

NEVER SURRENDER



THE COUNCIL ON BIBLICAL
MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD



CONTENTS

03 FROM THE PRESIDENT

04 THE NEED

05 THE VISION

06 PARTNERSHIP

08 2015 IN REVIEW

10 DATA

12 TESTIMONIALS

15 ARTICLES

13 *How 50 Shades of Grey Harms Women & Jesus Saves Them*

15 *Four American in France Show the World What it Means to be a Man*

17 *American Sniper Shows Virtuous Manhood*

19 *10 Ways to Exercise Christlike Headship*

21 *The Explosion in West, Texas and Fatherhood*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A SECULAR WORLD has always wanted one thing—just one thing—from Christ and his people: to surrender. To lay down the gospel with which we wage war. To stop preaching the message of love in grace and truth—to cease to connect the dots between our humanity and our flourishing.

All these I will give you, Satan once said, if you will fall down and worship me. So said the serpent to the second Adam in Matthew 4:9. Just fall down. Worship me. In one word, Satan was telling Jesus: surrender. Give up. Quit. Shut up. Be quiet.

And Jesus looked the devil, his old adversary, flush in the face. He didn't flinch. He didn't whimper. Jesus looked right into the devious eyes of Satan and roared at him: *Be gone.*

I want you to know that 2000 years later the world's demands have not changed. Our secular, anti-Bible, anti-design culture is looking us in the face. It is telling us to surrender our convictions on manhood, womanhood, marriage, homosexuality, transgender, and more. The list of views we hold that put us in the cultural penalty box is only growing. There is no end in sight.

I want you to know something else: CBMW is not going anywhere. By the grace of God, we will never surrender. We will never stop preaching the truth in love. We will never stop equipping the church to know and experience the wisdom of God for men and women, children and adults, families and churches. We can't stop. We know that the Scripture is not only true—it is good. It brings only goodness where it is cherished and obeyed. The gospel is a spring rain of hope, and it takes beleaguered people, families, and churches and enables them to thrive amidst a world gone gray.

So, as we look ahead, know this: CBMW will never surrender. We will not flinch. We are standing at the plow with you. Your faithful, generous giving has allowed us to raise up a banner for Christ in the contested territory of gender and sexuality. Please hear me clearly: this

“

We know that the Scripture is not only true—it is good. It brings only goodness where it is cherished and obeyed.

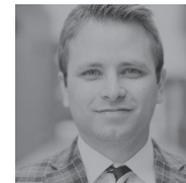
”

banner is never coming down. This territory will not be given up. There is no quit in CBMW.

No surrender. That we cannot do. But here is what we are planning on: offering witness. Equipping many more churches. Doing tons of podcasts. Speaking all over the world. Watching people seize the goodness of God's teaching on manhood and womanhood.

Thank you for partnering with us to make all this possible. We're not going anywhere, and we know you're not, either.

No surrender,



Owen Strachan
President, CBMW



THE NEED

THE GREAT NEED of the church today is to teach men how to be men and women how to be women. In almost every metric, both men and women are struggling. The crisis has manifested itself in the church as many men have no clue how to lead their families, have lost their way as providers, and do not wish to be self-sacrificial protectors. Also many women do not understand or know how to own their God-given role of taking dominion of their own households. As a result of the confusion, men are lost, women are frustrated, marriages are suffering, children are uncared for, and God is dishonored.

Furthermore, the secular culture is waging war on God's ideal for gender, marriage, and sexuality. Both the biblical family and the Christian single are under attack from the outside.

The situation is clear: there is a sexual and gender attack taking place against the Christian ideal of gender, marriage, and family and the church must be equipped on how to face the issues.

THE VISION

TO ADDRESS THIS DEBACLE, we at The Council on Biblical Manhood & Womanhood (CBMW) seek to equip the church and individual Christians with the biblical resources needed to understand everything from the biblical meaning of gender and gender roles in the family to how to think about parenting in a sex-crazed culture and witnessing to those lost in sexual confusion.

In the tradition of the great Apostle Paul, we call men to sacrificially love and serve their wives and for wives to respectfully submit to their husbands. We also call men to sacrificially take up the mantle of leadership in the church as pastors and elders. We believe that God's design for the family, counter-cultural as it is, leads to human flourishing. We also believe that those who order their God-given gender and their family according to his principles honor him. Through our obedience in living out our lives as biblical men and biblical women, we show the weightiness of the presence of God in our lives.

It is this act of showing the weightiness of God as it relates to our gender, sexuality, and marriages both in the home, church, and society that will cause a watching world to take notice. Many will see the flourishing taking place in our homes, marriages, and

churches, and they will yearn for the same type of flourishing in their own lives. This will create tremendous opportunities for the gospel to go forth, as we will have open doors to share how the Lord Jesus has changed and redirected our lives.

To accomplish this end of life-transformation we will continue to produce our academic journal (The Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood), which is pivotal in equipping pastors, scholars, and leaders in cutting-edge, biblical scholarship on important issues directly related to marriage and human sexuality. We will continue producing biblical and relevant resources on our blog and podcast, Danvers Audio. Furthermore, we will continue to equip the church as much as possible by traveling across the world to speak at churches and para-church meetings.

PARTNERSHIP

CBMW NEEDS BOTH individual partners and church/institutional partners. We ask each individual partner to pledge at least \$30 a month. We ask each church/institution to pledge at least \$500 a year. Our goal is to find at least 200 monthly individual partners and 50 churches/organizations/institutions who would be willing to partner by the end of 2016. If you are not already partnering with CBMW, would you consider becoming a CBMW Partner and also having your church, organization, or institution partner with CBMW?





2015 IN REVIEW

A year end update from CBMW
Executive Director, Grant Castleberry

WHEN THE WISE MEN saw the star in the east, they knew—probably from Daniel’s writing while he was in Babylon—that a king of the Jews would be born. For they came to Jerusalem saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?” Then they said, “For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him” (Matt:2:2).

The important point to grasp is that the wise men came not just to see a spectacle (the star must have been quite a sight), *but to worship and honor a king*. They honored and worshipped the Lord by giving him extravagant gifts, which would have only been fit for a king: gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matt 2:11).

This Christmas season, we at CBMW are striving to follow their example. We stand for the truth of Scripture, not just because it is right and good, but because *it honors the Lord Jesus Christ*. By teaching God’s perfect design for gender, marriage, and sexuality, we not only strive to obey Jesus, *we strive to honor him*.

The Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

God has been incredibly gracious to CBMW this year. We have seen our new journal editor, Dr. Jason Duesing, make incredible strides with the Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. Not only as he put the journal back into print, but he has also sought and gained submissions from numerous, respected evangelical scholars. Their important work equips scholars, pastors, and teachers with the scholarship necessary to defend the biblical view of gender, sexuality, and the family in the public sphere. Because of Dr. Duesing’s work, along with many other faithful scholars, CBMW continues to be the only organization in the world providing a base of scholarly resources for equipping the church.

CBMW podcast: Danvers Audio

Speaking of the public sphere, we also

“

We stand for the truth of Scripture, not just because it is right and good, but because it honors the Lord Jesus Christ.

”

launched the CBMW podcast this year called Danvers Audio, named for Danvers, Massachusetts, where complementarian leaders drafted CBMW’s doctrinal statement in 1987, the *Danvers Statement*. We have honestly been surprised by the success of the podcast. Most days it is downloaded over 1,000 times. The podcast features interviews

with leading complementarian scholars, pastors, and teachers on subjects ranging from marriage and parenting to engaging a culture that prizes transgenderism and harmful sexual ethics. We have had heard from numerous people how the podcast equipped them to stand lovingly and courageously for Christ in their cultural contexts.

New CBMW website and blog

This year, we also revamped the CBMW blog and completely overhauled the CBMW website. We consolidated all

of the old blog channels into one big CBMW blog under the leadership of lead editor, Greg Gibson. The move has given us an ability to be more intentional and quick-hitting. As a result, I think we have been able to encourage Christians and engage the culture with more purpose and intentionality. Certainly our aim is to faithfully speak the truth in love and we aim to continue that trajectory in 2016.

Speaking and Events

Our staff also spoke at numerous churches and events both in America and around the world. One of the major highlights of this summer was hosting panels for pastors at both the meetings of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). We hosted breakfast panels at each meeting, which were each attended by over 100 pastors, who heard biblical truth on important issues regarding gender, marriage, and the family.

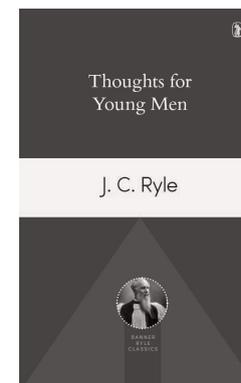
Another highlight was going to the Dominican Republic with CBMW President, Owen Strachan, CBMW International Director, Gavin Peacock, and Tim Challies to do a men's conference at Pastor Miguel Núñez's International Baptist Church in Santo

Domingo, Dominican Republic. The conference was titled "Se Hombre" (Be a man!) and was attended by over 2,000 men hungry to learn about biblical manhood. We gave talks on bravery, leadership in the home, purity, and leaving a godly legacy for generations to come. We have heard from numerous men, some of whose testimonies we are including, about the work God did in their lives through the conference.

Year End Gift to You

We have our eyes set on 2016 and are praying that God would increase our influence and impact as we seek to honor him. The National Conference we are hosting as a T4G pre-conference on April 11 and 12 will be the largest CBMW event we have ever held. We are bringing in speakers such as Alistair Begg, John Piper, Danny Akin, and Mary Kassian to speak on complementarian issues. The theme of the conference is *The Beauty of Complementarity*. Would you consider coming to be a part of this important conference?

Also, this year, I asked our friends at Banner of Truth to consider re-publishing J.C. Ryle's excellent work, *Thoughts for Young Men*. His counsel to



young men is just as timeless as when he gave it well over 100 years ago. As a response to our request Banner of Truth did republish the work, and we are excited to give this brand new book away to all of our supporters this month. The book

will be an excellent gift to any young man in your family. We would love to send you multiple copies, on request, for the young men in your life.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas holiday and again, thanks for your support of CBMW.

Sincerely,



Grant Castleberry
Executive Director,
CBMW

DATA

WHILE CBMW DOES NOT measure impact only in terms of data (see testimonials section in the pages that follow to take the measure of our ministry), we are able to make very clear how this ministry is being tapped as a major resource to God's church on gender issues.

- *1,031,000 total pageviews at cbmw.org (2014-2015)*
- *733,000 unique visitors (2014-2015)*
- *\$40,000 swell in donations in 2014: \$229,000 vs. \$188,000 in 2013*
- *1,500 attendees at 2014 T4G Pre-Conference*
- *15 cities hosting CBMW events in 2015: Calgary, AB; Ribeirao Preto, BZ; Little Rock, AR; Westminster, CO; Washington, DC; Santo Domingo, DR; London, EN; Covington, EN; Atlanta, GA; Indianapolis, IN; Louisville, KY; Kansas City, MO; Columbus, OH; Chattanooga, TN; Seattle, WA*
- *5 countries hosting CBMW events in 2015: United Kingdom, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Canada, and The United States*
- *2 Journals for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood published: the only academic journal on manhood and womanhood, and has been in circulation for over 20 years.*
- *2 denominational meetings with CBMW events: The Southern Baptist Convention and the Presbyterian Church in America with around 100 pastors at each event*

“

This ministry is a major resource to God's church on gender issues.

”



TESTIMONIALS

CBMW HAS A PROVEN track record of strengthening men and standing against the church's decline. Below we include testimonies from sources both secular and Christian (with many pastors included) that show that our ministry has had a major impact on the church.

» **Mark Smith, *Secular Faith: How Culture Has Trumped Religion in American Politics* (University of Chicago, 2015).**

"Shortly after the CBE began its work, a different group of evangelical leaders founded the Council on Biblical Manhood & Womanhood (CBMW) to, in their words, "help the church defend against the accommodation of secular feminism." The CBMW explained its mission "to set forth the teachings of the Bible about the complementary differences between men and women, created equally in the image of God, because these teachings are essential for obedience to Scripture and for the health of the family and the church." The principles at stake, the group claimed, affect everything important to Christians — worship practices, Bible translations, the authority of the Bible, the family and home, the life of the church, and the advance of the gospel." (Secular Faith, 192)

"Allies of the CBE battled defenders of the CBMW in sermons, newsletters, books, articles, journals, conferences, and denominational meetings. The mere existence of this debate demonstrates how far feminism had penetrated the worldview of evangelicals. The few voices professing a biblically based equality a century earlier won virtually no support within mainstream Protestantism. Their successors at the end of the twentieth century could at least gain a respectful hearing. **The CBMW's steadfast opposition shows that evangelicals did not universally embrace new ideas about gender equality**, but the secular culture nevertheless left a mark. That influence led the CBMW to condemn what it called the growing "accommodation" in the church to secular beliefs." (Secular Faith, 192)

» **From Twitter user Karl Hilp to CBMW President Owen Strachan:**

@HilpKarl: @ostrachan Hey Owen I don't know if you are ever going to read this but, I wanted to tell you that I was at the Dominican Republic Conference...And I wanted to tell you that God through you has spoken to me, Today I am a new Christian thanks to you and God...I thank God for you and for the gift He has given you to speak his word to other people.

» **Dave Brown, leader of Washington Area Community Men's Ministry**

Owen, yesterday you hit a home run for men from 71 different churches. Your sessions were the kind of biblical straight talk we want men to hear and then go forward in. Feedback has been very, very good.

» **Stephen Fletcher | Graduate Student, University of Western Sydney, Australia**

Thank you so much for your help and thank you to the Council for all of their work in holding the line of Biblical gender roles. It's a hard battle here Down Under, and your resources are a God-send!

» **Lloyd Douglas | Victoria, British Columbia**

I have been greatly encouraged by the ministry of CBMW over the years. It has significantly enhanced the Complementarian resources that I have learned from as well as given me the opportunity to pass on solid biblical resources to others in our area. Keep it up.

» **Stephen Cavness | Pastor, Kentucky**

Owen, I just came across an article you wrote for CBMW and was again encouraged by what you had written. I just wanted to write, as a local church pastor, to say thank you for your input and output that is helping to equip and encourage growth in discipleship and disciple making.

» **Josh Ruud | Kentucky**

Thanks for your article on *50 Shades of Grey*. Strangely and sadly, I've been reasoning with people who are defending the book as not abusive and decrying your article because "obviously he hasn't read the book" and "he clearly doesn't know what he's talking about."

» **Kurt Heath | Oregon**

Hey Owen: I appreciate your work on the homosexuality issue. I have two siblings who are practicing homosexuals. My brother was married last year and I did not go to the wedding and it's cause a huge rift in my family. I'm grateful for your thoughtfulness on what is a very painful issue for me personally.

» **Justin Powell**

Owen, I haven't had the privilege of meeting you in person, but I have appreciated your insights. This was a phenomenal article on cultural capitulation to homosexuality. Thanks for the stand your taking.

» **Kyle Williams**

Now, my wife and I live in New Jersey and I'm preparing for my major exams in a history PhD program at Rutgers University, studying American intellectual and cultural history. I bring all

of this up to say that it's really been here at Rutgers, faced in readings and in class with the theory behind much of gender history and sexuality studies (so much of which is being popularized these days) and leftist secularism in general that I've had to abandon my hip ambivalence to conservative Christianity. **I realized that I had a choice — capitulation to a cultural leftism that I know contradicts historic Christianity or a rejection of all that.** The latter choice I knew would require a lot of hard work making sense of Biblical and historically Christian answers to these pressing questions. On top of all the reading and research I've been doing for my degree, grad school has been a time for me to dig back into dogmatics texts and read good theologians and Christian ethicists, for example, or actually read someone like Al Mohler with hearty appreciation.

I didn't intend on going on about myself, but I bring my story up just to say that it's encouraging to see your public work (much of which I agree with) and part of that encouragement comes from the fact that, I would guess, you're not a great deal older than I am. It can feel like an isolating moment right now, to be in one's twenties and try to remain faithful to historic Christianity, especially in the leftist academy I work in.

» **Vicky Walker, *Christianity Today*, "Sometimes it's hard to be a (Christian) woman...", 2015**

The idea that men should be 'heads' and women should 'submit' to them is alive and well in many churches. It is called complementarian theology...Lately the stakes seem to have got higher. Recent resurgence of strongly complementarian teaching suggests society and civilisation itself are at risk if men don't rise up to God-given dominance in their personal relationships.

» **David Roach, *Baptist Press*, 2015**

"The SBC enrolls more students in its seminaries than any other denomination in America," Burk and Hamilton wrote in a 2007 article in the *Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. "Thus, the influence of the SBC's seminaries on emerging generations of ministers is worthy of note, and the SBC faculties who teach these young ministerial students affirm a complementarian doctrinal position."

...Attendance at conferences reflecting the competing views on gender also may reflect a resurgence of complementarianism. A CBM

woman told BP CBE annual conference attendance "ranges from 250-350," with a record attendance expected at the 2016 conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, Sept. 16-17.

CBMW reported an attendance of 1,500 at its first national conference in Louisville, Ky., in conjunction with the 2014 Together for the Gospel conference. In previous years, some CBMW events have drawn 500-600, with one event drawing 800-900, CBMW reported. The 2016 CBMW national conference will be held April 11-12 in conjunction with the next Together for the Gospel biennial conference."

» **Bill Farley | Pastor, Washington**

We have found the materials published by CBMW. They are a helpful reference when we are preparing sermons on Gender Issues. Also, Owen's speaking ministry has helped the pastors in Eastern Washington as well as throughout the United States.

» **Andy Naselli | Professor, Minnesota**

When my wife Jenni and I started dating in late summer 2003, one of the first things I did was lend her my marked-up copies of *Rediscovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. I asked her to read it to make sure that we were on the same page theologically. She read it very carefully, and God used it significantly in her life. (We married in July 2004, and we have a happy complementarian marriage.) I've recommended the book countless times to fellow church members and to students. So helpful.

» **Ryan Fullerton | Pastor, Kentucky**

I have lived my entire life in the aftermath of the sexual revolution. When I was born my progressive parents had me call them by their first names instead of mom and dad. By the time I was in high school I self identified as a feminist. After I dropped out of high school I gave myself to a life of sexual rebellion and promiscuity.

When I was 21 I was graciously converted to Christ. A few years after that I found myself at a Bible College where egalitarianism was quickly becoming the official position of the school. My guide during those was days came from strong biblical convictions I found in CBMW's *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. The strong exegetical foundations for Complementarism that were given to me by CBMW not only saved me from the heartbreak of this world's sexual ethics but it also disciplined me in the truth that set me free.

Now, about twenty years later, I continue to embrace the teachings I have received through CBMW and I have passed those truths on to my wife, my four kids, the Church I Pastor, and to many other Churches who have asked for teaching on this vital aspect of God's revelation. I love the ministry of CBMW and Owen Strachan and I believe it is needed more today than when I first encountered it twenty years ago.

» **Eric Bancroft | Pastor, Indiana**

As a pastor, I could not be more thankful for *The Council of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. It has served our people like a navigational ping in a dark cave of confusion on sexuality and gender distinctions. From providing an on-site weekend conference for us, to publishing trusted works that are passed out to our people to digest faster than candy on Halloween, we have greatly benefited as a church from this important ministry. The men and women of our church now have greater clarity on their calling as God has created them and compassion as they seek to reach their neighbor for the honor of Christ.

» **Jason Dees | Pastor, Alabama**

CBMW has been a faithful friend to my church and has been a great resource for my personal study for preaching and pastoring for many years. But as our ministry to high school and college students has grown over the past two years, our need for and use of the resources that CBMW provides has growth exponentially. I am truly blown away by the ubiquitous sexual and gender confusion on our high school and college campuses. Particularly useful has been the CBMW blog and our college pastor, student pastor, and myself access it regularly for pastoral resources. Furthermore, we often refer parents and other church members to the blog as a helpful resource. CBMW has always a needed and faithful partner for the church, but that need is only growing and I pray that they will continue to be able to faithfully deliver.

» **Jonathan Leeman | Pastor, Washington, D.C.**

Over the last decade, CBMW's books and articles have provided the standard "go-to" resources on complementarianism for our church's elders, Sunday School teachers, and inquiring members. It's material has been invaluable and (like a dictionary) definitional for how we approach the topic of biblical manhood and womanhood.

» **Miguel Nunez | Pastor, Dominican Republic**

We recently had the opportunity to host a Men's Conference in



Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic with the participation of Owen Strachan, Grant Castleberry and Kevin Peacock. What a rare and rich mixture of calls, gifts, talents and experience these men brought to us and for that matter, to Latin America. The event was livestream to thousands of people across the Spanish-speaking world. The ministry of CBMW is vital in our region at a moment when God is breaking through, after hundreds of years of hearing a distorted gospel. I believe we are seeing the light of the early dawn. Because the worldview of Latin America is so “machista” on one hand, and so patriarchal in other ways, I believe, among others, that it is imperative that we join arms with a ministry like CBMW, to bring the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to bear in the reshaping of the family.

» **Clint Humfrey | Pastor, Canada**

In January 2015, a significant event took place in Canada. CBMW, in partnership with my church (Calvary Grace) held **the first ever conference in Canada** explicitly promoting biblical complementarity. The conference theme was, “The Goodness of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.” Owen Strachan, President of CBMW was our keynote speaker. Other speakers included Gavin Peacock, Associate Pastor at Calvary Grace and CBMW Director of International Outreach, as well as, Jodi Ware, Owen’s mother-in-law and a teacher at SBTS Seminary Wives Institute. Many leaders from across the Evangelical spectrum were in attendance. As Canadian Evangelical denominations are in turmoil over questions of gender, thankfully CBMW offers counsel and clarity for Christians living north of the 49th parallel too.

» **Kevin McKay | Pastor, Rhode Island**

We had Dr. Strachan come speak to our church and surrounding churches for a two-night event on how the gospel relates to gender. Our relationships with other churches were also strengthened and clarified. Many pastoral conversations were spurred on with members who initially were struggling with gender issues, but today are more grounded in what it means to be a man or woman in Christ. And I believe that more ministry is still to be done today as a result of this one event.

