

# The Noble Man: Recovering the Wonder of Manhood

## Bill Kinney

*However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

***Ephesians 5:33***

### 5: A Sidebar

One of the nice things about doing a series of short related articles is that one can stay on topic as long as needed, and if something else should be said, some clarification offered, then that can come in the form of a little rabbit-trail. So, here we are at the first one, and we will get back to the main topic shortly.

If you have read this far I can imagine some of your reactions. Perhaps you were raised by a single-parent Mom. She did a really wonderful job with you, but you do not really know your Dad very well. Possibly, your Dad has never been in your life, or has been abusive, or absent. Maybe he has been there, but for a variety of reasons he has been disconnected and remote. You love your Dad. You hate him.

Some of you may never have had the influence of a Godly man in your life, someone to be the example and the coach, to mentor you into manhood. Others of you have a Dad who is great, who is everything he could be, and more. John Eldredge says that every man carries “a wound in the soul.” He further says that, “the wound is nearly always given by his father.”<sup>1</sup> We could argue about the truth of such a sweeping statement, but will not. The application here is to understand that whoever your father is to you, I doubt that you are neutral about him. Your father is important to your emotional and spiritual health, and this will be true for your entire life. It will be that way for your sons, and for your daughters, too.

The focus of these times together is on boys and men. This does not mean that girls and women are not important to the discussion. Just the opposite – women are of the utmost importance to the wellbeing of men. Nothing we talk about is meant to suggest that women are anything other than equal and complementary partners in all aspects of human interaction. According to the Apostle Paul, women need the love of men, and men need the respect of women.<sup>2</sup> Mutually, each needs the love and respect of the other. Paul speaks here of a primary responsibility that each has, within the bonds of a marriage relationship, to protect, build and enable the other in this way, supplying what each needs most to be all that God intends for them to be.

However, the concern in this series of reflections is about maleness, and our failure as a culture to respect boys and men for who they are and who they can be. When we come

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<sup>1</sup> John Eldredge, *Wild at Heart: Discovering the secret of a man's soul* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2001), p. 60.

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 5:25-33

clear on who we are, In Christ, we can lead our sons into what it truly means to be a strong and honorable man, even if we only stumbled there ourselves.

If you have not done so, please scroll down and read Greg Bourgond's excellent blog articles, "Who Am I?"<sup>3</sup> If culture is to be influenced toward a different paradigm, then we must find a way to provide boys with a more suitable pathway toward noble manhood. What is said here will often fly in the face of conventional 21<sup>st</sup> Century wisdom. So be it.

The journey is waiting for us.

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<sup>3</sup> Greg Bourgond, *Heart of a Warrior* ([http://heartofawarrior.typepad.com/heart\\_of\\_a\\_warrior\\_greg\\_b/](http://heartofawarrior.typepad.com/heart_of_a_warrior_greg_b/))