

What is A Real Man?

From Robert Lewis' Raising a Modern Day Knight

The Three Building Blocks of Manhood

A vision for manhood; a code of conduct; a transcendent cause

A Vision of Manhood

1. A real man rejects passivity

1 Cor 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

2. A real man accepts responsibility

Titus 2:6-8

6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. 7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness 8 and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

3. A real man leads courageously

1 Cor 16:13-14

13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. 14 Do everything in love.

4. A real man expects the greater reward

2 Cor 5:8-10

9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

A Man's Code of Conduct

1. A real man will pursue God's will for his life by being :
 - a. industrious (Col 3:23) b. kind (Eph 4:32) c. humble (Phil 2:3)
 - d. pure (1 Tim 4:12) e. honest (Eph 4:25) f. self disciplined (1 Tim 4:7-8)
 - g. faithful in doing good works (Gal 6:9)
2. A real man will protect the women in his life by loving, leading, and honoring them
3. A real man has a spiritual "work" to accomplish according to his own giftedness. This "transcendent cause" for Christ will lift him beyond himself. It is a passion that stirs him to self-sacrifice and causes him to contribute to the larger community. This mission is:
 - a. heroic b. timeless c. supremely meaningful

The Power of Ceremony in a Young Man's Life

1. With the help of his Christian brothers, a dad should try to commemorate a right-of-passage for his son at:

Puberty (ie., take a "man" trip and listen to Dobson's tapes on sex & have him memorize the definition of a man)

High school graduation (ie., over a hearty meal dad and his pals share with his son their college successes and failures and what they would do differently)

College graduation (ie., give his son a ring with the Family Crest and involve him in other ceremonies for younger kids)

Marriage (ie., dad publicly acknowledges that his son is the "real deal" and how proud he is of him and gives him a manly gift)

*memorable ceremonies are: costly, ascribe value, employ symbols, empower a life with vision

*boys become men in the community of men; involve other high quality men in your son's life