Also, our church is located within walking distance to three universities. It’s the material from CBMW that has been some of the most useful for creating a hunger for more Bible study and spiritual growth among college students, because this material is giving them answers to the most controversial and confusing questions

they face on a daily basis. CBMW is helping us as pastors and members understand what the Bible teaches on these issues and live out what we believe. I thank God for the ministry of CBMW.

» **Mez McConnell | Pastor, Scotland**

We have found the resources the CBMW website provides so helpful for the leadership at Niddrie Community Church. It has helped clarify our theological position as leaders and has given us helpful guidelines in establishing the roles and parameters for the extensive women’s ministry of 20Schemes in Scotland.

» **Andrew Walker | Tennessee**

CBMW is an oasis of sanity. While I personally benefit from the network of complementation scholarship that CBMW helps convene, my wife regularly looks at CBMW as a go-to resource for parenting our daughters in today’s culture. The resources of CBMW are vital; as they help parents train and teach these biblical truths with great joy and great deliberation.

» **Mark Coppenger | Pastor, Tennessee**

I want say a word of gratitude for the encouragement I get from CBMW’s rosters — the board, the council, the staff, the writers, the program speakers. It’s such a blessing to see this band of brothers and sisters standing with complementarians in a day when our addled culture is pushing hard against biblical wisdom, and indeed biblical authority, on these matters, both outside and inside the church.

» **Gavin Peacock | Pastor, Canada (speaks for CBMW)**

We have been using CBMW’s resources and teaching biblical complementarity at Calvary Grace for several years now.

1. Marriages are flourishing as husbands lead and love their wives and wives submit gladly and intelligently to support that headship.
2. Singles are grasping God’s vision for sexuality and pursuing purity and holiness in devotion to Christ, even as they desire and look for a husband or wife.
3. Men and women are now able to teach others and so a culture of male and female mentoring is developing in the body as complementarian teaching is embraced, exemplified and passed on.

TESTIMONIES FROM SÉ HOMBRE A RECENT CONFERENCE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON MANHOOD

» **Sada Diaz**

For me, I wept with excitement when I watched and listened via internet. I praised and thanked the Lord for the movement of the Spirit, as I watched all of those men singing acapella. Thanks be to God for this conference. Thank you, Lord, that your spirit reigned greatly in the lives of not only those who were there, but those of us who watched via internet. Despite being a woman, I watched the entire event, not missing a second. To your name, Lord, be the glory. Thank you for your blessings, faithful God and giver of abundant providence. Amen! Amen!

» **Jose Barrios**

We men need to urgently return to perform the work that the Lord has given us. Families are declining because we have abandoned the design of God, and we as men are responsible for this. May God help us to carry out our roles with conviction and love.

» **Karil Taveras**

Unfortunately, Biblical manhood is not the basic teaching in many Dominican homes. Little boys are conditioned upon being questioned, “And tell me, champ, how many girlfriends do you have now?” This ‘champ’ when he grows up will see adultery as an easy exit to whatever difficulty he may experience in his marriage. That’s the way it is: the emotional slope of their spouses, the destruction of the family, children emotionally damaged, without mentioning the most important thing, an eternity without Christ if one does not repent. Praise the Lord for these 2,000 men who received sound, Biblical teaching today. Let us pray for them.

» **Christian Josue Martinez Garcia**

Thank you for such graceful rebuke, exhortation, and motivation to seek God more for my wife and my family. Blessings to you.

» **Alexander Rosario**

One of the things that I was able to learn is that God placed us in this world to be strong and to be men. We should behave in such away. I am from San Pedro de Macoris, the Christian Church of San Pedro de Macoris. Thanks.

» **Gregory Cruz Ortega**

I can say that I was truly confronted, on so many things. I was beaten up by the Word of God. I don't hate those men from CBMW who confronted me; rather I am very thankful. I am very thankful to God for having allowed me to listen to them and for illuminating my mind to understand them. I will be praying for these men and the ministry, for Miguel Núñez and his team who hold these God-honoring events. The Lord has a great crown awaiting these men. God bless them.

» **Shanajan Gd**

May God bless Miguel Núñez and the other brothers who participated for this very edifying conference. Amen. The conference has been a tremendous blessing, from each pastor, to the questions and answers, and the interviews. I listened to the conference via internet, and I have learned so much about educating my son, and even about my role as a woman and wife. I am from Villahermosa, Mexico. Thank you, Lord for your servants. Bless them. I will be sharing the conference materials with my husband and son.

» **Viky Waldo**

It's a tremendous thing when men truly know that they are the image of Christ in everything. These conferences are truly the model of God's glory in the entire universe. Praise the Lord for this conference.

» **Rafael Quinle**

I tuned in to the conference from Nicaragua. I'm thanking the Lord for the technology available that allows us to be instructed in such a way, although we are far from the conference site.

» **Mishael Ramírez**

Thank you so much for this conference. It has confronted me and helped tremendously to realized that everything I do should be done for the glory and honor of God. Everything should be always based upon His faithful Word. I congratulate you for a job well-done. May God continue to use you and bless you.

» **Edward Capellan**

God spoke to me in a mighty way, confronting my life with His Word, in such a way that I've had to redirect many aspects of my life, as husband and leader of my home, my church. I was failing in various aspects of what God says masculinity is. Praise the Lord for this conference!

» **Pedro Antonio**

This conference has redirected my life and been a huge blessing as I was confronted. I am now on the right path. I followed the conference from Mexico City. God bless you.

» **Patricio San Martín
(Director of Ethnic Ministries for the
Dominican Baptist Convention)**

I greet you with affection and gratitude for you demonstration of affection, attention, love, concern, and service for each one of us who attended Conferencia Sé Hombre. The Haitian pastors that came from Pedernales, Oviedo, Monte Cristi, Puerto Plata, Baní, Boca Chica, and Santo Domingo left the conference filled with joy. They felt loved and well-treated. It was a time of much inspiration and challenging for our lives. Thank You.

» **Aldo Miglia**

This past September, I was able to travel from Argentina to Santo Domingo to a conference entitled "Sé Hombre". I was expecting to hear things such as "The 10 Commandments for the Man of GOD", but it wasn't like that, at all; rather it was completely the opposite of that. I was confronted with the Word about what is "A Man for God" from the vision of God himself. It was an extraordinary personal checkup, and I believe, even today, that it was the same for all who attended.

From the beginning of the first presentation until the final presentation, including the moments of praise to our Lord in music, they were fashioning in me, with indescribable precision, the model of the man that God designed even before the foundation of the world. I can say that the Conference left no loose ends, and each presentation caused me to think of situations in my life that need to be reviewed and healed. Sé Hombre marked a confirmation that God truly had initiated in my life starting in February of this year, that He was going to do something powerful in my life. Now in freedom with Christ who has freed me, I can develop the potential that has given to me by Him, so that He receives all the glory, something that I surrender to his sovereignty on a daily basis. Today, I am so thankful to God for allowing me to know, share with, and learn from other brothers beyond the borders of my own country.

» **Jehiel Ortiz**

One of the things about the Sé Hombre event that blessed me the most, was to identify which elements and which principles in my life were cultural/societal and which principles were Biblical.

Oftentimes, we allow the culture to shape our thoughts, even those thoughts that have to do with our faith; and as a Christian, my life should be molded by a Biblical frame of mind.

Grant Castleberry's testimony about his father was also a moment of reflection for me. I understood that being a Christian and going against the current is expressed in public and private actions, and they have repercussions in my family and children.

In general, after this event, I have the challenge of being the man that God says I should be, the man my wife needs me to be, and be the man my children should have as a father. I am to be a man who, in light of the Word, lives for God, delighting in Him and finding in Him the true reason for living.

ARTICLE *How 50 Shades of Grey Harms Women & Jesus Saves Them*
AUTHOR CBMW President Owen Strachan
HOST SITE Patheos.com
ADDRESS www.patheos.com/blogs/thoughtlife/2015/02/how-50-shades-of-grey-harms-women-jesus-saves-them
SHARES **6k social media shares**

I JUST WATCHED the Super Bowl. During a commercial break, I was horrified by the trailer for the film *50 Shades of Grey*, which comes out soon. Seeing the trailer prompted a few thoughts.

We commonly hear today, from a secular culture and also from many voices of progressive Christianity (so-called), that the Bible is oppressive to women. Men are called to be heads of their home, goes the line, and women are called to submit, and that makes the Bible hugely problematic. Let me make four quick points here to guide a possible response to this common objection specifically and to *50 Shades of Grey* in particular.

1. This is a sham accusation, of course. Men are called to be heads, but in the image of Christ. They're called to lay their lives down for their wives (see Eph. 5:22-33). The Bible never enfranchises men treating women anything less than purely and lovingly (1 Pet. 3:7). The man a godly woman submits to is not some goofball with a title he didn't earn. To the fullest possible extent, with every fiber of his being, he's supposed to love his wife like Jesus loves his bride. Nothing less than

perfection is the standard for masculine conduct and manly headship. High stakes, these.

Not so with secular culture. There is no extant moral code for men and women. Christianity is outmoded, bygone, and repressive. In its place, the postmodern West has adopted...well...not much of any

Don't view this film as just a film. It is representative of the new sexual progressivism and its amoral worldview.

ethical standard, really. Into the vacuum come cultural fodder like *50 Shades of Grey*, based on the best-selling book. In this film and book, a playboy named Christian Grey enters into a relationship with Anastasia Steele. Grey sexually uses and abuses Anastasia, who finds herself drawn to the man despite his roughness.

In the Bible, an abusive male sexual predator is an abomination. In secular culture, an abusive male sexual predator is a celebrity. The difference could not be more stark.

2. Christianity disciplines abusive men. As I just wrote in a "Three Views" piece for the January 2015 edition of *Christianity Today*, a man who sexually uses and abuses women will be excommunicated from the church, reported to the police, and opposed with the full

force of biblical righteousness. Not so with the culture that promotes *50 Shades of Grey*. A man who sexually uses and abuses women is cool, mysterious, and compelling.

Let me speak as strongly as I should here: *50 Shades of Grey* is disgusting, despicable, and unerringly awful for women. Don't view this film as just a film. Know that it is much more. It is representative of the new sexual progressivism and its amoral worldview. *50 Shades of Grey* speaks to where things are headed in our culture. We should not expect that postmodernism will protect women. It will do no such thing. We should not expect that it will ennoble men and call them to self-sacrificial responsibility. It will do no such thing. We should not expect that postmodernism will bless children and strengthen the family. It will do no such thing.

Those who work against biblical manhood and womanhood, who fight the Scripture's teaching as marginalizing, are in fact undermining the last cultural defense that still stands against male predation and sexual suffering.

3. *50 Shades of Grey* may seem exciting, enticing, and alluring. It is in truth nihilistic, degrading, and devastating. Any woman who has been

sexually abused will be very clear that there is nothing romantic, fun, and satisfying in the experience. It's unthinkable — but true — that this is the vision of the good life being offered to — and received by — many, many women today. Abuse of women is evil to the very core of what evil represents. Yet our double-minded culture sometimes decries “rape culture” and then — in a spasm of confusion — sometimes turns around and extols what it just condemned.

Think about how confusing sexual mores are today for young men and women. There is effectively no standard of sexual conduct on many secular college campuses, for example, outside of mutual consent. But media like *50 Shades of Grey* shout at young men to sexually abuse women, and exhort young women to engage in harmful sexual practices. Honestly, what kind of twisted, deviant culture is this?

The church must be clear against the backdrop of such confusion. No system of thought more dignifies women than biblical Christianity. Our culture, and our world, desperately needs it. But in a world turned upside down by the fall, many people — including professing Christians — make gospel faith out to be the problem. They try to present biblical complementarianism as evil. This is a lie. We must not believe it.

There is evil in every human heart; no church is perfect. Abuse can and does happen even in Christian homes and churches, but we must remember that when it does, no gospel-loving church celebrates it. No movie is made to sell it. Such sin is condemned and opposed and reported to authorities and then dealt with in the household of God. No, it is not the Scripture that harms women

and subjugates them. It is a sexualized culture that has loosed men from their role as Christlike heads, and encouraged them to gratify their lusts with women without recourse.

4. There is one, and exactly, one source of hope for man-woman relationships today. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ. This gospel, the message of Christ crucified and raised for sinners like us, takes predatory men and fallen women and turns them into trophies of grace. This is not a limited redemption. The worst of the worst can be saved. The abusive, the predatory, the abused, the hopeless — all alike find everlasting salvation in the cross of Jesus as they turn from this world and run into the strong and safe arms of Christ.

Remember these words when *50 Shades of Grey* is lauded in coming days. You're not witnessing something beautiful and hopeful. You're seeing something diabolical and twisted, a force so strong that only one man can undo it: Jesus Christ, the self-sacrificing savior of his wandering, unfaithful bride, the church.

ARTICLE
AUTHOR
HOST SITE
ADDRESS
SHARES

Four Americans in France Show the World What it Means to be a Man

CBMW President Owen Strachan

Stream.org

stream.org/four-americans-france-show-world-what-means-be-a-man

3.5k social media shares

THE JAW OF THE WORLD dropped this past week when news broke of a thwarted shooting on a French train. Childhood friends Spencer Stone, Alek Skarlatos and Anthony Sadler were vacationing in France and taking the train into Paris. Not far from the city, Skarlatos awoke to see a man holding an AK-47. He yelled at Stone, "Let's go, go!" Stone immediately jumped up, raced down the aisle, and smashed into the gunman. He held onto the shooter as the two engaged in a ferocious struggle, bullets ricocheting as they danced in the walkway.

The gunman slashed him with a box-cutter, inflicting awful wounds on his neck and nearly severing his thumb. Stone absorbed the blows until Skarlatos knocked a Luger pistol out of the gunman's hand and picked up his AK. Skarlatos, like Stone a trained soldier, repeatedly smashed the gunman in the head. Passengers Chris Norman, a British entrepreneur, and Sadler joined in to subdue the shooter.

The heroism does not stop there. Stone, bleeding profusely, made his way to a passenger struck by a bullet and plugged his wound with his hands. The action helped save the man's life. We now know the passenger was *another* American, musician and teacher Mark



PHILIPPE HUGUEN/AFP/Getty Images

Moogalian, who had first snatched the AK-47 from the shooter, only to be shot with the terrorist's handgun.

Soon the train stopped and authorities swarmed the scene.

An American musician teaching in France and three young American friends on vacation, working with an Englishman had acted almost instanta-

neously. As a result, they saved the lives of dozens, perhaps hundreds, of riders.

The episode sounds a bit like something out of the Jason Bourne series, but it is true, heroically true. The *New York Times* recorded Norman's perspective on entering the fray: "My thought was, 'I'm probably going to die anyway, so let's go.' Once you start moving, you're not afraid

anymore.” Instinctual self-sacrifice saved the day. You could call that strange species of behavior, “virtuous manhood,” or if you really wanted to push the envelope, “manhood.”

Of course, women can and have demonstrated extraordinary physical courage. But that’s not the truth our politically correct culture is in danger of losing. In a feminist age, we have grown used to hearing that men are babies, idiots, goofballs. Young men in particular have memorized the anthem of low expectations set to the drumbeat of failure. In a 2.0 economy, they can’t find work. In a feelings-driven society, they contribute only fart jokes. In a climate hostile to traditional gender roles, they have no script.

In sum, men are not necessary anymore, as elite journalist Hanna Rosin has said. Better for them to accept their global demotion and to lose themselves in a beer-fueled haze, binge-watching John Wayne movies in a last pathetic bid to hang onto something “manly.” In 2015, the archetype of the American man is Uncle Rico from *Napoleon Dynamite*, living in a camper and recounting the glory days of high school football.

Except he is not. Look at the three young men we know the most about: Stone, Skarlatos and Sadler. Instead of thinking only about their own security, they acted to help others. In a flash, out of the fog of a much-needed nap on a train, they woke up and ran down the aisle toward a killer with a gun.

This, ladies and gentlemen of the

gender-neutral age, is what men, true men, virtuous men, say in times of great peril: “I’m probably going to die anyway, so let’s go.”

This, friends and countrymen of the transgender-obsessed body politic, is what men — again, *actual men* — say when they realize they face the real prospect of death: “Once you start moving, you’re not afraid anymore.”

This, boys and girls who are currently learning that manhood is a fiction and boyhood is a disease, is what men talk like in extreme danger: “Let’s go, go!”

You see, traditional manhood fears death, but it fears something even worse: being a coward. For a man, the only thing worse than a bullet in the kidney, or a box-cutter across the throat, is the failure to act. To act self-sacrificially on behalf of women and children is the epitome of virtuous manhood. It reflects, in fact, the apex of Christian doctrine: a Savior-husband giving his life to save a bride, the church.

Teach a boy that he is an idiot, that he can only ever ascend to Fantasy Football champion, that he cannot ever measure up to his sisters, that he is at base an animal, and watch in wonder as he fulfills all your worst predictions.

But teach him that he has immense dignity and worth, that he was made — whatever his chest size, whatever his height — to spend himself for the good of others, and you will form the kind of young men who do not cower when a terrorist stands up, sweating and fevered, to fulfill Allah’s will by mowing down innocents. This kind of young man wakes

up from his nap, sees bloodshed on the horizon, and moves with a swiftness he has trained for to sacrifice himself for others. He may die, he knows. But he will die with honor.

Once you start moving as a man, when you rise to the call of self-sacrificial manhood, turns out something true and indelible comes into focus: you’re not afraid anymore.

You could call that strange species of behavior, “virtuous manhood,” or if you really wanted to push the envelope, “manhood.”

ARTICLE **American Sniper Shows Virtuous Manhood**
AUTHOR CBMW President Owen Strachan
HOST SITE Patheos.com
ADDRESS www.patheos.com/blogs/thoughtlife/2015/01/american-sniper-shows-virtuous-manhood-in-action
SHARES **Over 700 social media shares**

THE MOVIE *AMERICAN SNIPER* is not only January's most successful movie ever (over \$105 million during MLK weekend). It's a cultural battleground.

Some have decried it, saying that it depicts killing in righteous terms, which is categorically wrong. This is no small matter; *The New Republic* opposed it, and the critic hadn't even seen the movie. For others, such as combat veteran David French (writing for *National Review*), the movie deserves acclaim for its celebration of heroism. Clearly, this is a film that has struck a chord.

Here's what stood out to me about *American Sniper*: it gives America back its traditional vocabulary for manhood. Manhood has historically been an enterprise in ambition on behalf of others. Men have been trained for centuries to lead, protect, and provide for their families. A part of this training is the duty to oppose evil, and if necessary, to oppose it with deadly force. Manhood and martial virtue are very closely connected in historical terms.

We are in an age that does not want to believe in manhood, at least the traditional kind. Men are not supposed to be strong today. They are not supposed to lead their families. They are not supposed to take ownership of provision for their household. They are not supposed to be fearless.

Modern men have had their innate manhood bred out of them.

As a result, many men today don't want to sacrifice for others. They want to be nice, and liked by everyone, and to win the approval of their peers. They have learned to channel their aggression into the default modern mode of critical engagement: passive-aggressiveness, in which you hide your true feelings behind a veneer and attack with subtlety and deception, not forthrightness. They have been indoctrinated to believe that there is no right and wrong, and that the sense of honor that bubbles up within them—a desire to stand for what is good and true—is silly, embarrassingly earnest, and outmoded.

We want to be snark artists today. We don't want to be cowboys.

Against this backdrop, *American Sniper* is a rather shocking entrée. It presents a simple man who lives by a black-and-white moral code. He is traditional. This is not existential manhood; this is non-existential manhood. Kyle does what he thinks he should do, and does not second-guess himself. He believes that he should use his God-given strength and ability to defend the weak and defeat the wicked. He believes, in fact, that there are wicked people in the world. He is not afraid to say so. He is not afraid to act on this conviction.

Clint Eastwood's movie is not a celebration of death. There is nothing Rambo-like about what Chris Kyle does in the movie (based on his best-selling book, which I read two years ago in a flurry of discovery). He is a killing machine, and he is fearsome to behold, as are his fellow SEALs. But while Eastwood clearly believes that these men are courageous and doing valuable work, he does not glamorize war. War is brutal. It exacts a terrible price. There is no way to pass through it unscathed.

What Chris Kyle does, however, is right. It is virtuous. It involves manhood. More than this, it is a display of manhood. There are many people in America who love seeing manly virtue in action. Hollywood doesn't make many films or TV series for them (for us); it very mistakenly (and to its own box-office detriment!) thinks that we're all postmodern now, when we assuredly are not. Postmodernism is a pleasing fiction. It pretends that there is not right and wrong in the world, that men and women are the same, that it is better to live in an amoral gray zone than in a world that depends upon truth and goodness.

All of which collapses when there are terrorists who would, out of a fund of inexhaustible cowardice, kill the innocent for no good reason. *American Sniper's* most

harrowing scene comes when a vengeful Islamic warlord named “The Butcher” drills a hole in a little boy’s head. It’s one of the most horrific things I’ve ever seen. But this is realistic. Terrorists blow people up. They maim and torture and butcher the innocent.

There are few men left who will give up their freedom to stop them. But Chris Kyle was one of them, and I was moved to a profound degree by his heroism.

Kyle was no wilting flower. He was not a perfect man. He knew this. He was rough around the edges, he sometimes shot off his mouth, and he had a tough time with rules. In other words, he was a classically aggressive man. Our culture wants to anesthetize such men, to stick a tranquilizer in them and dose them up on medication to tame their natural aggression.

This is not what the church advocates, however. The church gives men a vocabulary for their aggression, their innate manliness. It funnels their God-given testosterone in the direction of Christ-like self-sacrifice for the good of others (Eph. 5; 1 Tim. 3). It does not seek to tame men, or ask them to become half-men (or half-women). It asks them to channel all their energy and aggression and skill into the greatest cause of all: serving the kingdom of the crucified and risen Christ.

This men may do as single men, free to serve God with abandon like the apostle Paul. This they may do as married men who win a woman’s heart, raise children, lead their family members to know the Lord and serve the church, work hard to provide, and give their strength and energy to protect and bless their household. Modern men have been told by the New Sexualism to disdain this leadership project, and instead to gratify their lusts alone. As a result,

modern men have taken a nose-dive.

