

## *Chapter 5: Men*

### *Masculine*

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There seems to be plenty of room for debate on our sexual makeup. What I believe is most likely not what you believe. I say that is just fine. Who am I to turn your opinion another way? My whole intention in this chapter is to talk about our masculine side. No matter who you are you have a masculine side. There have been countless books on the subject. Each one painting a picture of what masculinity in us means.

We have words that are called masculine or feminine. A boat can be feminized by calling it a “she.” We can also say an object is strong and manly which leans towards a masculine trait. The term “our fore-fathers” can be masculine. My point with all this is to show that we have given sexual meaning to other things than humans. A cord has a male or a female end. Bathrooms are designed for men and for woman. Each person could use either bathroom but the intent is for your specific gender. That same is for words. They are intended to mean something for the gender they are written too or about.

In history we discover the meanings for words by their intent. We also discover the meaning of objects by who might have use them and why. The gender they are designed for or used by help us a great deal. In Egypt, the hieroglyphics are read in several ways. A male and female statue are known by the folding of the hands. It’s intentional to understand if the writing is about a male or female. In our culture we have understood words and objects to be gender neutral. In history they did not describe things that way. In the future we might look back at this time period and know very little because everything is seen as vanilla.

Is it important to know what is male or female? I believe it is because it takes us a step deeper into ourselves. Instead of saying it is just a person we can add adjectives that describe us

better. We can be called caring, rugged, soft, and hard. In the past we have attributed these things to female and male traits. Nothing has changed today, yet we say they have. We have taken out the gender words and replaced them with the words that describe them. We now are a caring male or a rugged female. Ok that is just fine with me. What words describe you? Are you rugged and tough? Are you sensitive and compassionate? Immediately you might start thinking about female and male traits. If we just go back and use the words masculine and feminine which one are you? That's a tough sell most of the time because we are a little of both. Let's look at traditional male traits

My dad was different than my mom. We are a lot of the things I call male. How would a child define his dad today? If males in the family affect their children then how can the sexual title be thrown out? Moms and dads affect their kids by the attention they give. We need a dad to be male and we need a mom to be female don't we? Studies have shown that taking away the softness of a mom can hurt a child. Can't we say the same thing for the ruggedness of a dad?

My father came home every day around 5. The father down the street also arrived home around the same time. I remember his brakes being very squeaky. You knew he was coming home because of the horrendous sound it made. That meant that my father was also coming home soon. My brothers and I knew that sound and it perked our ears. Dad would be home soon. We usually met him at the door when he arrived. That is what a family did for their dad. Mom had dinner on the go and the only thing missing was our dad in the lazy boy.

At night dad sat in his comfy chair. He read the paper, smoked a pipe, and sometimes lit the fire place. Mom didn't do that: dad did. Dad took off his belt to give us a whack when we were bad. Hearing the words "wait till your father comes home" gained new meaning. He was

the strong one, the discipline one. His hands were rough and he smelled like work. That was my dad.

I saw a man named dad talk shop with other men. They joked, swore, and played sports. Those were the men I knew and my dad was one of them. When a game was on TV we all disappeared in the life of our dad. Sometimes I was able to join in and watch the TV with my dad. He coached me by being a dad and a man. I learned how to live through interaction with my mom, but mainly I learned about life though observing my dad. Men sometimes don't talk much instead they just do what needs to be done. That was what a man was to me.

I heard a show on war the other day. The veteran said "it's what we had to do." They asked him if he was scared to fight in a war. It never entered his mind because that was what they had to do: fight, shoot, live, and sometimes die. It's what men do to survive. I don't think we have a clue what being a man is really like. Men these days are trying to imitate women and we have succumbed to the plush lifestyle we live. In the past, and in the wilderness, men were made to survive. I know the comments will come fast and furious: women can survive too. I know they can but men were made for it, and deep down: they live for it.

When a man cuts himself he usually doesn't notice, he just wraps it up and keeps on going. We lose focus on the things that matter when we're busy. Just like my dad lost us in a hockey game, I lose my family in writing or a video game. Maybe I'm the last of the traditional men? I doubt it because we can change the circumstances but we can't change men. I think part of the reason some boys have become violent is because the male avenue has been shut off. What happens when something builds up with no place to go: it explodes.

