

THE AMERICAN VISION PRESENTS

MASCULINE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

A FOUR PART VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

WITH DAVID HALL

PART 1 – A Lost Art: Masculine Spiritual Leadership

What is the goal of this series? How will it be effective?

1. RECOGNIZING THE PROBLEM

What is the 'gender gap'? Do you see it at your church and in your life? Is there a problem?

What do you think of these claims below by David Murrow:

- Women comprise more than 60% of typical church attendance.
- Over 20% of church-going women regularly attend worship without husbands.
- “When a mother comes to faith in Christ, the rest of the family follows 17% of the time. But when a father comes to faith in Christ, the rest of the family follows 93% of the time.”
(David Murrow, *Why Men Hate Going to Church*, page 93)
- Demographic segments most likely to be in church: women and adults over 50.
- Segments least likely to be in church: men and adults 18-29.

In your church, where do men serve? Are most of the leadership roles designed for men or women? What can be done?

It’s not our goal to limit the service and involvement of women; instead, the church is called to equip and lift up males for God-assigned leadership roles. That is a correction worth making.

TEST Which set of terms best represents what Jesus taught/modeled?

| LEFT SET | | RIGHT SET | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Competence | Technology | Love | Feelings |
| Power | Goal Oriented | Communication | Sharing |
| Efficiency | Self-Sufficiency | Beauty | Relating |
| Achievement | Success | Relationships | Harmony |
| Skills | Competition | Support | Community |
| Proving Oneself | Objects | Help | Loving Cooperation |
| Results | Accomplishments | Nurturing | Personal Expression |

Now, did you get your answers to the test above from Scripture, from culture, from stereotype, or from “Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus?”

If males are ‘wired’ differently, will their leadership differ from the style of leadership that females model?

2. DEFINING OUR TERMS: Addressing the Problem with God’s Word

Masculine. How are males different?

What differences do you notice about how men and women act? What’s a male to do?

1. All the general Scriptural commands of duties, not only those explicitly addressed to males, are applicable to males.
2. Specific passages further supplement masculine duties.
 - Titus 2:1-8
 - Ephesians 5:25-30

What can you learn from these passages?

Evaluate this quote from Susan Faludi:

“If they were plotting the overthrow of a feminist world, they showed no signs of it. Mostly they seem intent on being mannerly and tidy. . . They obediently took notes during their speeches... they were willfully docile, as though, if they just obeyed long enough, they would at last get their reward.” (Cited in Morrow, p. 74)

POINT: Males are assigned certain roles.

Spiritual. What 2 things are assumed if the leadership is spiritual?

1. _____ and _____

How does 2 Cor. 5:16-18 inform our expectations for leadership?

2. _____

Why is this so important? So radical?

POINT: Spiritual leadership depends on Word and Spirit.

Leadership. 4 key distinctions:

1. Leadership is not _____.
2. Leadership will not accept _____
3. Leadership has a goal; it is going somewhere.
4. Leadership brings folks along.

Are you leading at home? In worship?

Practical Tips:

- Get a copy of the Bible on CD to listen to as you commute to work.
- Charles Spurgeon’s classic devotional, “Morning and Evening,” is hard to beat.
- Read a chapter of Proverbs each day of the calendar month; thus going through the wisdom texts 12 times a year. Now that’s got to help!
- Join a Bible study that works sequentially through a book of the Bible.

BONUS POINTS

Steven Cole, a pastor in Flagstaff, Arizona, observes: “Both Douglas Wilson’s *Reforming Marriage* and Stuart Scott’s *The Exemplary Husband* [Focus Publishing] have excellent sections on biblical leadership in the home. Wilson gives some specific steps on how to turn from passivity to godly leadership in your marriage (pp. 77-85) Scott has two chapters on leadership (pp. 117-142) and another helpful chapter on helping your wife deal with her sin (pp. 205-226). . . . I wish that every Christian husband would read these chapters often and prayerfully, and humbly before God take responsibility for godly leadership in their homes. I have seen marriages break up and others degenerate into unhappy battlegrounds because husbands were not diligent in this important biblical responsibility.