The remarkable thing about enfranchising men as leaders is this: it’s exciting to women. Women are hard-wired to want men to be virtuous, not selfish. Modern women have been taught to oppose, compete with, and disdain men. But many of them crave the exercise of virtuous manhood on their behalf. The most interesting sociological nugget I picked up from my viewing of *American Sniper* was this: the presence of numerous young women in the movie theater.

For many women, a virtuous man is inspiring, even thrilling. This was true for Taya Kyle, who is a woman of faith and courage. Whether a man is a war hero, an electrician, a professor of literature, a pastor, or a Home Depot staffer, if he is honorable and self-sacrificial, women will appreciate him. You need not bench press 350, as too many young men think, to impress a young woman. You might be short or you might be tall, but if you love truth, stand for what is right, and sacrifice your time and energy to strengthen others, you can be a hero to someone.

That’s what I think the women—and the men—who have turned out in droves to *American Sniper* want. They are desperate to believe in men. They want to see virtue in action. They want to believe that men can be something greater than snarky, self-protecting, self-interested, fearful boy-men who refuse to grow up. They want to be reminded that men do exist who will take on terrible risks and terrific responsibilities, who will put such burdens on their shoulders, and carry them all the way until the work is done, and evil lies cold in the dust.

That, after all, is what is so thrilling about Christianity. The faith at its apex bears witness to a man. He was fearless. He was

brave. We don’t know how big his shoulders were, or how handsome he was, or how fast he could run. We do know that he laughed in the face of evil, and gave no quarter to his opponents, and did not apologize for claiming that he was the way, the truth, and the life. Even as death took him down, he struck a climactic blow against the kingdom of darkness. He crushed it. He ended the reign of Satan, and began the true reign of the Son of God. Jesus was not a pacifist. He was a conqueror, and he will return to judge the quick and the dead.

When we see a hero, an imperfect man, like Chris Kyle taken from us, we are seeing a very, very small picture of the ultimate hero. It’s like a flash of sunlight that passes through a room in an instant. For now, good and godly men—and I believe that Chris Kyle was a Christian, based on his clear testimony—must suffer violence. They must die.

The end of *American Sniper* is the most poleaxing conclusion to any film I’ve ever seen. The fact that I knew that Kyle was going to die the whole way through the movie was almost unbearable, and then Eastwood closes the film with a single trumpet playing against a backdrop of images from Kyle’s funeral. I was moved to tears. Writing this, I am still moved to tears. This movie left a mark on me, as it did for so many others.

The terrible truth about even virtuous manhood is that it must pass away in this life. Death still rules. But there’s something yet to come: our hero will return. Unlike every other man, he came back to life. On the last day, he will come, and we will meet him in the air. Then, all of our expectations will be fulfilled. All of our hopes will be met. The true man, who redeemed us, will lead us into a world where heroes do not die, but live forever with their God.

ARTICLE **10 Ways to Exercise Christlike Headship**
AUTHOR CBMW President Owen Strachan
HOST SITE Cbmw.org
ADDRESS cbmw.org/topics/leadership-2/10-christlike-headship
SHARES **Over 10,000 views**

FEW WORDS ARE MORE invested with meaning than the term “headship.” It’s a Christological and theological term that is grounded in Ephesians 5:23, which reads “For the husband is the head [Greek *kephale*] of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.” This is the preeminent statement in all of Scripture on what a husband is and is to be.

This means that the husband, in John Piper’s seminal words, is the one who takes “primary responsibility for Christlike servant leadership, protection, and provision in the home” (*Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood*, 84). There is so much to unpack here, and it can be confusing for modern men to understand, especially since a secularizing culture dislikes, even detests, the concept. Because that is the case, let me suggest ten ways by which godly husbands can practice Christlike headship in their home.

10. Christlike male headship means that you see the spiritual nourishment of your wife as your primary duty (Eph. 5:28-30). This doesn’t happen by accident; it happens as, on a regular basis, you open the Bible with her, pray with her, and talk about God with her. You don’t need to be a global theologian to read the Bible and pray the Bible, right?

9. Christlike male headship means that you love just one wife. Like Jesus, who loved only his bride, you have eyes for no one else. You save up your affection for her. You live on a continual mission to treasure her and to make her feel treasured.

8. Christlike male headship means that you train yourself to know the Lord in a vibrant way. You recognize that your family will only flourish under your leadership when you are flourishing in Christ. This means being in the Word regularly and praying regularly and being a faithful church member. You don’t have to be a spiritual all-star, future biographers poring over your Moleskins for clues into your thinking. You do need to be faithful to your Savior by the Spirit’s awesome power (Romans 6, 8).

7. Christlike male headship means on date night/vacations, you think first, “What would she like to do?” not, “What would I like to do?” If you’re on vacation or a date, you’re first trying to find activities she would enjoy. With apologies to 1990s-era bracelets, I try to ask myself, WWBL—what would Bethany like? For

you, this may mean that you forgo a war museum, a basketball or baseball game, or a superhero movie. Then, not only do you find something she would like to do, but you enter into it fully. You’re present with her. She will love you for it.

6. Christlike male headship means that at dinner, after a long day at work, you hold the baby so your wife, frazzled from kids and home, can eat first. Your food is getting cold; your stomach is growling. You are hungry, and man-nishly so. But you hold your child so that the woman who sacrificially gives 100% of her energy each day to care for your children can, at the very least, eat a hot meal. You can’t make childraising easy; it’s always challenging. You can, however, make it more pleasurable.

5. Christlike male headship means, when conflict happens (as it will), you lead in apologizing. First, before you speak, you listen well, inviting your wife to share what hurt her. You don’t interrupt her or fight her off.

As you think about what you’ve done, you confess your sin to her. You don’t offer excuses; you display humility by owning

Your family will only flourish under your leadership when you are flourishing in Christ.

your faults like a man. You lead in showing humility; you don't expect her to show it first.

4. Christlike male headship means that you show strength wherever you can. You're not a sphinx; you're not a superman. You can and should show genuine emotion, and you should make clear to your son(s) that men get sad, men get angry at evil, men are tender and gentle with women. But like David charged Solomon, you're engaged in a lifelong process of "showing yourself a man" and thus being strong for others (1 Kings 2:2). When hardship hits, headship persists.

3. Christlike male headship means that you put yourself in harm's way, gladly taking a hit to protect your family (and the weak). Christ "gave himself up" for the church (Eph. 5:25). You do the same for loved ones and, by extension, those in your neighborhood without protection. You do so willingly, without fear, knowing that this is your divine call as a man. You may not be a fearsome linebacker; your shoulders may not ripple with muscle. But as a God-ordained head, whether 6'6" or 4'10" you put yourself in the line of fire, and you take others out of it.

2. Christlike male headship means that like the best leaders—generals, presidents, coaches, and so on—you solicit gobs of wisdom from wise counselors (namely, your wife). You generously and gladly solicit your wife's wisdom. If your relationship is like mine, she will put you to shame in

this category. She will have good idea after good idea. None of this threatens you or upsets you. The strongest men are not those who never listen. The strongest men are those who are so confident in Christ that they crave wisdom, celebrate humility, and are glad, not threatened, when others contribute.

1. In these and 1,000 other ways, Christlike male headship means you die to yourself daily. This is your constant thought throughout the day: how can I be like Jesus and die to myself for the good of my wife and my family? He "gave himself up" for others. In the power of his cross and resurrection, I am going to do the same, come what may.

