

## ***EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH –Sept. 2023***

Southview Bible Church \* 135 Bennett Ave. \* Council Bluffs, IA. 51503

Phone: (712) 322-5743 E-mail: pastor@southviewbible.org \* Web Site: www.southviewbible.org

### ***THE FEMINIZATION OF MANHOOD***

I am so thankful that my dad was a “manly man”. He didn’t have a feminine bone in his body! Such MEN are becoming harder and harder to find. So much of society has completely capitulated to a perverted vision of MANHOOD! So many people don’t even know what a good MANLY role model looks like (cf. Eph. 5). The world in its depraved rebellion obviously can’t think straight – they don’t even know the difference between what defines a man and what defines a woman. We actually have a member of the Supreme Court who is on record as not being able to define it. You can’t make this stuff up!

Ephesians 4:17-18 says the lost world walks “in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened”. The world has “mental” (mind) problems! They can’t think right! And worse yet in their blindness, they HATE those who now see! Depravity has a tendency to resist and rebel against anything and everything God has ordained (Rom. 1:18)! Even the most basic fundamentals of all that is normal and natural in life are challenged! And the basis for this is depravity which has a fundamental problem with God. The issue is one of AUTHORITY and who will be God! Will God be God or will man seek to be his own god? This is the issue!

The Bible teaches a clear DISTINCTION between men and women. They are equal in terms of value as both are made in the image of God. But there are God-ordained differences which in and of themselves are neither better nor worse – they are simply differences according to God’s created order. It was God Who created us having equal value – but differing roles. It’s all GOOD!

God ordained MALE leadership! God first created Adam and then He created Eve to be his helper (Gen. 2:18). This truth is offensive to the world. The world wants masculinity and femininity to essentially be interchangeably the “same”. A man can now decide to be a woman or vice versa. And thus, a biological man can now compete as a woman. But REALITY shows they are still different. It is hard (and sinfully stupid) to kick against the goads of God’s TRUTH!

Strong male leadership is now considered toxic. “Patriarchal” is a bad word that to the world suggests unfair treatment consistent with misogyny and prejudice against women. The world beats this drum so loud and long that society has come to view biblical manhood as a BAD thing. Strong godly male leadership in keeping with Scripture is now scorned as abusive.

Peter describes women as “the weaker vessel” (1 Pet. 3:7). This is so offensive to the world but in reality, the “softer” side of life is a beautiful thing as ordained by God. Women really need strong male leadership and godly male leadership allows them to thrive as it provides for and protects them. And men (and the whole world) need women to be women (1 Cor. 11:11).

But today the call to MAN UP is seen as a negative thing. Manly virtues are out. Men are exhorted to exchange their MANLY tone for a SOFTER nuance. Certainly, godly men are to be gracious and loving but they must not be feminized “soft”. Today the clamor is all about safe spaces, self-love, victim status, and triggers. Men are being feminized to be delicate and soft – you know just like women. A “feminized man” is more tolerable and manageable - as he should be – according to the world.

In contrast, godly men are characterized by stout-hearted courage that dares to be a MAN in the face of cultural rot that seeks to pervert God’s created order on every level. The old saying, “Boys will be boys” today is being challenged! However, godly MANHOOD lines up with what God has ordained and not with a depraved culture. Jesus is LORD of biblical MANHOOD!

***Thot:*** “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” (ESV – 1 Cor. 16:13)

***Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald***