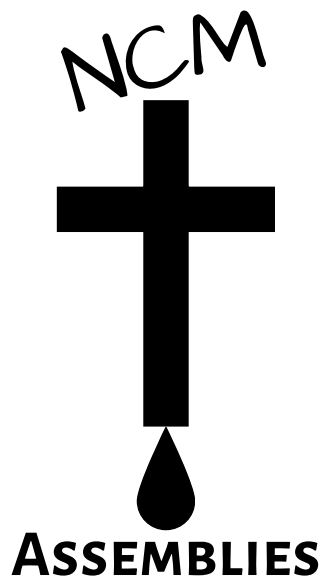


THIS IS a Man's Place



This is a product of



When Jesus the Messiah came to earth to begin his ministry, he chose twelve young men to travel with him and help him spread the gospel message. These men - called the disciples - would continue to preach the gospel long after Jesus had died and been resurrected. They would continue in this ministry for the rest of their living days.

The bible gives us many examples of men doing courageous deeds, displaying high levels of wisdom, and standing firmly with Yahweh in the face of disparity. Yahweh God uses these men and their lasting stories to give us an important message about His view of men and their role in the assembly.

In this booklet, we aim to cover that role that God has placed upon the men of the assembly. From leadership, to headship, to fatherhood, men must know their place in the congregation, and strive to live up to the standard of those who came before them.

The Crown of Creation

On the first week, Yahweh God created the

heavens, the earth, and all the living creatures upon it. He also created Adam, the first man.

Adam was created different from all of the other animals that lived on the earth. The bible says that Yahweh created Adam *in His image* (Genesis 1:27). This means that God created mankind to be like Him. Adam was creative and intelligent.

As a special and beloved creation, Yahweh gave Adam responsibilities He did not give to other creatures. First, Adam was charged with naming and caring for every other living creature on the earth (Genesis 2:19-20). Then Adam was given charge over the entire earth, and all the living creatures on it, to take care of protect (Genesis 1:26).

Seeing that Adam was lonely and incomplete, Yahweh God created for Adam a companion named Eve. This move highlights how much Yahweh loved men, the crown of His creation. Yahweh God knew that Adam needed love from someone who was like him. Adam would need assistance in subduing the earth.

That is not to say that God created women to be *less* than men. Quite the opposite! Men and women were designed to be equal partners, with equal share in the responsibilities of caring for the earth. Think of a baseball team. One person plays as the pitcher, while the other plays as the catcher. Both are baseball players and belong equally on the team. However they each possess different talents and hold different responsibilities to the team.

Likewise, Yahweh gave Adam an equal partner in Eve, who would help him bear the onus of caring for the earth. Eve possessed strengths that Adam lacked which would make them, together, most capable of fulfilling their duties.

We can see God's love for men in the way He created them. Knowing that their work would involve manual labor, Yahweh flooded men's bodies with testosterone. This gave them tough muscle fibers that grew faster and stronger than that of their female counterparts (Miller et al., 1993). While women are more capable of work that involves deft fingerwork, men are more designed to take on big tasks.

This is reflective in the brain design of men. Male brains have more focus on the left hemisphere, giving them greater verbal reasoning (A Brain Divided - Columbia University 2004). Further study shows that men are, on average, better at spatial skills, mechanical design, and physical manipulation than women are (Gurian, 2005). Altogether, the design of men's bodies and minds are fit for looking at the big picture and acting in accordance with what they observe. Women, on the other hand, are better at noticing smaller details and forging emotional connections.

A Godly Man

Men today are inundated with material meant to tell them how to behave. The topic of what is "manly" enough, what makes a man appear "strong" vs "weak" is a hot topic from the beginning of time up to today. This is a key part of the male psyche, and there is no shame in wanting to get in touch with your masculinity.

Yahweh God knows how men feel. For this reason, He has given men a guideline on what

He feels a man should be like. To Christian men, this list should be of utmost importance, although you may be surprised at what you find! Here are six qualities Yahweh tells men they should strive for (**Read: 1 Timothy 6:11**):

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Yahweh wants men to pursue righteousness (Psalm 106:3). Being a righteous man means having a right relationship with God. Men can do this by practicing faith in Yahweh and the sacrifice of His son. As well, men should adhere to the principals found in God's Word, the bible.

GODLINESS

A very important quality for men that the bible emphasizes is that of Godliness (Hebrews 12:28). A man proves to be Godly by being unafraid to worship the living God, despite opposition they may face in the world. When a man is awed by the power of our Creator, he worships and reveres God unabashedly. Proudly, he displays his fear of the Lord for all to see.

FAITH

Yahweh places heavy importance on the faith of men, going so far as to base our justification on the faith we display (Ephesians 2:8-9). Yahweh wants men to prove their faith by wholeheartedly in the Word of God, even when it seems impossible. They are to believe in the promises of redemption and resurrection with no room for doubt, understanding that God's ways are higher than man's.

LOVE

Love is an extremely important characteristic that all Christians should strive to follow (Colossians 3:4). Men in particular need to show love. They can do this by displaying maturity by listening to others instead of bickering whenever a dispute arises. They should demonstrate deep concern for the poor, going as far as to give what they have to others who have not. Lastly, men should love the body of Christ as their own, washing the feet of their spiritual brothers and sisters and offering unwavering support to the congregation and all the people therein.