Scott develops the idea of the exemplary husband as a shepherd-leader (pp. 120-129). He points out that we are not kings, but lowly under-shepherds, doing the bidding of the Chief Shepherd. Any authority that we exercise must be to accomplish God’s purpose and to care for and build up our wives. He develops eleven qualities of a shepherd, which I only have time to list here, with a brief comment. Each husband should think about how to apply these in his own marriage.

- A shepherd knows where he is going. Our direction as husbands comes from God’s Word, which means that we must saturate ourselves with that Word. If you are not consistently in God’s Word, you cannot lead your family spiritually.
- A shepherd knows how to lead lovingly. A true shepherd denies himself in order to love and care for his sheep.
- A shepherd leads by example. How we live speaks more loudly than our words. Hypocrisy undermines godly leadership.
- A shepherd knows how to oversee. He does not lord it over his wife or control her, but gives freedom in Christ.
- A shepherd is involved. He views the home as his God-given responsibility, for which he will give an account.
- A shepherd is diligent in his responsibility. He doesn’t make excuses about being too tired, too busy, or not being gifted in this area. He seeks to grow in his ability to lead.
- A shepherd protects. He is on the lookout for danger, especially spiritual danger, and is ready to intervene.
- A shepherd provides. He cares for his wife’s every need and makes the well-being of his flock his concern.
- A shepherd instructs. A godly husband helps his wife understand and grow in the knowledge of God through His Word.
- A shepherd corrects. He does not sit there with a helpless or apathetic shrug of his shoulders when the sheep go astray or get into danger. He deals with his own sin first. If he must correct his wife, he does it for her good, that she might become holy, not because she is irritating him.
- A shepherd seeks to restore his sheep. His aim is not to win or to put her in her place, but to help her where she is hurting, so that she can “walk in a manner pleasing to the Lord.”

PART 2 – Leading Ourselves, Our Wives, & Our Children

Review:

- Review Terms (Masculine: Was Jesus ever assertive? Or always, “OK, dear.”/ bearded lady?)
- 2 Primary areas of leadership: (1) family and (2) worship. What must you do to effect #2 in a good church? “Show up.”
- Tonight: What is your calling in your home? Let me state it this way by paraphrasing of 1 Cor. 13:

“If I can converse about the deepest of theological or business topics, but do not lead my home spiritually, I am like the shrill sound of a clanging cymbal or banging on tin garbage can lids. Or if I have the gift of planning ahead with excellence or can recall every sports trivia fact or drive a motorcycle better than any other 55 year-old reliving his second childhood, but have no time for or never pray with my wife or children, I am nothing. Even if I am the most active church member and attend men’s retreats but have no spiritual leadership in my home, I am missing it big time. If I build Habitat for Humanity houses each year, travel to alleviate suffering caused by hurricanes, and run spiritual marathons, but do not love my family enough to lead them in the ways of Christ, I am nothing—zero—zilch—nada—fraudulent. Masculine spiritual leadership is . . . patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not proud, nor rude or self-seeking. It is humble enough to know that if we kept score, most of our wives would surely embarrass us. It acts to protect, trust, hope, and hang in there when things are tough. Many other methods and ministries may rise and fall, but this essential building block will last. If I do all kinds of great things outside the home but do not disciple my family, my life may not amount to what I hope.”

1. LEADERSHIP OPTIONS (some, not exhaustive)

- Top-down; sole decision maker. Quick but exclusive
- Follow new trends; frequently changing
- Traditional: copy/enshrine patterns
- Inside-Out: leads by example

KEY QUOTE

The family unit is compact enough to do this. It is “A church in the house.” (Matthew Henry)

2. WHAT IS THE ONE VIRTUE RE-EMPHASIZED IN TITUS ?? _____

(also see the fruit of the spirit in Gal. 5).

Why is this so important?

POINT: If you cannot govern/lead yourself, can you lead others?

Note: the pastoral letters from Paul to Timothy/Titus show the areas where we should be training young men.

Proverbs on self-control: look these up and discuss:

- Prov. 25:28; 16:32
- In speech: Prov. 10:19; 11:12; 12:23; 16:23; 17:27
- Watch the anger: 14:17a; 14:29; 15:18; 26:21; 29:22
- Self control accepts God's providence: 15:16-17; 16:8, 15:32
- What point does Rudyard Kipling's classic poem "If" make?

"If you can keep your head when all about you
others are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too,
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, but don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating . . .

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts our aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same. . .

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—not lose the common touch. . .
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!"

2. PRIORITIES

- Self-control = Bearing cross/self-denial: Check out Mt. 16:24-26. What bearing does that passage have on how you live as a husband/father? Can you jot down a few areas where you can begin to practice these verses immediately in your family life?
 - (a) John Calvin (1509-1564) had much to say on the continuing need for self-denial or bearing one's cross. Consider and discuss his thoughts below.

What is your first priority? _____

POINT: "Lead yourself first." Self-governance is probably the toughest part of self-control, but we must start there.

In Book III (chapter 7) of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1559), John Calvin urged his followers to lay aside private regard for themselves. Instead, they were called to divest themselves of “ambition and thirst for worldly glory.” The self denial that he suggested diverts itself from vanity when one looks to God in all that he does.

Calvin also affirmed that one of the keys to life was the self-denial that could only come if a person realized that he and all his abilities were owned by God. Calvin said that one “should not speak, design, or act without a view to God’s glory. . . We are not our own; therefore, neither is our reason or will to rule our acts and counsels” (III, 7, 1). That kind of trust in God necessarily calls for abandonment of self. The first step of Christian maturity for Calvin was to abandon oneself and natural impulses and seek to have those replaced by a renewed mind which followed God in obedience. The “laying aside of private regard” for ourselves means that we are not our own persons but called to serve God. When one lives and leads this way and learns “to look to God in everything,” he is also “diverted from all vain thoughts” (III, 7, 2).

Once that view lodges itself in our habits, it “leaves no place for pride, show, or ostentation.” On the other hand, Calvin realized that when people pursued selfishness first, they normally hit their target, and the result was vice or “a depraved longing for applause.”

In his *Life of the Christian Man*, he noted that the ethical mandate for self-denial meant that believers face any adversity—ranging from death and plague to poverty, disease or affliction—as part of God’s providence (III, 7, 10). Godly minds, taught Calvin, would apply “peace and forbearance” to “every occurrence to which the present life is subject. Thus, if every part of life was submitted to God’s overarching plan, then even adversity could be seen as part of God’s will.

Next Priority...

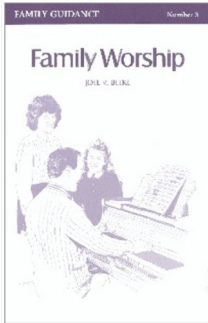
- Wife’s growth and security
 - (a) Reasons to prioritize this:
 - i. Good for her;
 - ii. Good for you—see Eph. 5 for a common-sense argument;
 - iii. Good for family—multiplies your leadership, and you may need help going to “Zone defense”; and
 - iv. Good for church and ministry.
 - (b) Mt. 28:18-20: “Go into all the world. . .” but first “Go into all the den as you are going!!”
- Children: 3rd priority, not 2nd priority.
 - (Why is this? And what happens when those priorities are reversed?)
 - (a) Two Forgotten methods
 - i. Deuteronomy 6, lifelong discipleship
 - ii. Family worship - Mt. 18:20
 - (b) Josh. 24:15: “As for me and my family, we will SERVE (worship). . .”

START Don't let "the best" be the enemy of "the good." Get started, even if imperfect. There's always room for improvement.

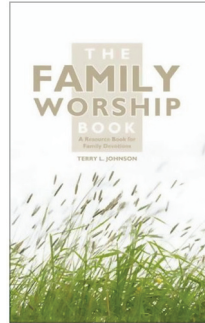
How and why do the lyrics from "Cats in the Cradle" move you?

BONUS POINTS

- Extra Resources—find these by surfing the internet for benefit (instead of indulgence or sloth):



Family Worship, Joel R. Beeke



The Family Worship Book: A Resource for Family Devotions.
Terry L. Johnson,

B. M. Smith, *Family Religion* (GPTS, orig. 1859). (picture unavailable)

- Check out: Children's Ministry International at www.childministry.com



How can you benefit from the approach and information above?

Leading ourselves, our wives, our children: start with the toughest one of them all—you and self-control.

PART 3 – In Search of Virtue: Raising the Next Generation of Masculine Leaders

What happens when much of the church is viewed as the domain of the feminine? How has secular liberalism weakened the expectations for masculine leadership? How have conservative or evangelical churches also followed this trend, even if unintentionally?

Have we confused Jesus with Mr. Rogers with a Beard? or Mother Teresa?

Mark Driscoll recently made this perceptive comment on diminished masculinity within the latest evangelical fad.

“In Seattle, the young men are, generally, pathetic. They are unlikely to go to church, get married, have children, or do much of anything else that smacks of being responsible. But they are known to be highly skilled at smoking pot . . . playing video games, playing air guitar, free-loading, and having sex with their significant others. However, the emerging-church massage-parlor antics of labyrinth-walking by candle-light will do little more than increase the pool of extras for television’s ‘Will and Grace.’” (*Radical Reformation*, p. 184)

David Murrow (p. 106) estimates as follows:

| Real Men | Church Men |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Live a wild life | Live a restrained life |
| Enjoy sexual conquest | Experience sexual monotony |
| Look at women | Look at their Bibles |
| Drink beer | Drink grape juice |
| Go to parties | Go to potlucks |
| Drive cool cars | Drive the church van |
| Light cigarettes | Light candles |
| Hang with babes in bars | Hang with babies in the nursery |

Raising Men of the Future (applicable also if you have sons or daughters)

- Mal. 4:6
- Expected Character (targets) for mature Male character—See 1 Tim. 3.
- Know the meaning of the term first.
- Each has an opposite.
- Each includes other aspects.
- Each is modeled best by Christ.

Look up 1 Timothy 3:1-13. In that section, the expectations for male leaders in the church are divinely revealed. A mature reading of these also discovers vices and virtues. The chart below may help.

In what spheres do these apply: (a) Family; (b) Church; and (c) Society?

Look together at the qualifications for officers in 1 Tim. 3:1-7:

| Qualification | Vs. | Meaning | Opposite | Why Needed? |
|---------------------|-----|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Above Conviction | 2 | Not Convictable | Questionable | Character |
| One-Wife-Man | 2 | Faithful in Marriage | Philanderer | Fidelity in key relations |
| Temperate | 2 | Level-Headed | Rash | Calm, deliberate |
| Self-Controlled | 2 | Urges Governed | Impulsive | not whimsical |
| Respectable | 2 | Well-Behaved | Rude, crude | Noble task |
| Hospitable | 2 | Lover-of-Strangers | Zenophobic | Welcoming |
| Able to Teach | 2 | Discipler; imparts truth | Unexpress Beliefs | Tit.1:9 |
| Not Drunkard | 3 | Overly-fond of Alcohol | Public drunk | Even-keel; reliable |
| Not Violent | 3 | Not a Striker | Abusive | Gentle |
| Not Quarrelsome | 3 | Not Contentious | Argumentative | Peaceful |
| Not Greedy | 3 | No Money-Lover | Greedy; avarice | Others first |
| Manage Home | 4 | Preside-Over | Subservient | Priorities! |
| Children Obey | 4 | Able to lead flock | Un-Controlled | Example! |
| Children-Respect | 4 | Know how to disciple | Resentful kids | Balance |
| Not Recent Convert | 6 | Neophyte | | Experience! |
| Rep. with Outsiders | 7 | | | |

If these were expected of mature leaders, don't they form a set of character virtues for us?

Shouldn't you be striving for these virtues? And training your sons or sons-in-law?

Think of this set as the Character Bull's Eye or Virtue Target

POINT: Mature manhood expects obstacles, not ease! These require taming, taming by the Holy Spirit. However, our Virtue-Targets are revealed for us.

TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- Which of these need to begin or mature in your life?
- Can you think of some ways to teach these to males under 18?

We need bold leaders. Romans 12:8 speaks of leadership as a gift of the Spirit.

Would your church or family be better off if it called men to tackle tough tasks? What can you do?

RESOURCE TO RECOMMEND: Discuss the quote by B.M. Smith below, *Family Religion* (GPTS, orig. 1859), pp. 136-137.

