

An illustration in a sketchy, painterly style. The background features a large, detailed profile of a man with long, wavy hair and a beard, looking towards the left. In the lower-left foreground, a smaller profile of a young child with curly hair is shown, also looking towards the left. The overall color palette is muted, consisting of various shades of brown, tan, and beige.

BIBLICAL MANHOOD

**A 5 DAY
DEVOTIONAL
FROM
UNCULTURED DAD**

A logo consisting of a vertical line on the left and a horizontal line on the right, forming a cross-like shape.

UNCULTURED DAD

Introduction

The opening question that must be wrestled with is “What is Biblical Manhood?” In one sense, the answer is very simple: Biblical manhood is what God says it is through His Word - especially in Genesis 1 and 2. Those two chapters in particular give the contours of what it means to be a man. Moreover, we can also look at Jesus, the pinnacle of manhood, and ascertain what manhood means according to God’s design and plan.

The prescriptions and descriptions of manhood from God through His Word are meant to form us into Biblical men. Throughout history, faithful Christian men have given heed to these prescriptions and descriptions - to these contours established by God in His Word. We will consider briefly some of those figures and the impact of God’s Word to form them into Biblical men - to conform them to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29). In those considerations, let us be formed by God’s Word that the contours of our lives would be realigned with God’s expectation of us as men.

This devotional is not an exhaustive list or definitive guide to Biblical manhood, but it is a jumping off point. Let these meditations serve as a whetting of the appetite, the appetizer that leads to the full meal as you go from here and learn to “taste and see that the LORD is good” (Psa. 34:8). As we are conformed to the image of His Son, we then in turn are able to lead, serve, love, protect, and provide for our families better. This is our calling as men, as biblical men, and as we grow closer to Christ and take part in the rest that Jesus promised.

As you complete this quick five-day study and want more, we encourage you to head to unculturedad.com for resources as a Christian, Husband, and Dad. And, don’t forget to check out the 2 Chaps Podcast on YouTube or other podcast platforms for weekly discussions around many of these very topics. We’re all on this journey together and we desire to come alongside you and share the journey with you. Grab a journal and reflect on your time spent in this study and come back to this little book often to refresh on what it means to be a Biblical Man.

So, join us on this journey as we all strive to be the men that God created us to be. It won't be easy, but we promise that it will be worth it. And, always remember to Stay Uncultured!

 **UNCULTURED DAD**

Day 1: The Call to Biblical Manhood

In the early 16th century, Martin Luther, the great reformer, became a symbol of biblical manhood. Luther's commitment to his convictions, even in the face of intense opposition, serves as an inspiring illustration.

Luther's journey to Reformation began when he boldly challenged the established practices of the Catholic Church. His famous "95 Theses," posted on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church, called for a turning away from innovated doctrine and practice and a return to biblical truth. Luther's unwavering dedication to truth and his reliance on God's Word exemplify the essence of biblical manhood. Through countless trials and dangers, he pressed forward, unyielding in his pursuit of God's Word and the power of salvation that it bestows.

Scripture Teaching:

In the beginning, God created man in His own image, and He called him to exercise dominion over the earth. God created man unlike any other creature - to be responsible for the creation itself. Man was to look to God for all things - look to God's promises of provision. God made man in the beginning to trust Him - to believe Him, to have faith in Him, and to trust in His Word. This responsibility is at the core of biblical manhood.

Genesis 1:27-28 - "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

"Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times." - Martin Luther

Biblical Example: Abraham's Faith

Consider the life of Abraham, who exemplified faith, trusted in God's Word, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

Read: Genesis 12:1-9

Imagine leaving your homeland, your family, your way of life simply on the word of God. Now, don't necessarily expect that to happen to you, but understand that IS what happened to Abraham. Abraham believed God and followed God's instructions -his faith, his trust in God, led to his actions. His faith rested on God's promise - that God would make him a great nation and bless him.

While those were specific promises to Abraham, God has also, in Jesus Christ, made a promise to you. Whoever is in Christ, whoever trusts in Christ, their sins are forgiven and they are made right with God. That is the promise given today, the promise that guides and shapes to our lives today.

Thoughts for Reflection:

As men, we are called to trust God and His Word, and thereby exercise dominion and stewardship in all areas of our lives. Like Luther, we must be steadfast in our commitment to God's Word, no matter the challenges we face.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does God's promise of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation impact your daily life?
2. How can you follow the examples of Abraham, Paul, and Luther as a Christian, father, and husband?
3. How can you emulate Luther's dedication to biblical truth in your own life?
4. What are some areas where you need to rely more on God's Word in your decision-making?

