would have undoubtedly been called upon to counsel many within the church, especially since so much false doctrine had been introduced into the congregation. Paul instructed Timothy to be on his guard against sexual immorality (**2 Timothy 2:22**), for many a pastor has destroyed his ministry by falling into immoral sin. Paul reminded Timothy that part of his “protective care” for those of the fairer and weaker sex was to think of them as his sisters, and therefore, to maintain his moral purity when looking out for their spiritual welfare.

If a man is to be godly, then he is to exercise self-control, when it comes to his own fleshly desires. This world encourages immorality in every venue possible. Television, movies, literature, all seem to be obsessive in their enticements in this area. It is impossible to see any form of media these days that does not glorify wanton sexual pleasure at every turn. God has designed sex to be used ONLY within the confines of marriage, and of course, now a days you have to describe it even further by declaring that marriage is between a man and a woman. Oh, how far we have fallen as a society!

If a man is to be godly, then he must maintain his moral purity before God. To be a godly man is to be a gentleman, a person who is self-controlled, and therefore, keeps his carnal passions in check. I personally think that it is a good idea for pastors (or any Christian man for that matter) to take extra precautions, when it comes to dealings with the opposite sex. This is why I will never for any reason meet with a woman unless there are others around. Not that I would necessarily be tempted, but that I avoid even the slightest perception of impropriety. God commands us to be pure.

Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave Himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God. But sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you, as is proper for saints.

Ephesians 5:1-3

He is a Provider (vs. 3-8)

Support widows who are genuinely in need. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them learn to practice godliness toward their own family first and to repay their parents, for this pleases God. The widow who is truly in need and left all alone has put her hope in God and continues night and day in her petitions and prayers; however, she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. Command this also, so that they will be above reproach. But if anyone does not provide for his own family, especially for his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. **1 Timothy 5:3-8**

In Paul's day, to be a widow was to pretty much be facing a life of destitution. Women for the most part were not allowed to work outside of their homes, and to lose a husband was to lose any real means of self-support. There were no welfare programs, nor social security benefits of any kind. Therefore, it was essential that the church provide for those of its members that were truly in need. But in order to maintain good stewardship of church resources, careful investigation would be necessary to insure that those being supported were truly deserving and in need of assistance.

The Greek word for widow (*chera* pronounced *Khay'-rah*) had a much broader meaning than our English word for "widow". It could mean a woman who was alone for any number of reasons, whether by death of a spouse, divorce, or abandonment. Paul wanted to make sure that those who were to be cared for by the church had a legitimate claim to such care. If a widow had any living family (male relatives), whether it be children or grandchildren, then it was the family's responsibility to care for their own. This was essential in order for those family members to practice godliness (*Eusebeo* meaning a right reverence before God). For God's Law requires that we honor our parents (**Exodus 20:12**). And it is sinful for an able-bodied child or grandchild to allow their parent or grandparent to live in abandonment and squalor. Again, family is supposed to care for family.

And it goes without saying also, that if a widow was to be cared for by the church, it was imperative that she live a godly life. If she lived in sinful wanton pleasure, then church funds would not be spent to finance her ungodly lifestyle, for such a one is considered dead spiritually speaking (**vs. 6**). Paul would go on to expound more upon this subject in the verses that follow.

Paul continued by stating that the godly man would see to it that his family is provided for (**vs. 8**). For any such man who would fail in his responsibility to care for his family "**has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.**" The Greek word that he used to describe such a one is found only twice in the entire *New Testament*. "*Apistos*" is the opposite of faith. In fact, it means a "*faithless one*". *Pistos* is the Greek word for "*faith*" and to place the "a" in front of the word is to signify "without." So *apistos* is used to describe a faithless person. In other words, godly masculinity requires that a man provide for his own family. The LORD demands the Christian man to be a provider. This is the unmistakable truth of Scripture. Laziness is the antithesis of godliness.

Idle hands make one poor, but diligent hands bring riches. The son who gathers during the summer is prudent; the son who sleeps during the harvest is disgraceful. **Proverbs 10:4-5**

Or:

In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: "If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat." **2 Thessalonians 3:10**

Godly masculinity requires a man to work and to provide for his own. Period. So there you have it, the Biblical definition of masculinity. And heaven knows that more godly men are needed in this world. So men, don't shy away from manhood. Embrace the man that God created you to be. Be polite, protecting, pure, and provide for those whom you love. There is nothing wrong with being manly, no matter what this wicked and perverse generation may think to the contrary. So let's man up!

TRUTH!!!