

Christ Community Covenant Church
Jesus – Lionhearted and Lamblike
Pastor Dave Scherrer – June 2, 2013

Before we get too far along this morning, I want to remind you that we stand in anticipation of the Lord's Table. I want to talk to the men today, young and old and I want to invite the ladies to listen in. But before we get too far in our discussion of what it takes to carry ourselves as men with authority I want to make sure we have a firm foundation of what we've been talking about for the past several weeks:

First we have established that it is submission that establishes authority. Authority when the character and obedience of one person demands the submission of the second. