



# A REAL MAN

*The Search for God's Definition of Manhood*

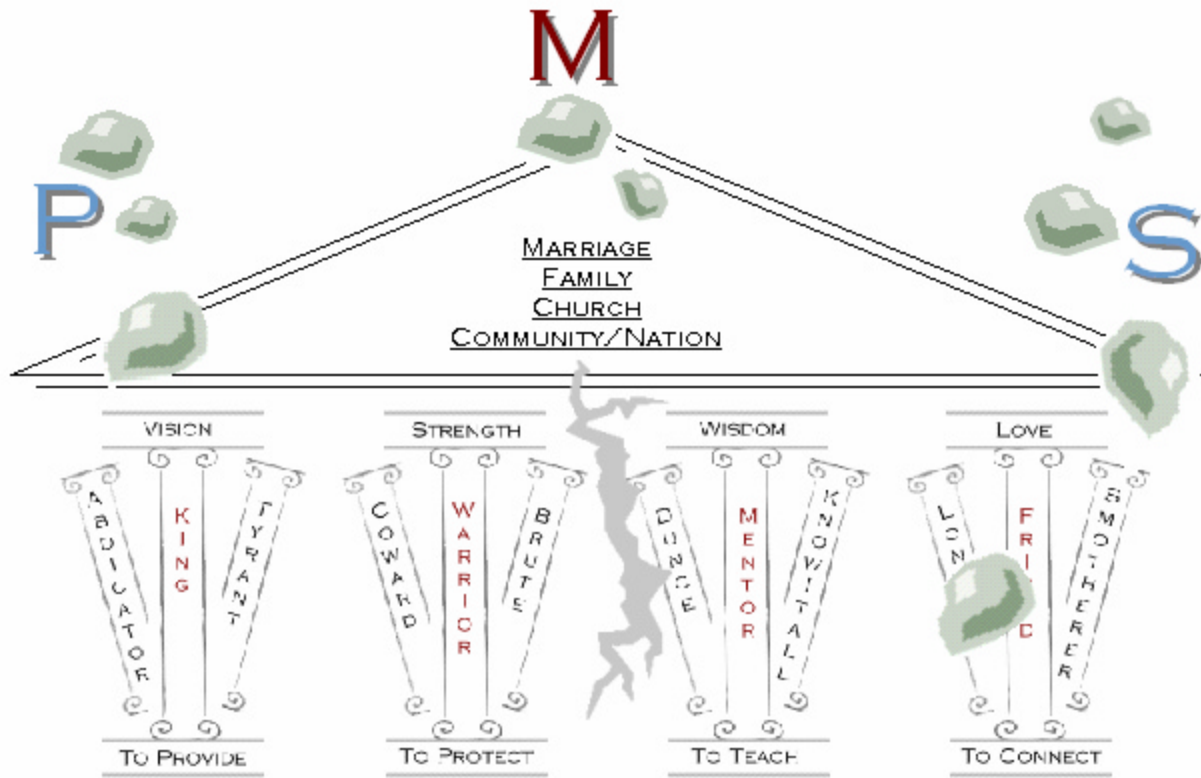


Diagram adapted from—Stu Weber *Four Pillars of a Man's Heart* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Books, 1997) 63.

Read Genesis 1:26-31

God gives man three things in this passage...list them.

- Dominion— to rule over— POWER
- Plants for food, the earth for his sustenance — MATERIAL POSSESSIONS
- A wife — be fruitful and increase in number — SEXUALITY

When these three things are abused, men falter and fail. In our terms, the King, Warrior, Mentor, and Friend pillars lean and the real man can crumble.



POWER



MATERIAL POSSESSIONS



SEXUALITY



## POWER

There is trouble ahead when man rejects God and begins to believe that he himself is the ultimate authority

*If God is dead then something will have to take His place — either megalomania or erotomania, the lust for power or the lust for pleasure, the clinched fist or the phallus, Hitler or Hugh Hefner.*

*The Late British Journalist Malcolm Muggeridge*

### 1 Peter 5:5,6

*Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*

### 2 Samuel 23:3-4

*The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: ‘When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.’*

### Micah 6:8

*He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what do the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humble with your God.*

GIVE SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW ONE CAN USE POWER/INFLUENCE FOR GOOD:

Examples — CEOs (Interstate battery, Chic-Fil-A), Volunteers — Habit for Humanity— Inner city work— Pro athletes— Darryl Green’s community center, David Robinson’s scholarship program etc. Football coaches, Athletic Directors etc.

Much more can be said about a Biblical view of money, but for the sake of context and space, we will focus on its negative effects. The example of Joseph at the end of this study gives ample opportunity to comment on the profitable (no pun intended) uses of resources.

## MATERIAL POSSESSIONS



How could money cause a Real Man to falter?

- It can become his God.
- It can make him greedy
- His greed can shake his integrity
- His lack of integrity can cause him to lie and steal
- His sin will breed more sin.

BIBLICAL EXHORTATIONS ABOUT MONEY

Read 1 John 2:15,16 — obsession with material goods is not from God.

Read 1 John 3:16-18 — help others in need, do not just keep it to yourself.

Read Hebrews 13:5,6 — stay free from the **love of** money and find your ultimate possession in God.

Read 1 Timothy 6:1-10 — focus on godliness not gold.



## SEXUALITY

God has an incredible design for the sexual relationship between a man and a woman. God tells us to keep sex for marriage. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 and Hebrews 13:4**

By whose authority is the command given in this passage?

What is God's will?

**SANCTIFICATION** God's desire is for us to become like him in every area of our lives. Purity and holiness are part of His character.

**DON'T WRONG OR TAKE ADVANTAGE** God desire's that we not "wrong" someone or take advantage of them in relationships. We do this when create desires in them that we cannot rightly fulfill.

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

How can you "honor God with your body"?



Why would God tell us to "flee sexual immorality"?



God's command for us to wait for sex is not designed to keep us from having a good time. God in his wisdom and love for us simply knows what is best in this area. It is as if you were driving a car down a dark road and the bridge up ahead is out due to flooding. You have no way of knowing this but a man appears holding a sign saying "bridge out ahead don't go any further." It is then up to us to heed the warning of the sign. God is showing us "a better way" to handle the sexual relationship. He says to us "bridge out ahead" don't keep going in that direction, turn and come my way. When we choose God's direction we will find His protection and provision. God's commands regarding sex become a tremendous blessing to us. The following table gives just a few examples.

GOD PROTECTS	GOD PROVIDES
Your mind from mental images of past relationships.	Freedom to enjoy your future spouse without distracting mental images.
You from mistrust and suspicion in relationships.	A foundation of trust for your current and future relationships.
You from confusing the intensity of sex with the intimacy of love.	You true intimacy: deep knowledge of the other person apart from the physical.
You from the fear and consequences of STDs.	You peace of mind as you enter marriage.
Your testimony as a Christian.	A life that is an example to others.
Your fellowship with Him.	The fruitful and abundant life.

Marriage provides the perfect environment for us to be open and vulnerable with another person in the sexual area. The sexual relationship can be compared to a fire. When kept in the fireplace, it warms the whole house and gives great comfort. However, when the fire gets out of the fireplace, it can burn down your whole house.





One thing we need to understand is that God is always ready to forgive us for things in our past. Even if you have failed in the sexual area, God can restore and forgive you. God knows that we are sinful people, this is the very reason he sent Jesus Christ to die for us. One of God’s key leaders in history, King David of Israel, also blew it in this area. **Read Psalm 51:1-17** to see what happened with his situation. The first step we need to make is to confess our sin to God and receive his forgiveness. When we do this we are ready to begin to live for God in the sexual area of our lives. In order to make a new start in this area we need to....Confess it specifically (**1 John 1:9**), live in the Holy Spirit’s power to help you resist temptation (**1 Corinthians 10:13**), and show true repentance (a change in attitude and action) in your life (**Matthew 3:8**).



Decided purity—starting today, is it you desire not to defile yourself and remain pure until

YES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

NO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This is not an area you can make it alone! You need to “Stay In God’s Word”, “Stay Connected with God in prayer”, “Stay Close with others who share your convictions”, and to “Be filled with the Holy Spirit”. This is also an area where ACCOUNTABILITY to another person can help maintain our ACCOUNTABILITY to God.

**Read Ecclesiastes 4:9,10 and Proverbs 27:17**

JOSEPH A REAL MAN HANDLING PMS—USING THEM FOR GOD’S PURPOSES

Genesis 45:7,8 — Joseph used his **power** to help and determine the **heart** and **faith** of a nation. Not to manipulate, oppress, or dictate.

Israel would continue as a nation established on forgiveness. Their trust in God’s sovereign plans in the protection of Joseph would guide them for generations to come.

Genesis 41:37-46 — Joseph used **material possessions** for the good of **other people**. Real men do the same — They practice financial responsibility and teach their children to do the same. Real men are givers of their resources to help those in need and to expand God’s Kingdom.

Proper planning in the use of resources can avoid pitfalls for us and those we lead in the future. You may want to mention credit card debt — get some stats perhaps. Giving to God’s work— an open hand policy with money.

Genesis 39:8,9 — Joseph walked **faithfully sexually**— he would not sin against God. Where are the men who will practice, guard, and teach purity?

THE HEART OF THE MATTER



Read 2 Timothy chapter 2

Preface the reading of this chapter with a comment: “Avoiding PMS or failing as a man should never be separated from our desire to walk closely with God and to be used by him in this world for his good purposes.”

Our hearts should desire for our lives to be used by God for his purposes—this is why we desire to avoid PMS and remain a strong Servant King, Tender Warrior, Mentor, and Friend.

Portions adapted *Four Pillars of a Man’s Heart* (c) 1997 by Stu Weber. Used by permission of Multnomah Publishers, Inc.

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