

Prelude

- **2 minutes (Kevin)**

Today we celebrate the men in our lives and here in Cornerstone. We want to honour you for your strength, courage and leadership. Happy Father's Day to all of you who are Fathers. Whether you are online or in person, we appreciate you. Thank-you for all the sacrifices you make.

Today is also a difficult day for some people. Some have lost their fathers. Some have a tough relationship with their father and some aren't able to have children.

Wherever you are today, we are here for you. We make space for you.

Today's message will be a little different. Our lead pastor Andrew, young adult pastor Keegan and myself yourfriendlyneighbourhoodyouthpastor will be sharing a 3-part, 3 way conversation.

Andrew will start us off by talking about some background to masculinity.

Then all three of us will be sharing about a male Biblical character that speaks to us in this season.

Finally, as an application, we'll talk about what role you can play in terms of empowering youth, young adults and adults to become men after God's own heart.

Sound like a plan?

Before we get into it, I should mention that while we believe what we'll be talking about can and does apply to everyone, we are specifically looking for ways to challenge and encourage men as it is a celebration of men service today. So please be in prayer for the men around you today and in your lives in general.

So Andrew, **what are some cultural narratives and stereotypes of masculinities?**

Part I - Cultural Narrative/Stereotype of Masculinity

- **3 minutes (Andrew)**

From the author of the article, *How the Media Defines Masculinity*: "In most media portrayals, male characters are rewarded for **self-control and the control of others, aggression and violence, financial independence, and physical desirability** ... The 2020 report *If He Can See It, Will He Be It?* analyzed TV programs aimed at boys, finding that male characters were:

- **less likely to show emotions** than female characters ... such as empathy ... anger, or even happiness
- **more likely to be shown taking risks**
- **less likely to have onscreen parents**
- **more likely to be both perpetrators and victims of violence**

Jon Johnson writes in his article, *What to know about toxic masculinity*: "In modern society, people often use the term toxic masculinity to describe exaggerated masculine traits that many cultures have widely accepted or glorified.

This harmful concept of masculinity also places significant importance on 'manliness' based on:

- **strength**
- **lack of emotion**
- **self-sufficiency**
- **dominance**
- **sexual virility**

Overemphasis of these traits may lead to harmful imbalances in someone trying to live up to these expectations. Some examples include:

- aggression
- sexual aggression or control
- showing no emotion or suppressing emotions
- hyper-competitiveness
- needing to dominate or control others

- chauvinism and sexism

One example of this includes **telling another person who is showing emotion to “man up;”** in other words, **to hide that emotion**

Another common example is the saying, **“boys will be boys.”** This expression advocates for **careless, aggressive, or otherwise damaging behavior** in young males, rather than teaching them about **responsibility and owning up to their mistakes.”**

KEVIN - Thanks Andrew for that overview. For our next section we're each going to briefly talk about which male Biblical character speaks to us most in this season. I'll go first

Question? Which Biblical character speaks most to you in this season

Part II - Christ's Example/Biblical Examples (Personal Challenges/Story)

- **3 Mins each**
- **Kevin** - David (Integrity)
 - 1 Samuel 16:7b
 - ... The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.
 - Was anointed by Samuel as king, but then there were years in between when he was anointed and when he became king - during this time he waited and trusted God
 - Three stories that show David's integrity
 - 1 Samuel 24 - Saul delivered into David's hands
 - 1 Samuel 26 - Saul delivered again into David's hands
 - 2 Samuel 11-12 - Nathan confronts David
 - Psalm 51:4 - against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge
 - Acts 13:22
 - ... a man after my own heart
 - David is humble, trusting, loving, devoted, repentant... (from Ron Edmonson - 10 reasons David is called a man after God's own heart)
 - Psalm 25:21
 - Let integrity and uprightness protect me because my hope is in you, Lord

KEVIN - Keegan, why don't you tell us about the man from the Bible that you speaks to you now as well as why

- **Keegan** - If I had to choose one biblical character that models godly manhood, I'd probably go with **Moses; as a man of prayer who spent time in the presence of God and consequently burned with a blazing passion for God's glory.** The burning bush in Exodus 3, where His calling was kindled, became a forest fire within His soul as He continued to spend time in God's presence, and this would eventually ignite the entire nation of Israel toward holiness and obedience. I thought it would be helpful to look a passage of Scripture where we can clearly see this being demonstrated.
 - In Exodus 33, God had *just* delivered the people of Israel from 400 years of slavery to the Egyptians, and not only were they ungrateful, they grumbled, and blamed Moses for bringing them out into the wilderness to die. Even worse, when Moses came down from the mountain after receiving the stone tablets of God's law, he found the Israelites worshipping a golden calf. No matter how much God did for them, they continually turned away from Him and returned to their old, self-centered ways. I mean that kinda sounds like us right? Now put yourself in Moses' shoes; imagine being responsible for leading a group of ungrateful, stubborn, self-absorbed people. How would you respond in this situation? Moses *did* get angry and frustrated, and I'm sure he was both overwhelmed and discouraged...but whatever was going through his mind and heart during this time, let's take a look at what he did.
 - **Read Ex. 33:7-11 (ESV)**
 - “Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.”
 - Moses was a friend of God, and friends spend time with one another. When was the last time you spent quality time alone with God. How *often* do you spend time in God's presence? Moses could have gone to a number of different family

members, friends, or elders in his community, but instead of going to God as a last resort, he recognized the Lord was His most intimate and truest friend. Are you a friend of God? How much time do you spend with him? Do you spend time in God's presence as if your very life depended on it?

