

Entrust Biblical Masculinity Lesson 13: Masculinity & Men as Protectors 5/4/23

Introduction:

- Genesis 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- “The concern for being manly, far from being a peculiarly modern phenomena, an American obsession beget of a frontier past, or a cultural quirk that developed in a few pockets of the world, has instead been shared by nearly every culture in the world, both past and present. Societies as far-flung as Japan and Mexico, New Guinea and India, Kenya and Spain, had and continue to have a cultural conception of a “real man” – an ideal to which all males are expected to aspire.”
- Since the church is charged with making disciples through the teaching of Scripture, there is a sense in which it is the NT local church’s responsibility to teach on this issue

Foster & Tenant: “Churches should be places where effeminate men [and boys] are nurtured into godly manhood, as grace restores their masculine natures” (85).

- Guns

One survey in 2022 reported that roughly 1/3 of men own guns¹

No inherent masculinity attributed to firearms. Adam did not have a firearm in the Garden of Eden, and he was a man; masculine; and God said that His creation was very good.

But there is something interesting here: Many men do have a palate for firearms. Why?

Not because these men want to murder, cause violence, and create mayhem. While such people do exist, it is very rare, percentage-wise

There is a theological reason why many men like firearms

There is a righteous, God-glorifying reason:

¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/02/us/gun-ownership-numbers-us-cec/index.html>

Men are to cultivate and keep; to exercise dominion and subdue (Gen 1:28, 2:15).

Another reason:

Cultivating and keeping also means: Protection.

Men are to be protectors and defenders. A desire and enjoying of firearms flows out of that. It is one application of that.

➤ It is safe to say, then, that when God created the male gender, he made them protectors in a sense

➤ Protectors:

David Gilmore, *Man in the Making*: "It must show a public demonstration of positive choice, of jubilation even in pain, for it represents a moral commitment to defend the society and its core values against all odds. So manhood is the defeat of childish narcissism that is not only different from the adult role but antithetical to it."

➤ Teddy Roosevelt

1. Men as Spiritual Protectors

a. General scriptural observation

Joshua 1:7-8 "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. ⁸ This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."

1 Corinthians 16:13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

b. Spiritual protection of one's own life

➤ *Protection over one's heart*

Proverbs 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it *flow* the springs of life.

➤ *Protection over one's holiness in conduct and doctrine*

1 Timothy 4:15-16 Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. ¹⁶ Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

*According to v. 15, sanctification is the key to protection

➤ *Protection from becoming a wolf in the church*

Acts 20:28-30 Be on guard **for yourselves** and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ **and from among your own selves** men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

➤ *Protection by absorbing and treasuring much Scripture*

Psalms 119:9-11 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Your word. ¹⁰ With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments. ¹¹ Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

c. Spiritual protection of one's family

- i. Spiritual care for one's wife (prayer, leading by example, shepherding, involvement in a NT local church, etc.)

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

1 Peter 3:7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

- Concern for what she is exposed to
- Concern for what a husband involves her in
- Ensuring, as a husband, she is surrounded by godly influence
- Concern for her different/female emotional constitution (part of her God-given femininity)

- ii. Teaching children about moral dangers

Proverbs 1:8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching

Proverbs 5:20 For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress And embrace the bosom of a foreigner?

- iii. Teaching children sound doctrine

- Protects them from the myriad of harmful beliefs in the world

- iv. Teaching children how to find a NT local church

- So that they can find a spiritual greenhouse when they leave the home

- v. Teaching children how to find a spouse

d. Spiritual protection of the local church

i. Protection of doctrine

➤ *Fight for the faith*

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

“contend earnestly” - to exert intense effort on behalf of something – to struggle for (LN, 1:495).

➤ *Protect doctrinal purity*

2 Timothy 1:13–14 Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to *you*.

➤ *Masculinity involves correcting and rebuking error*

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

ii. Protection of the doctrinal and moral purity in the local church, so that we honor Christ and His word in belief and behavior

**What does this have to do with masculinity? In everything, men are to lead; are to set the pace, by God’s grace.

➤ *Protection from isolationism / “lone ranger Christianity”*

Proverbs 18:1 He who separates himself seeks *his own* desire, He quarrels against all sound wisdom.

1 Corinthians 12:15 If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

➤ *The one anothers are a protection*

Galatians 6:1-3 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

➤ *Church discipline is a protection*

Matthew 18:15-17 If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

iii. Protection from slander and factious people in the church

Romans 16:17-18 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. ¹⁸ For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

Titus 3:10-11 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, ¹¹ knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

iv. Protection from wolves

➤ *The watchman metaphor*

Ezekiel 33:7-9 Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel; so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me. ⁸ "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. ⁹ "But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from

his way and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your life.

➤ *Guard the local church from wolves*

Acts 20:28–30 “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.”

“be on guard” – to be in a continuous state of readiness to learn of any future danger, need, or error, and to respond appropriately – to pay attention to, to keep on the lookout for, to be alert for (LN, 1:332)

e. Spiritual protection at work

- Not always easy
- If a man is in a position to do so, he can provide a measure of spiritual/moral protection
 - This will look different for different jobs
 - Being in the world means he cannot totally avoid spiritual pollution
 - He is careful to guard his heart and eyes
 - He is careful to avoid rejoicing in unrighteousness (cf. 1 Cor 13:6)

2. Men as Physical Protectors

- Obvious from common grace and the natural light of God
- You will not find many nations throughout history who sent their women and children to fight the wars, rescue the village during a flood, carry the majority of the “dirty” work, or hunt and provide.

a. Physical protection of family

- Men take the lead in attempting physical protection of one's family

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

b. Physical protection in society

- Masculinity means standing up for truth and righteousness

Proverbs 24:24-25 He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous," Peoples will curse him, nations will abhor him; ²⁵ But to those who rebuke the *wicked* will be delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.

Proverbs 28:4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law strive with them.

Proverbs 31:8-9 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all the unfortunate. ⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

Matthew 14:3-4 For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. ⁴ For John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."

Ephesians 5:11-12 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; ¹² for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

- Men are to stand against lawlessness

Psalms 97:10 Hate evil, you who love the LORD

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

- Men are not to stand by idle while evil reigns

Proverbs 25:26 *Like* a trampled spring and a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.

➤ Men are to be ready to protect the village from physical evil

c. Physical protection in the local church

- Motivated by love, men intervene
- This means that men are to be **observant**.

When he enters church, for example, the man observes. He has one eye on those he's encouraging, greeting, welcoming, and listening to, and another eye on potential wolves who would be a threat to women, children, and the flock. If he sees a potentially sketchy individual, he makes it a point to introduce himself kindly, but also so that the individual knows that he sees him.

d. Physical protection at work

3. God as Our Ultimate Protector

Psalm 20:7 Some *boast* in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God.

➤ The Lord as a man's ultimate refuge

The word "refuge" occurs 41 times in the NASB translation

The word "refuge" has the idea of: go to a place where one will find safety, rest, or comfort, implying the place of refuge is a place to be trusted to keep one safe (DBL).

Psalm 7:1 O LORD my God, in You I have taken refuge; Save me from all those who pursue me, and deliver me

Psalm 17:7 Wondrously show Your lovingkindness, O Savior of those who take refuge at Your right hand From those who rise up *against them*.

Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Psalm 118:8-9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in man. ⁹ It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in princes.

Proverbs 21:31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the LORD.

1 Peter 1:5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.