

- Icebreaker Q based on last week: **Have you experienced mercy or grace this week – and have you portrayed this to anyone else?**
 - Mercy: Punishment taken away we do deserve
 - Grace: good gift given to use that we don't deserve
- I. Quick Recap Create and Cultivate Section:
- a. **God created men to be social and spiritual leaders.** Like God, men are designed **to initiate (to create)**, and then, **to follow through on what they started (to cultivate)**.
 - b. Most importantly, we learned in the last session that the type of manhood God created us to live **cannot be done with our self-effort**. Only a **real, vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ** can provide us with the fuel we need to live out Authentic Manhood.
 - i. Just as only **Jesus saves us** – He is **the only one who can change us too!**
- II. Man's 3 Areas of Responsibility:
- a. God Gave Man a **Will to Obey**
 - i. God gave us a will greater than our own to obey
 1. "Enjoy this garden, but from that tree, don't eat."
 - ii. **What are some examples of obeying God? Disobeying God?**
 - b. God Gave Man **Work to do**
 - i. Follow God's example to create (initiate) and cultivate (follow through on what you start).
 1. Work was not and is not a curse. It allows man to follow God's example. We are called to have purpose! There is no retirement in the Bible.
 - ii. **Q - What jobs has God called us men to do?**
 - c. God Gave Man a **Woman to Love**
 - i. A companion for intimacy and fellowship
 1. Genesis 2:18 "It's not good that man should be alone."
 - a. God created Eve for Adam as a companion who he could have deep intimacy and fellowship as they **followed God together**.
 - ii. **Q - Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands love your wives as Christ love the church and gave himself up for her." What does this mean?**
- III. Conventional Manhood – This is what a type of manhood that results in the man that **lives only for himself and chases his own desires with no worry of eternity**.
- a. We must have a clear definition of manhood that acts as our guide. This "benchmark" will serve as a path for other men to follow – (*The benchmark is Jesus' example, which we will go further into next week*)
 - i. ***This way ALWAYS leads to destruction for the man as well as the people in his life.***
 - ii. Matthew 7:24-27 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27

And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

IV. The 4 Characteristics of **Authentic Manhood** (Portrayed by Jesus – The benchmark):

a. Rejects Passivity

i. **Q - What does it mean to be passive?**

1. Revelation 3:15–16, “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.” Generally speaking, lukewarm Christians have one foot in the world and the other in church.

b. Accepts Responsibility

i. **Q - God calls us all to accept responsibility, what does this mean?**

1. Think about what we have covered so far

c. Leads Courageously

i. **Q – In what ways are we called to lead others?**

d. Invests Eternally

i. **Q – What is the only eternal thing on this earth?**

1. **THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTIONS SHOULD REFOCUS YOUR WHOLE PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE**

Discussion Questions:

- **Older Men: What goals did you have when you were younger, and what goals do you have now?**
- **Younger Men: what goals do you have -- where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?**
- **How does our culture define masculinity?**
- **What are you most afraid happening in your life? Why is there more of a significant fear than all the rest?**
- **If Jesus is the perfect example of Authentic Manhood, then what keeps us from striving to be more like him?**

(The point of the above questions is to get you guys to start thinking about a benchmark you should aim for in your walk with Jesus. If you don't set goals, you aren't aiming for anything, and you'll likely remain in the same position. If you have something to reach for, you may not get there, but you'll certainly be a lot closer to it than if you had never aimed for anything.)

- **Was there ever a time where you made a poor decision and did something wrong and tried to cover it up or hide it? Why do you think you tried to hide it?**
- **Have you ever been passive and allowed someone to do something you know they shouldn't do?**

(Purpose of above questions: Similar to Adam and Eve, it can be very easy to follow bad decisions or allow someone to make decisions and passively let it happen. Although we can't force other to make decisions, we think we best for them, we are responsible for ourselves and how we handle tough situations.)