

TITUS:
THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE GRACE OF GOD
AND THE FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH

An Overview of Manhood

Dr. Nicolas Ellen

- I. **The Definition of a *Male* (*zakar /zaw·kawr/*):** one who was created by God as a material and immaterial being, with a unique DNA, one X chromosome, and the physical distinctive of a penis and testicles, for a particular function and purpose in the culture. He operates alongside yet distinct from a female (woman) and all other creations of God. (Genesis 1:27)

(In most cases, men are born with a penis and women are born with a vagina. In the event there is either the absence of or an addition to normal male sexual organs, a chromosome test should verify his gender.)

- II. **The Definition of *Manhood* (*andrizomai* - to act manly)¹:** the mindset, manner, and movement that correspond distinctly to a male in form and function.²
(1 Corinthians 16:13)

Manhood is also tied to men who develop to the fullness of their being in courage – the mental and moral strength to resist opposition, handle danger, or endure hardship while operating in a mindset, manner, and movement that is distinctly male, glorifying to God, and beneficial to others; to have firmness of mind and will in the face of danger or extreme difficulty while operating in a mindset, manner, and movement that is distinctly male, glorifying to God, and beneficial to others.³ (1 Corinthians 16:13)

¹ Gerhard Kittel, Gerhard Friedrich and Geoffrey William Bromiley, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 1985), 59.

² *Ibid.*, 59.

³ *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v. "Courage" (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

III. **The Duties of a Male:** The duties of a male correspond with how He was created by God from the beginning to function. (Genesis 1:26-30, 2:15)

- A. Men are responsible for taking the lead in **procreation on earth** – giving life through his seed to his wife only, to carry that life to birth so that mankind would reflect the character of God throughout the earth. (Genesis 1:26-30)
- B. Men are responsible for taking the lead in **subduing the earth** – to govern the earth (i.e. stewardship, management, control, and order) according to the will of God. (Genesis 2:15,19-20, 1:26-30)
- C. Men are responsible for taking the lead in establishing **dominion over the earth** – being a servant leader over creation, resulting in exercising his authority, influence, and strength over creation and those who fall under his leadership for the glory of God and the good of creation.⁴ (Genesis 2:15,19-20, 1:26-30)
- D. In essence men are to **procreate** with their wives only, **govern** within the realm of authority, influence, and strength given by God, and **lead** within the realm of authority, influence, and strength given by God. (Genesis 2:15, 1:26-30, 1 Corinthians 11:1-3)

IV. **The Deliberation to Men:**

- A. Man's primary goal is not to relax.⁵
- B. Man's primary goal is to work to the glory of God.⁶
- C. Men were not called to follow the world's order, but to set things in order in all aspects of life to the glory of God and the benefit of mankind.⁷
- D. Therefore, it is prudent for men to learn, live, and discipline themselves around the precepts and plans of God. (Genesis 2:15, Romans 12:2, Timothy 4:7, Colossians 1:24-29)

⁴ Jim Berg, *The Pursuit of Manhood: Discovering the Journey and Joys of Biblical Masculinity* [Seminar Syllabus] (Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press, 2009), 8.

⁵ Mark Chanski, *Manly Dominion* (Merrick, NY: Calvary Press Publishing, 2004), 49-50.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 49-50.

⁷ David Dewitt, *The Mature Man: Becoming a Man of Impact* (Gresham, OR: Vision House Publishing, 1994), 9-21.

V. The Direction for Men

- A. Men must manage the people within the garden God has placed them in according to the commands of God.
- B. Men must maintain and manage the possessions within the garden God has placed them in according to the commands of God.
- C. Men must maintain and manage the property within the garden God has placed them in according to the commands of God.
- D. Men must disengage from perpetrators that keep them from functioning in their God-given roles as commanded by God.
- E. Men must distrust perspectives that keep them from functioning in their God-given roles as commanded by God.
- F. Men must deny passions that keep them from functioning in their God-given roles as commanded by God.

Key Point:

A man is to think and reason in a manner that reflects maturity (1 Corinthians 13:11). A man is to relate to people and handle circumstances in ways that demonstrate that he is no longer a child. The natural tendency of men is to be either domineering or passive. Men must fight against those two extremes while seeking to live according to the order set by God as they seek to set things in order as prescribed by God. The book of Titus will give us insight into how older men and younger men should function within the body of Christ.