

8 Myths About Men

Society and tradition serve as the standards of what men are taught to look like, how to behave, what they should strive for in life and how they should treat women. However, society's views on what a real man should be were never to serve as the standard for how a man should behave, instead those benchmarks were already established throughout scripture by the Lord from the time he made Adam. The following are 8 myths about Men and the scriptures that disprove them.

1. Myth: A Real Man _____

Society promotes the standard of what a "Real Man" should be. Good looks, perfect hair, the finest clothes, and a six pack are what is considered the target look for every man. This image is brought on by commercials, movies, television, athletes and even a slew of cosmetic doctors that will help you achieve that target look by cutting corners (literally). If you don't fit the image, there's a billion-dollar industry to offer you the products and equipment to get there. But God judges a man differently.

1 Samuel 16: 6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

This does not mean that a man should not exercise and feel his best because that can translate to even greater service of God. When we feel good, we can do more and in turn serve more. But we must remember what scripture says about what is most important.

1 Timothy 4: 8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

No matter how tanned, toned, or jacked we might be, it will eventually fail. But our strength in God is eternal.

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

The Truth: A Real Man of God _____

Isaiah 53: 2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

2. Myth: A Real Man has _____

Men are competitive by nature and "keeping up with Joneses" is something that is ingrained in us from the time we are young. Having the best car, the biggest house, the nicest boat and the most things is what wins you status in the eyes of the world. We live in a "more, more, more" society and if we don't have the best of everything, we feel lesser than those who do. But this need to have the best was never what God intended for a humble God-fearing man.

Luke 12:15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

This is not to say that we cannot have nice things and strive to provide quality for our family but when it becomes the focus of our life, our minds and hearts are no longer with God.

Philippians 3: 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

If we make possessions our god, they will fail us and ultimately destroy our very souls.

The Truth: A Real Man of God _____

3. **Myth:** A Real Man _____

Society tells us that marriage is an end to the good-life and should only occur when you are ready to “settle down.” Every form of media promotes sleeping around with as many women as possible and maybe you’ll one day find the right person and put all of that behind you. This has never been what God intended.

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord

Marriage is a gift from God and something that should be sought after in a relationship rather than a consultation prize when you’re done having fun.

1 Corinthians 7: 1-16 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

What we can take from the scripture is to date deliberately. Date the kinds of women that would be approved of by God. When God brings that special person across your path don’t shy from it because it may be an end to your life of singleness but celebrate that you have found that person that you can be one with.

The Truth: A Real man of God _____

4. **Myth:** A Real Man _____

A onetime in everyone’s life we have probably dreamed of being famous. There is a certain inner desire that longs to have people cheer for us or at least recognize us for something special we have done. When we strive for fame and recognition, our life is controlled by what other people think about us. This is an open door for denying God. We crave the acceptance of man over our Lord.

John 12: 42 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

No matter how much fame we achieve in life, no matter how much recognition comes to us, it is temporary and will ultimately fade. It is far more important to see our name in the book of life than across a marquee. We must live a life of humility and that is hard to accomplish when fame and power are our pursuits.

1 Thessalonians 4:10-12 But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, 11 and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, 12 so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

The Truth: A Real Man of God _____

5. Myth: A Real Man _____

Society views tears as weakness. A rough and tumble man would never be caught shedding a tear for himself or someone else, but scripture tells us something different.

1 Corinthians 12:26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Mourning for someone or with someone over a loss or suffering is not only practiced throughout the bible but was even done by our lord himself.

John 11:34 And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

We don't cry because we are weak, we cry because we care. We cry because we love. We cry because the scripture tells us there is a time to mourn and we must suffer together as a family in Christ.

The Truth: A Real man of God _____

6. Myth: A Real Man _____

Culture tells us that we should do unto others as they have done to us except do it worse and make it last longer. Hollywood bombards us with movies about getting revenge, and though seen as entertainment they completely miss the mark on what a Christian man should do when wronged.

Matthew 5:38-40 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.

This does not mean that we do not have the responsibility to defend our family or ourselves when in danger but rather cautions us from letting our anger get the best of us and doing something that should be left to God. Walking away is not weakness but civility and was demonstrated by the lord himself when he was attacked numerous times physically and mentally without demonstrating retribution.

Ephesians 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The Truth: A Real man of God _____

7. Myth: A Real man _____

Gen 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

We often have an "I'll do it on my own" attitude when we need help, and this is an equal mixture of pride and stubbornness. God even recognized in his own creation that man would need help yet it's hard for us to give in and say we can't do it alone. The scripture tells us we were meant as believers to seek and offer help.

Galatians 6: 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves.

The Truth: A Real man of God _____

8. Myth: A Real Man _____

God placed Man as the head of the family to maintain a household devoted to God. Often this role is distorted into a "what I say goes" dictatorship where the wife is looked down on as a lesser being and respect is removed from the home. Again, the scripture tells us something different.

1 Peter 3:7: 7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

The weaker vessel is referring to something delicate to be protected and cherished. The scripture also says that husband and wife are equal heirs to the throne of God showing that the husband does not have a greater position of importance, rather a greater position of responsibility to make the best decisions for his family. Every team has a captain and they are often the one to blame when things start going bad.

Galatians 3: 26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

We are all the same in the eyes of the Lord and when a position of responsibility is given to us as it is with man, we must realize that we are not indeed the ruler of our household, God is and should always be.

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God"

The Truth: A Real man of God _____

We have a responsibility as husbands, brothers, uncles, boyfriends, and fathers to be the REAL MAN of God that the scripture teaches. Our Litmus test of whether we are behaving as men of God is our savior Jesus Christ. If we ever find ourselves trapped in any of these societal definitions of men, we must realign ourselves to the image of Christ and be confident that we walk as real men of God.