Conclusion

You may never have witnessed this kind of leadership. It might only be theoretical. Men in your past might have abused their authority and strength, and doubly damned themselves by justifying their abuses as part of manhood and leadership. If this is your experience, I invite you to consider the cross, which makes all things new. Christian leadership doesn't mean everyone bowing down to you because you're so great. It means, like Jesus, that you become a courageous servant, dying to yourself for the benefit of others. If you have

heard differently, wipe the slate clean. The Bible's word is better than any other. Read Ephesians 5 again, and soak it in.

Our culture may reject male headship; it may undermine men. None of that mat-

ters to you. None of it bogs you down. Whether trained by a godly dad from birth or newly learning about headship as a young believer, your face is set like a flint to pursue the glory of God as the Christlike head of a home. That's your goal; that, like a distant trumpet summoning you to sacrificial leadership, is your call.

The strongest men are those who are so confident in Christ that they crave wisdom, celebrate humility, and are glad, not threatened, when others contribute.

ARTICLE *The Explosion in West, Texas and Fatherhood*
AUTHOR CBMW Executive Director Grant Castleberry
HOST SITE Cbmw.org
ADDRESS cbmw.org/topics/leadership-2/the-explosion-in-west-texas-and-fatherhood
SHARES **Over 10,000 views**

IT WAS LATE IN THE afternoon of September 23, 1986. I was just two years old, and my dad had just taken off on a routine training exercise in his F-4 Phantom Marine Corps fighter jet. He was flying over the Atlantic Ocean, not far from our home in Beaufort, South Carolina, when his F-4 crashed into another F-4 during a dog-fight maneuver. Both my dad, Captain Charles Kelly Castleberry, and his navigator, Major Christopher Brammer, were never seen again. Search and Rescue crews scoured the Eastern seaboard for days, but they were never able to locate my father.

Ever since that day, I have had a special place in my heart for the “fatherless” of this world, especially those who have experienced loss through traumatic circumstances. This ache for the fatherless was stirred up again two nights ago, as the news aired the horrific events concerning the giant fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas. I was distraught to learn that a crew of firemen had been at the site, trying to put out the fire when the blast exploded. Two thoughts imme-

“Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.”
PSALM 68:5

diately came to my mind: 1) Unless there had been a miracle, the firemen on site would not have survived the blast; 2) Those firemen were never again going to see their wives and children on this earth. It may have been a “routine” call for these trained professionals, but in an instant, it became a deadly tragedy. The lives of their loved ones would never be the same. Their children are left, clinging to every possible memory of their fathers, but they will never again, on this side of eternity, see their dads’ faces or be able to physically talk to them.

Losing a father is unspeakably horrific for all children. The son has lost the one person primarily responsible to train him to be a man, and to help him through that process. The daughter has lost her provider, protector, and teacher of being cherished and valued as a woman. I believe this is one reason why God has such a special, tender heart for the fatherless and the widows of the world. David, by the Holy Spirit, writes in Psalm 68:5, “Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.”

I have experienced this special fatherly love by God in numerous ways. I

have genuinely felt God’s special hand of providence guiding me throughout my life, and he really has been a father to me. One way that he has shown this love is through another godly man, Preston Abbott, who was sent to be my earthly dad four years after my first dad died. Another provision from my Heavenly Father is the amazing legacy of my first father, Kelly. God enabled my father to do some extraordinary things in his short twenty-six years on earth. These have shaped and will continue to shape me for the rest of my life.

Three Ways My Father’s Legacy Has Impacted Me

1. My Father’s Faith: God used my father’s untimely death to make me think about the realities of death, Heaven, and Hell at a very early age (probably earlier than most children). This enabled my mom to share with me about my father’s Lord, Jesus Christ, and how “because my father had trusted Christ as his Savior from sin, he was with Jesus now in Heaven.” Because I admired my dad so much, I knew that if he loved Jesus, then I should learn more about Jesus, too. Eventually I came to see how irresistibly good Jesus is, so one night I prayed with my mom and expressed faith in Christ. I

rejoiced that I too would one day get to see Jesus in Heaven.

2. My Father's Purity: One night my dad's squadron took a "mandatory" trip to a beach house somewhere along the Atlantic Coast. No wives or children were allowed to come. This was a special night in which many of the young pilots would receive their "call-signs." Shortly after my father arrived at the beach house, he realized why family members were not invited. Someone had invited strippers as entertainment for the evening. Later that night, when he confided this event to my mom, she asked him how he responded. He said that he had stayed in the corner of the beach house with his hand over his eyes. A few months after my father's crash, a pilot in the squadron gave my mom a picture that someone had taken inside the beach house that night. He told my mom that deep down "everyone respected Kelly for it, but no one had the guts to follow him." Sure enough, in the background was my father with his hand covering his eyes. As a young

"Everyone respected Kelly for it, but no one had the guts to follow him."



boy, my mom showed me that picture and explained to me the integrity and courage my dad had displayed in that moment. She then explained the necessity of walking a path of purity in my own life. My mom framed the picture and put it in my room for me as a constant reminder to always walk in purity. The legacy of purity my father left for me has made a huge difference in my life. Many of my heroes growing up (Jesus, Joseph, my dad), faced incredible temptation and realized in that moment that those temptations "had no lasting city," but they sought "the city that is to come" (Heb. 13:14). In high school, college, and the Marine Corps, I had numerous temptations to compromise, but God used the legacy of my dad and other biblical heroes, through the Holy Spirit, to help me withstand temptation.

3. My Father's Life of Prayer: After my dad's death, my mom told me how he'd spent hours each night over my crib, praying for me after I had fallen asleep. As a three, four, and five-year-old fatherless boy, when I missed my dad immensely, my mom would often remind me of these prayers and how much my dad loved me. She would tell me that God loved me more than my dad ever could and that he was my Father now. Since I was a boy, I have been sensitive to the blessings God has bestowed on my life, such as a calling to ministry, a beautiful wife, two precious daughters, and incredible relationships with family and friends. I thank God for these gifts (Jam. 1:17), and I believe they are answers to my father's prayers. Now, as a daddy to two little girls, I often spend a lot of time at night over their cribs praying for

them. In that way, my father's legacy has not only impacted me, but it's impacted my children.

What I've learned From My Father About Leaving a Godly Legacy

1. We live in a cursed world, and we never know when the Lord could take us from our families.

As Christians, we no longer need to fear death because of Christ's death and resurrection (Heb. 2:15), but we should prepare for it. We should live every day to maximize the glory of Christ (Phil. 1:20-26).



2. Any valuable Christian legacy that we have to pass down to our children is only due to the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

After all, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Pet. 2:24).

3. Don't underestimate the value of a life lived for Christ. Although our lives are but a vapor, the Spirit can use the example of our lives in extraordinary ways for the building of the kingdom. Iain Murray wrote in his outstanding book *Heroes*, "The Bible no more knows a separate class of heroes than it does

of saints. Because of Jesus Christ, every Christian is extraordinary and attains to glory. Yet grace so shines in some (as in the portraits of Hebrews 11), that it lightens the path of many. As A.W. Tozer could write, 'Next to the Holy Scriptures, the greatest aid to the life of faith may be Christian biographies.'"

As we consider the legacies that parents leave for their families, please join with me in praying for the children of the firemen that lost their lives two nights ago. Pray that God would use the legacy of their fathers for good and that they would come to faith in Christ. Also pray that we, like Paul, would be able to say at the end of our lives, "Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us" (Phil. 3:17).



cbmw.org