Day 2: Courage and Faith

The story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian and pastor during World War II, vividly illustrates the intersection of courage and faith. Bonhoeffer, facing the horrors of the Nazi regime, did not back down from his Christian convictions.

During the war, Bonhoeffer was a vocal opponent of the Nazis and their atrocities, particularly the Holocaust. He believed that it was a Christian's duty to stand against the evil of his time, even at great personal risk. Bonhoeffer's courage stemmed from his unwavering faith in God's justice and his commitment to loving his neighbor as himself.

Scripture Teaching:

Biblical manhood often requires courage and faith. That courage and faith however is not simply an on/off switch - they are characteristics that are cultivated through a lifetime of being nurtured by God's Word. David's encounter with Goliath is a remarkable illustration.

1 Samuel 17:45 - "Then David said to the Philistine, 'You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.'"

"To believe in the incarnate God is to be courageous." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Biblical Example: David's Courage

Read: 1 Samuel 17.

While it may be a familiar story to almost anyone (including unbelievers), for the Christian, this account has concrete implications for our lives. The promise in the story is not that we will always have success over the giants that face us. No, the promise is God is faithful to His people.

God will never leave or forsake His people - though difficult times may present God as if He is absent. We know this promise is true, not because David overcame Goliath, but because Christ overcame death and hell. Christ overcame death and hell for all people - the "Goliath" that He alone could and He alone did slay. Because Christ has overcome all enemies of God, and because Christ holds us as His own, we can have courage and faith in any and all circumstances.

Thoughts for Reflection:

True courage flows from faith in God's promises. That means resting on what God has done for you in Christ. That means also acting in view of God's mercy and God's Law for the sake of the neighbor. Courageous faith often means standing up against injustice and evil, no matter the personal cost.

Reflection Questions:

1. When have you needed courage in your life, and how did your faith sustain you?
2. How does God's promise of forgiveness and mercy strengthen you to face the "giants" in your life?
3. In what ways can you exhibit courage in your faith, even in difficult circumstances?
4. How does your faith compel you to take action against injustice in your community or world?

Day 3: Being a Servant-Leader

The life of William Wilberforce, a prominent British statesman and abolitionist, is a shining example of servant-hearted leadership. Wilberforce used his position to lead a movement against the slave trade in the late 18th century.

Wilberforce, who converted to Christianity in his mid-20s, felt called by God to use his influence for the betterment of society. Despite facing intense opposition from powerful figures, he led the charge for the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. His commitment to servanthood and justice transformed not only the laws but also the hearts of a nation.

Scripture Teaching:

Biblical manhood is characterized by servant leadership. Servant leadership is using the gifts God has given you, in the position God has placed you, for the benefit of those around you. Men are leaders, no matter where they find themselves, thus they are called upon also to be servants in those places. Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet is a profound example.

John 13:14-15 - "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

"The more you serve, the more you become like Christ." - Charles Spurgeon

Biblical Example: Jesus as Servant Leader

Read: John 13:1-17.

The Lord of all Creation, who knows all the hearts and minds of every person, not only humbles Himself to enter into Creation, but also humbles Himself to the lowly task of washing feet. Consider also the day and time in which our Lord Jesus did this: 1) most footwear (if any) did not cover the whole foot, exposing it to dirt, mud, feces -anything you might find on a road; 2) bathing, particularly

your feet, was not a daily activity - water was not as easily accessed as it is today. To put it bluntly, washing feet would have been pretty disgusting work. That is why Peter refuses to have Jesus do this.

Peter does not want his Teacher, his Master, to stoop to this level. That is why Peter offers so many objections and excuses to what Jesus is doing. Yet, Jesus reveals that He must do this for Peter or Peter will have no share with Him. Jesus must carry out this act of service as a prelude to His ultimate act of service for all mankind on the Cross. He must give this example so that His followers would know what they must do for others.

Thoughts for Reflection:

True leadership is rooted in humility and service. Humility comes from knowing who God is and who you are in relation to God; service is knowing what this God has done for you by humbling Himself to the point of death, even death on a Cross (Phil 2:7-8). True leadership involves selfless service and dedication to a greater cause.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can you practice servant leadership in your family, work, or community?
2. What areas of pride or selfishness do you need to surrender to lead with a servant's heart?
3. How can you apply Wilberforce's example of servant leadership in your own sphere of influence?
4. In what areas of your life do you need to prioritize the needs of others above your own?

