

## **Men & Masculinity: Chapter 9 (The Making of a Man)**

### **Questions for discussion**

**1. Do you believe there are certain traits in Men and Women?**

I look at the world with eyes open. If all dogs stop at trees and posts to pee then basically they all do. If it always gets colder in the fall then year after year I expect it to get cold when October comes around. It's the same with women and men. In a 48 year study (I have witnessed) there are certain traits in men and women. In the next few paragraphs it's my observations and nothing more. They are not fact or necessarily true. It's what I have seen.

**2. Are People today defined by their social tags (black President, Gay talk show host)?**

Today the view is still a view but it's changed. Gender roles have been replaced with social tags. It's more about sexual orientation and lifestyle that defines a man these days. We are gay football players, police persons, and Native American leaders. We are no longer just the mailman. The social tag makes you something along with the role. Now anyone can be those roles and that is great, yet new tags go with it. The sexual or race tags now are added. Obama will always be known as the Black President and Ellen will always be seen as the gay talk show host.

**3. What is the view of men in our culture today?**


I'd like to believe that in the old days men were held accountable for their actions. In many ways a man was held by his word. It did not have to be written on paper and witnessed by a lawyer. Men were trusted and honored. I remember how excited we were in class when the Fireman came to visit. In many ways the man is to blame. We have ruined the good name of the man. We have cheated, raped, and killed the very people who trusted us. Our actions need to return to mean "justified by character" that we used to have. What is the understanding of what a man is in today's culture?

**4. Do men need other men?**

At the end of chapter 2 I quoted Proverbs 27:17 it says "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." I believe that to be a man we need to make choices that include other men. We do it already on teams and in gangs. Boys are free to join up with a mentor in Big Brothers. Maybe we spend time with a dad, uncle, or a friend. Either way we need men to become men. The choices we make will be forged by the men we know.

**5. Are men too soft these days?**

One magazine was asking if our men are too soft these days. Oh gee has anyone noticed. We have trained our boys to express their feminine side. Masculinity is a dirty word. We model the men we see just like my boys modeled me. A stronger Patrick would have made stronger boys and I believe that with all my heart. I have become hard because I



hated being soft. That is not a good mix. Being trained to be soft and hard is much better than letting experience harden us.