Nobody needs a war but men need to fight. We fight for the maiden, fight in our games and fight for our country. The most popular games are football, baseball, basketball, soccer, Call

of Duty, and hockey. Violence in video games and sport is the modern man's avenue to the fight. It's what we were meant to do. These days we live through these mediums vicariously. The NFL is a multi-billion dollar business because men love to hit something. It's who we are. Sex is a multi-billion dollar industry because men love to touch women. We are physical beings.

Women have a man's traits but they are not men. So often a missing father destroys a son or daughter. It's a common theme in crime. We need our dads so that we learn how to fight properly. Crime is: boys and girls striking out at what they are missing. They are trying to do it the easy way. My dad taught me to wrap up the boo boo and continue on. My mom will kiss it better later. My dad seemed brave when life went wrong. Do you know why men don't cry? Because we were built to do what has to be done. There will be time for crying later.

Women are smarter than men much of the time. They are sensible. Men just push on through and think about the consequences later. We come home with holes in our pants and mud in indescribable places. We smile and shrug: "oh well it was fun." We have a famous saying as men. When asked why we do what we do men say: "I dunno." Seriously! We really don't know but were glad we did it. We fight and we push on. That's who we are as men. Our feminine side will show up but it's the struggle we live with as men. I believe we have that feminine side because we love our moms. They gave us so much. Still though, we have this other side called masculine.

I have wondered why we love the tough chicks in movies. Why is Sigourney Weaver in Aliens hot? Why is Angelina Jolie Hot in anything she does? I think it's because they are speaking a man's language. They can relate to chaos and mayhem. A little piece of our dad in a woman is just fine. I had my lawyer give me advice once. He said: when his wife and he got lost in the jungle in South America, they bonded." Ya, it was either bond or die, yet together they

survived. There is that word again. Men want their women to survive inside their reckless lives. We love it.

Rocky is dear to us because the underdog man seized the day. He fought impossible odds and won. In the Bible King David was small and the last boy you would expect to be king. He turned out to be the greatest king ever. Why? He was a terrible father and husband. He committed adultery and seemed a mess half the time. Why was this little man so popular? I believe it was because this small man beat the odds. David conquered his foes, survived wars and family troubles. He survived where most people fail or perish. We love men like that.

They say that behind every great man is a strong woman. Yes that is very true. Imagine living with someone who recklessly pushes ahead, forgets where he is, and needs comfort from his mommy half the time. A strong wife lives in the mess men create. If a man drinks or gambles his life away, who takes the hit: it's the wife. He beats her and uses her, and treats her like trash. Women usually stay within the storm men create. They are strong and men need that.

I know a woman who is petite and pretty. She works in a good job and is very nice. At home at night her man beats her and berates her. The next day she makes excuses at work and at the end of the work day still comes back home to the man she loves. Is that love from her man? No it's not, but she is strong within a failed man. I heard about a hockey guy who sold his truck on a sports show to a fan. His wife texted him "that's what you always do." She went on to complain "what was the value and what will happen when you do this"? he replied "she's gone already, Sold." I bet she already knew that. She lives in his reckless life.

Boys will be boys. Through the years researchers have tried to change boy's habits into girls (why). Can't boys just be boys? The violence in society has made the community an unsafe place. Maybe boys are finding ways to still be boys. The outlets of the past are disappearing.

Sports, boys clubs, and wrestling in the dirt are frowned upon. Barney the dinosaur has replaced Tonka trucks. Our society would improve if boys could be boys. Boys need to fight for the lives they live. We were born that way. Trying to change that just causes destruction all around us.

Men love adventure and destruction. They gave dolls to boys and the kids pulled the heads off. I bet that horrified the scientists. I bet if you asked a Palestinian to quite fighting the Jewish people they would have dumb looks on their faces. I bet they would say but “it’s who we are and what we have always done.” So many people in that part of the world are out of work. There’s not much else to do but fight. It may seem wrong but for the sake of a fight, it seems right in their gut. In Brave Heart Mel Gibson’s character William Wallace insults the other side negotiator on the battle field. His friend says “Why in hell did you do that?” Mel says “To pick a fight.”

In school class rooms in the old days the boys and girls were separate. Men and women learn differently. More girls are going to university than men these days. I believe it’s because men are bored with learning like girls. The education system has crushed the masculine way. As boys we need to fight for our education, fight our parents, and fight the system. It’s how we are wired. We were not meant to sit and learn all the time. I was in a scout camp where the leader only let the boys play for 15 minutes twice a day for the whole weekend. What do you think happened? He spent the whole weekend telling the boys to sit still and be quiet.

