

*A REAL MAN THE MAN OF STEEL AND VELVET Part 1

Many men today feel powerless and this is especially true when it comes to meaningful relationships. This mindset of weakness is affecting the homes of our nation. It is breeding irresponsibility among men and damaging their families.

God offers strength, courage, and guidance to any man who will come to Him with an open heart. Let's look at what God says about the important role of men in the home.

*Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ...

*28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— NIV

It is clear from this passage that God has made the man responsible for being the spiritual leader of his home. The man is the head of the home, and therefore responsible for the condition of the home. Now the problem is this, there are far too many men today who are weak and irresponsible leaders.

We find ourselves in a time when the very foundation of society is collapsing because of the lack of spiritual leadership by men. Leading the home is the responsibility of the man who lives in that household.

Far too many men allow their children to go their own way. They give them little discipline or spiritual guidance. They allow them to be disrespectful and disobedient.

Many men have abdicated their responsibility for the home to their wives, and they let them do everything, make the money, make the decisions, and raise the kids. Thousands of men walk out on their families each year because they are absolutely irresponsible.

Now if you have accepted your responsibility as a spiritual leader and you are seeking to fulfill your role in your home, the church, and the community, then I want to give some important characteristics that every real man of God should demonstrate.

*ILL Carl Sandberg said of Abraham Lincoln, "He was a man of steel and of velvet." I can't think of a better way to describe a real man of God. As Lincoln held together the Union and sought to extend to all the people of our nation the promise of life and liberty, he demonstrated these qualities.

If you look at the Godly men of the Bible like Abraham, Moses, Joseph, David, and the God man Jesus, you'll find that they were all men of steel and of velvet.

Let's be clear. We are not talking about a perfect man, but a real man, from God's point of view. There are two sides to a real man. He is a man of steel and velvet at the same time.

TS Let's look first at the qualities that make you a man of steel. The man of steel is...

*1. A man of commitment

*(1.) He is committed to providing for his family. He recognizes that as a personal responsibility.

*1 Timothy 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. NIV

*(2.) He is committed to protecting his family from those things that would be destructive to their minds, their bodies, and their spirits. He is vigilant in his protection.

*(3.) He is committed to pointing the members of his family, his church, and his community towards Jesus and the will of God. He points them in the direction of doing what is pleasing to God by example and by teaching.

*God says in Deuteronomy 11:18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; ... 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. NIV

Now just because your children are grown doesn't mean you don't have the opportunity to teach. You can write letters to your grown children. I send one just about every week to my children. We can also teach children in our community and in our church. Older men need to be involved in teaching younger men.

TS The man of steel is...

*2. A man of conviction

He has studied the Bible and knows what he believes and why he believes it. Being a man of conviction means knowing your purpose and mission in life. A follower of Jesus gets his purpose and mission from Jesus.

*Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." NLT

As men of this church, we should have a deep and passionate conviction that our purpose and mission in life is to seek and to save those who are lost.

Far too many men in churches don't have any earthly idea what they believe or what their purpose is. If you ask them about the Bible, they say they haven't done much reading in the Bible. Far too many men make excuses, well, I not much of a reader.

It is time that we stop making excuses and start reading and studying. Men, we must read if we are to be spiritual leaders in our home and in our church.

ILL. If they gave you a particular task to do at work and you didn't know how to do it and they gave you an instruction book, what would you do? Would you say to them, I am not much of a reader. You wouldn't say that, because you know what they would say. Well you are not much of an employee, so you're fired.

Have you watched the Celebrity Apprentice? What happens when one of the apprentices makes excuses to Donald Trump for not doing his job right? What does he say? You're fired!

A man of steel offers no excuses in life. He gets busy reading and studying the Bible, the book on life. He wants to understand what he believes and why. He wants to be equipped to fulfill his mission.

TS The man of steel is...

*3. A man of courage

One of the problems in the home today is that far too many sons and daughters are looking at weak and fearful fathers. Men need to be men of courage. A real man of God knows what is right and has the courage to stand up and do what's right.

Far too many kids don't know what their dad stands for because he does not have the courage to take a stand for what is right in the home, the church, or the community.

A man of steel is a man who is decisive. He knows what he believes, and has the courage to stand by it. The Godly men of the Bible were men of strong courage. They were brave and fearless in the face of strong opposition.

*Listen to What God Said to Moses in Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." NIV

*ILL. It was Martin Luther King, Jr. who said, "Who among us is brave enough, righteous enough, honorable enough to stand in the face of ferocious opposition and do what's right?" He then answered his own question by standing against racial inequality and prejudice in the face of terrible opposition. That is what a real man does.

TS The man of steel is...

*4. A man of character

*(1.) He is masculine. He has the qualities and traits of a man. God made it very clear in Genesis 1:27 that He created some people male and some female. He never intended them to look alike, dress alike or act alike. He created men to be masculine, not feminine.

*(2.) He is a man of integrity. You can trust what he says. What he says, he will do. He is a man of moral purity. He keeps himself for his wife. His character is sterling. When his children look at him they will say, "I hope to be that kind of father," or the daughter will say, "I hope to marry that kind of man."

TS The man of steel is...

*5. A man of confidence

*(1.) He is confident in God. He knows that his heavenly father is his supreme provider and protector. He is confident that God will meet all of his needs in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

He is confident that God will lead him in the path of righteousness. (Psalm 23)

*(2.) He is confident about himself. He knows that God will give him all the strength he needs.

*Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength. NIV

*(3.) He is confident as he leads his family. He knows where he is going and he knows how to get there. He is confident as he leads his family into a life of obedience to God.

These are the words of a confident father.

*Joshua 24:15 "as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." NIV

TS The man of steel is...

*6. A man of control

He has his life under control. It pivots on obedience to God. A man of steel is a man who is under the control of God.

*(1.) He has his mind under control. His thoughts are directed by God and His Word. He sets his mind on things above and he thinks on God's Word each day. (Colossians 3:2, Psalms 1:2)

*(2.) He has his body under control. He attempts to keep himself healthy. You and I owe it our families to strive to be as healthy as possible. A man of steel wants others to be able to depend upon him.

*(3.) He has his emotions under control.

"If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you," (Rudyard Kipling) you are a man of steel.

A man of steel gains self-control through surrender to the Holy Spirit living within him. (Galatians 5:23) He comprehends that God is in control so he can face the crises of life without crumbling.

Challenge:

Gentlemen, I want to ask you to do something for your family and for yourself. Take a sheet of paper and at the top write "what can I do to be a better husband and a better father" and give it to your wife this week.

Then take the notes from this morning and get alone with God this week and ask God what on this list do you need to work on and write it down.

*If you do not know Jesus as your Savior and God, you can't become a real man (a man of steel and velvet). It all begins with surrendering your life to God and asking for His forgiveness of your sins.