“Even very young children should be early trained to go up to the house of God. If too young to receive appreciable benefit by the teachings of the pulpit, they will form habits of respect and reverence for sacred things. The solemn quiet and order of a Christian assembly, the public prayer of adoration, thanksgiving, confession, supplication, and intercession, the notes of cheerful praise, and the exposition and enforcement of the great doctrines of God’s Word . . . are well calculated to produce on the wakening minds of children, valuable impressions.” He later adds, “The combination of faithful parental teaching, and the ordinary services of the sanctuary will be blessed, and in any particular church, these means will often be attended by seasons of the special power of the Spirit. Let us honor God’s institutions and he will honor our labors.”

STYLE POINTS for the church that has:

- 50% (or more—why, that’s unheard of!) of attendance = Male.
- Large number of male teachers in childrens’ classes.

What other passages in the Bible teach that male leadership in the home is a godly calling?

PART 4 – Decision Making in the Home: Dictatorship, Disagreements, & The Garden of Eden

1. BEGIN WITH THE POSITIVE: What roles has God, in his wisdom and mercy, assigned to males and females in the home? Look up and discuss Eph 5:21-33.

- What are the two duties given to women: _____ and _____
- What four duties are given to males?
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)
 - (d)

What can you give up for your wife? How can you make a sacrifice to help her have spiritual growth?

Also, see what you can add to the previous discussion from Col. 3:18-19.

What other passages in the Bible teach that male leadership in the home is a godly calling?

2. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THESE ROLES ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED?

Biblical examples in Genesis.

A sub-theme of the book of Genesis is the chronicle of male abdication, beginning in the earliest chapters. What are some biblical examples of that mistake, and what can you learn from these episodes? Fill in the chart below.

| PASSAGE | CHARACTERS | ABDICATION? |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| Gen. 3 | | |
| Gen. 16 | Abraham/Sarah | |
| Gen. | Lot | |
| Gen. 25-2 | | |

Six things that result when there is a lack of male leadership in the home:

1. Loss of _____
2. Boys may never see men live out their _____
3. Women become too burdened
4. Folks begin to believe that the church and the home can be run by human norms
5. A resulting low view of _____ develops
6. Misplaced _____ result

A helpful summary and grid of various abdications:

MEN'S FAULT

Not leaders
No guts; shirk responsibility

MEN'S WEAKNESS

Gullibility (reverse of Eve)

MEN'S STRENGTH

Plowing ahead; duty

WOMEN'S FAULT

Not follow/too intense

WOMEN'S WEAKNESS

Manipulation

WOMEN'S STRENGTH

Nurture

3. WAYS FOR YOU TO LEAD

- Devotionals/prayers: what if men led in prayer once/day?

What is the "5-Minute Solution"? What could you do to lead in your home, using only about 0.3% of your time?

- Help wife have a regular devotional time.
- Commit to be involved in Bible classes and worship on the Lord's Day.
- Talk about the sermons or what your wife/children have learned

Also: Be Reasonable

BONUS POINTS

- Love and Respect: *The Love She Most Desires, the Respect He Desperately Needs* by Emerson Eggerichs
- *Evangelical Feminism: A New Path to Liberalism* by Wayne Grudem

4. Ways We Don't Lead

- Delegate all the spiritual nurture in the home to the wife: DUMPING
- Claim to have male headship but do not in reality
- Deny that there will be a continuing tension between males and females (review Gen. 3:17-19)
- Other ways

Bonus Feature — Pressing Ahead: Q&A with David Hall and Gary DeMar

1. What lessons can we apply to male leadership from the New Testament?
2. What can we do to train men to impact the culture instead of limiting male leadership to the walls of the church?
3. How has Christianity been feminized? What subtle evidences of this trend do you see in churches around you? What by-products result from this?
4. What are some ways that males can be encouraged to use their gifts? What value is there in first recognizing that believers have different gifts?
5. What do current evangelical buzz words tell you about the feminization of the church? What are some examples?
6. How does true fellowship come about?
7. What is Facebook Christianity? How can small group ministries help? How might they hurt?
8. How Can Masculine Spiritual Leadership improve marriages and homes?
9. What excesses can or have occurred while encouraging Masculine Spiritual Leadership?
10. What can churches and ministries do to strengthen Masculine Spiritual Leadership?