STEADFASTNESS

Steadfastness is the resolution of men to maintain faith and righteousness despite opposition (James 1:2-4). Men who keep steadfast in faith are prepared for the future tribulations that God has told us we are all to face. By enduring the taunts, shame, and wickedness of others regarding his faith, a man proves to be steadfast. He should pursue the love and peace of God even in the face of earthly hardships such as war, sickness, and natural disasters. When he bears to suffer a world inhabited by sin while simultaneously seeking grace, a man shows he is steadfast in his faith.

GENTLENESS

Perhaps the quality that gives most men pause, God counts gentleness as a manly characteristic that He values highly (1 Timothy 3:3). When they withhold violence from others, sometimes even at the cost of their own wellbeing, men display the Godly quality of gentleness. Going further, men should not engage in slander or lay into gossip, for words can harm just as much as fists. A gentle man displays strength while

maintaining a thick layer of control, never giving into urges that directly harm another, even the animals.

While these characteristics may not align with the world's standard of masculinity, Christian men would do well to remember that it is what God views that matters (1 John 2:15-17). It is not by the world that we are saved, but by God. Yahweh is the Creator of men! He above all know what truly makes a man.

Men as Leaders

From the very beginning, Yahweh God saw fit to give leadership to men. Originally, God intended men to be leaders of the world, acting as caretakers for the earth and all the animals. Since the institution of His covenants, Yahweh has given men the additional burden of leadership of His people.

When the Israelites formed the Mosaic Covenant with God, He chose men from all the tribes to be leaders of that congregation (Exodus 18:25). These men were leaders of the people, and this charge was no easy task for them!

Since the installation of the New Covenant, Yahweh has kept that tradition of putting men in charge. It was the men who were responsible for the early congregation, put in place over the women (1 Timothy 1:12).

This is *not* because Yahweh valued women less. In fact, Yahweh loves His daughters, and assigns special tasks for just them*! There are many reasons why Yahweh chose to put men in charge of the assembly. Firstly, it was because of the order of Creation. Yahweh created men first, and gave leadership first to them. Another reason that Yahweh says He chooses men to lead is because Eve was the first to sin. Adam was only persuaded to disobey God after Eve had already done so (1 Timothy 2:13,14).

Yahweh placed special importance on the men who sought leadership positions in the assembly. These men were to be especially righteous (1 Timothy 3:1-16). Certain qualities that Yahweh called the men of the assembly to have include:

*for more information on the responsibilities of women, check out our booklet titled *This is a Woman's Place!*

- self-control
- trustworthiness
- Respectable
- hospitality
- sober-minded
- non-violent/passive
- non-quarrelsome/agreeable

and

- well-educated in spiritual matters

These men were called to know the Word of God thoroughly, to be able to defend it from those who would slander it, and use it to guide those who would seek to follow it. These responsibilities can be very stressful, which is why Yahweh promises to support these men through His holy spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). The congregation is called to lift up these men, honoring them and submitting willingly to their authority (Hebrews 13:17).

Men are also leaders of their homes and families. The apostle Paul refers to this as "headship" (1 Corinthians 11:3). Yahweh is a God of order, and that includes the family unit. Men are to be the heads of their households,

with their wives submitting to their authority.

This does NOT give men leeway to mistreat or abuse their wives! On the contrary! Husbands are *commanded* to respect, honor, listen to, and love their wives (1 Peter 3:7, Ephesians 5:25, Colossians 3:19). A man who mistreats his wife is a vile thing to Yahweh. The bible even goes as far as to imply that the man who abuses his family will not have his prayers heard! Remember, Yahweh did not create women to be slaves of men, but companions and helpers. As a family, a married couple are to work *together* as equal partners.

If the couple has children, the children are to submit to the authority of both of their parents. Together, the mom and dad are to teach their children the ways of God, directing them as instructed by God's Word (Proverbs 22:6). Parents are to discipline their children with love and patience (Ephesians 6:4).

There is yet another tier of the headship arrangement that Paul makes sure to include instructing men about it. That is the tier of men

under the headship of Christ. Jesus is the head of men much the same way that men are the head of their wives. The bible compares the marriage structure as the same as the way Jesus is connected to the assembly. Just as Jesus was willing to make great sacrifices out of love for the congregation, men are called to do the same for their families. Likewise, as women and children are called to submit to their husbands and parents, men are called to submit to the authority of Christ.

How we take our place in the headship arrangement - as both in capacity of our authority over others and as to how we submit to those over us - can be viewed as how Jesus submitted to his Father. Yahweh God is head over all, including Jesus. Jesus willingly submitted to His authority. Their relationship serves as the perfect model for men to follow. They can imitate Jesus in how they obey the Messiah, *and* they imitate Yahweh in how He treated and instructed Jesus.

This is a Man's Place!

There are so many things that can be discussed

when covering the topic of men! From the many examples of biblical men whose footsteps we can follow, to the special instructions Yahweh gives men in His Word, to the high standards He calls men to reach, we can see the love Yahweh has for men. He provides men with responsibilities that unique to them, and in return for their loyalty gives them guidance and support that He gives to no other living creature.

Men, what will you do with this love of God?

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