

Men: Chapter 5 (Masculine)

Questions for discussion

1. Isn't it true that we name things male and female?

In history we have attached male and female to things. We visually look at something and it looks like a male or female. Today we define it by its function or use. A plug plugs in and a receptacle receives a plug. There is not a male and female end. We insult people if we call something a she. The tradition of mom and dad is now called care giver. Does talking about the terms male and female mean anything?

2. What are the traits of your father?

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?

3. A man needs to fight.

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.

4. Masculine does what needs to be done without thinking.

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.

5. The masculine hero completes our community.

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.