Day 4: Pursuing Holiness

The life of John Bunyan, the 17th-century English author of "The Pilgrim's Progress," is a testament to pursuing holiness. Bunyan's journey from a life of sin to a transformed, devout Christian is an inspiring tale.

Before his conversion, Bunyan lived a life marked by vices and immorality. However, he experienced a profound spiritual awakening that led to a radical transformation. His dedication to holiness and the pursuit of a Christ-centered life became evident in his writings and his work as a preacher, serving as an encouragement to countless others.

Scripture Teaching:

Biblical manhood calls us to holiness. Holiness means being set apart by God for God's purposes. Holiness is never something we concoct on our own, but instead is God's gift to us - making us holy by the blood of Jesus Christ. Daniel's unwavering commitment to God in Babylon serves as an inspiring example.

Daniel 1:8 - "But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank."

"Piety is not to be practiced in seclusion from the world." - John Calvin

Biblical Example: Daniel's Holiness:

Read: Daniel 1:1-21

Daniel's life of faithfulness does not happen in the quiet comfort of Jerusalem and the Temple - no, Daniel's life of faithfulness happens both literally and figuratively in the Lion's Den - in a place of exile. Daniel is one of the many captives taken from Jerusalem into the Babylonian empire - a place ruled by pagans who had no respect for the true God. Yet, amidst this turmoil, Daniel remains faithful to the true God, YHWH, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel.

Daniel's faithfulness to God was displayed in his resolve not to give into pagan ways or practices. In spite of the dire consequences, namely death, that awaited those who protested against the pagan beliefs, Daniel held fast to God's promises, and conducted his life according to those promises.

Thoughts for Reflection:

Holiness involves making choices that honor God in every aspect of life. We can be confident in those choices, no matter how difficult they may be, because of God's choosing us to be His people.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can you maintain your commitment to holiness in a culture that may not support it?
2. What areas of your life need greater purity and devotion to God?
3. In what ways can you emulate Bunyan's commitment to a holy life?
4. What areas of your life need transformation to align more closely with God's standards of holiness?

Day 5: Love and Sacrifice

The life of Jim Elliot, a missionary and martyr, beautifully exemplifies sacrificial love. In the 1950s, Jim Elliot and a group of missionaries sought to bring the Gospel to the Huaorani people of Ecuador.

Despite the tremendous risks, they were determined to share God's love with this unreached tribe. Tragically, Jim and his fellow missionaries were martyred by the very people they sought to reach. Jim Elliot's journal entries and letters reveal a profound commitment to loving and serving others, even at the cost of his own life.

Scripture Teaching:

Biblical manhood is characterized by sacrificial love. This sacrificial love seeks to give and expects nothing in return. Jesus's ultimate sacrifice on the cross exemplifies this love.

John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

"Faith is a living, busy, active, powerful thing. It is impossible that it should not be ceaselessly doing that which is good." -Martin Luther

Biblical Example: Jesus' Sacrifice

Read: Isaiah 53:1-12

No greater display of God's love, mercy, and grace are found than in the crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus, who deserves no punishment of any kind, willingly endures physical and spiritual torture, as He suffers for the sins of the whole world -for every single person ever to have existed and who ever will. He literally endures hell, God's wrath for sin, on the cross so that whoever trusts in Him never would. Jesus humbles Himself, taking on the form of a servant, remains faithful to God, even to the point of death on a cross to bring about God's forgiveness for all people. He did this with no expectation of anything in return.

Centuries before Christ's earthly ministry the prophet Isaiah foretold of the sacrifice Jesus made for the sin of mankind. The prophecy and its fulfillment met at the cross of Christ where the payment for our sin was offered, no strings attached.

Thoughts for Reflection:

True love involves self-sacrifice for the well-being of others. Sacrificial love goes beyond words and sentiment; it requires action, sometimes even to the point of personal sacrifice.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can you demonstrate sacrificial love in your relationships and daily life?
2. What does it mean for you to lay down your life for others as Jesus did?
3. How can you demonstrate sacrificial love in your relationships and daily life?
4. What would you be willing to sacrifice for the sake of sharing God's love with others?