- In the following section, we get a glimpse into Moses' prayer closet, and see 3 prayers that model for us what it looks like to actively practice the presence of God:
 - **1) "Please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight." (Ex. 33:13)** God I want to know YOUR ways, because my ways constantly lead to disappointment and death. YOUR ways are higher than mine. Teach me YOUR ways, in order that I might know you. My greatest reward in this life is knowing you more, and my greatest desire is to please you above all others. Human praise and favor will only last so long and only take me so far, but may my life find favor in your sight Lord.
 - **2) "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here." (Ex. 33:15)** Are there things that you do, places that you go, thoughts that you entertain, that distance and draw you away from God? Moses didn't want to take another step unless he was sure that God was walking hand in hand with Him. God is physically omnipresent, but if you're living in ways that displease Him and seeking after things that dethrone Him from your heart, you are wilfully distancing yourself from God's presence. May we be men that say with Moses, "Lord, I don't want to take another step, say another word, or even take another breath if your presence will not go with me.
 - **3) "Please show me your glory." (Ex. 33:18)** Moses knew that unless He got a glimpse of God's glory, he would be the blind leading the blind. In the light of God's presence, and under the weight of God's glory, all things and every person appear in their proper place. If you truly come to know God through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, and you behold the beauty of His Glory, you will never be able to see yourself and the world the same way again. When you see God for who He is in His Word, it will transform the way you see yourself, your relationships, your work, and your mission in this world.

-That is my greatest desire and aim, to continually be a man that faithfully and passionately abides in God's presence through constant prayer and friendship with the Lord.

KEVIN - Thanks Keegan. Andrew, last but not least. Who is speaking to you right now?

- **Andrew - Jesus (Truth/Grace and His vulnerability)**
 - In Hebrew 2:17-18 (NLT) we are told that Jesus was "made in every respect like us ... so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God ... Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested."
 - In Jn. 1: 14 we learn that, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us ... full of grace and truth." (NIV)
 - In the story of Jesus raising Lazarus (Jn. 11), we read that when He arrived at the tomb and saw Mary weeping, "he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled ... Jesus wept.
 - Here the Scriptures are clear: we see the **full humanity** of Jesus and His **relational and emotional engagement** with people.

Thanks Andrew.

Finally, we'll wrap up our time here by sharing how we as a family can come together to empower youth, young adults and adults to become men after God's own heart.

Part III - Corporate Responsibility/Applications - What's our role and responsibility in empowering youth, young adults, and adults to become men after God's heart?

- 5 minutes each

- Kevin

In the book, “3 Big Questions that Change Every Teenager,” (Kara Powell/Brad M. Griffin), talk about how today’s teenagers are the most anxious, creative and diverse generation in history - which is why it’s hard for us to relate to them sometimes. The three questions they highlight as key are:

1. Who am I?
2. Where do I fit?
3. What difference can I make?

Young people struggle to find the answers to these questions on their own. So they need our help. They need adults to journey with them with empathy, to listen and to point them in the right direction.

They need adults to help them establish their identity in Jesus (part of our discipleship pathway).

They need adults to remind them that they are part of the greater story of God with God’s people.

- Know them - know their names and their stories
- Love them
 - Challenge, comfort them
- Set an example for them
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We don’t always have to provide answers, but we can help them process these questions. We can be available.

We usually ask - how can we reach them? We can also ask, how can they reach us? There’s a lot that God can teach us through teenagers.

1 Timothy 4:12, Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity

- Keegan (Steady, Aim, Fire)
 - **Steady:** The practice of silence and stillness, restless young men finding rest in Christ alone. In this world where men find their identity in their work or performance, it’s important to step back from the busyness of doing to be emotionally secure and spiritually satisfied in the love and peace of Jesus.
 - **Aim:** Gordon Macdonald, in his book *Building Below the Waterline*, has a chapter entitled “What I Want to Be When I Grow Up”; he’s probably about 70 years old when he’s writing this chapter. He says this, “If you don’t plan for the kind of man (or woman) you want to be when you are eighty (God willing) and begin building that when you are forty or fifty, it’s not likely to happen.”
 - Young men, what kind of men do you want to be in 20 or 30 years?
 - Titus 2:2, “Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.”
 - **Fire:** Hebrews 3:12-14, “Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.”
 - U.S. Army Rangers and Navy SEALs have a principle that they live and die by: “Leave no man behind”
 - Brothers, we are responsible for one another’s lives;
 - to stay accountable and watch out for one another
 - to encourage and sharpen one another in the Word and in life
 - to venture into the trenches to rescue and heal the wounded

- Andrew
 “Many men are enveloped by a masculine fog.” (Tom Wilson)
 Cf. Five Essentials To Engage Today’s Men:
Identity (a healthy understanding of masculinity),
Vocation (work-life equilibrium),
Well-Being (building strong & deep connections and supportive community), **Relationships**
 (developing healthy marriages/families; supporting singles),
Church (intergenerational ministry and service).

1. Model after Jesus

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (1 Cor. 11:1)

2. Be/look for trustworthy mentor/mentoree - practice mutual mentoring

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Tim. 2:2; cf. 59 one another passages in NT)

3. Get involved in intergenerational ministry:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 **Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.**” (Deut. 6:4-7; cf. Book of Proverbs)

Closing

Prayer + Benediction

- Keegan