We need masculine recklessness. Men tend to jump before they look. It’s just who we are as men. There is nothing wrong with crashing headlong into projects without thinking. Yes men think, but they love to experiment without thinking. Where do you think the saying “Gee I never saw that coming” came from: men. Amazing things came from women. The amazing things that came from men were mainly by accident. We goof around and try recklessly. Men stumble into

truth and find adventure in trying to tame the untameable. Our society has survived because men carelessly walk into the future looking for new things to tear apart. That's how men learn by "hands on" revelation.

. Alanis Morisset has a song called "You Learn." In it she says: **"you grieve you learn, you choke you learn, you laugh you learn, you choose you learn, you pray you learn, you ask you learn, you live you learn."** Boys need to experience life to learn. It's not found in a book. No, it's found in falling and getting back up. In school boys are protected from falling and hence were failing as a nation. In scout groups we are asked to sit quietly and listen intently. That is not how boys grow and learn.

Did I give you a picture of masculinity? Maybe I just gave you a picture of the traditional man of years ago. Let me end with this. Where is the hero of today? Who is our superman? Who is the leader of the country? Are they described as masculine men? Are the women leaders looking feminine or masculine these days? I believe that's where we are. The rescuer, saviour, and hero is gone because we as a society never made them. Boys can't observe the masculine man today. They are for the most part missing.

The heroes of the past were built by our heroes at war and heroes at home. Today, we hate the war hero and traditional dad. Admit it we do. In school we talk about transgender. We talk about sexual orientation. We talk about programs for women and the less fortunate. Men are considered a minority, sexual preference, and many other things in our schools. We call the boys in the show Glee the successful ones.

A day will come as it always has in history. We will need a hero. What then? Will one just rise up? I hope so, but if not whose fault will it be? In this age we say that our parents changed us from who we were meant to be. We were raised too harsh or raised too soft. Kids sue

their parents for money, damages, and inheritance. We are in the age of entitlements. Where will the masculine hero be found in that generation? Will the boys (and girls) fight for their country or their identity first?

The Calgary Flames are a hockey team. For years they were the community team. As time went by they became forgotten. In 2004 these men fought their way to the Stanley Cup final and lost. The city has never fully recovered. We are hockey mad again. 10 years later a new set of men play on the team. These hockey players have yet again captured the city by their hard work. They are not winners but their effort made them winners in the eyes of the city: Hockey is alive again.

No matter whether it's been years ago or today, heroes are needed. We can say it's not true but when men rise up a community embraces it. There are forces that want to crush the male culture. They will never succeed because deep down people love the male hero. The ladies soccer team captured our hearts for Canada in the London Summer Olympics, but the men's hockey team rocked the nation from coast to coast. We are happy when women do well, and we love that, yet we go nuts when men do well. TV ratings prove that sex sells but male heroes sell better. Why is the NFL so popular: male gladiators? The more things change the more they stay the same. Whether it's in Roman times or present day we love our male heroes.

God made men and women for a reason. It's more than just a penis and vagina. Do you know that? Men will die for a good cause if they feel they have to. Women will endure a reckless man if they think it's worth it. Women will change the world for good. Do we know that men changed the world for good too? If we kill the masculine man we cut our own throats. You can tell me it's wrong but I know deep down inside you know I'm right. Being a man is important to us all and the generations to come.



Masculine is much more than boys or men. It's the nature of survival. Masculine picks a fight to keep life interesting. Masculine takes chances where the odds are against us. It does things the stupid way. It goes where no man has gone before. Masculine is reckless and dangerous. Why are most serial killers males? We have bottled up the masculine way. We have told boys it's wrong and dirty to be male. The highest group of single parents in America are women. Men are leaving their families because they cannot be male in the home anymore.

Boys are not experiencing family at home. They find it in gangs and other avenues against society. Masculine is pursued by boys. Masculine should never be controlled. The things in society we have today came from masculinity: freedom, invention, sports, and security. Masculinity wants the very best for us, but it needs to fight for it: it just does. It's very similar to the present we got at Christmas. We eagerly go down stairs and ogle over all the gifts, looking for what is ours. Finally when it's our turn we vigorously rip open the neatly wrapped gift. Whatever we find inside is ours and nobody else's. Sometimes we see that famous sign on the package "batteries not included. On Christmas morning the stores are closed and our present will have to sit without the power to make it come alive. Denying us masculinity is like denying us the batteries. It's what makes men work properly.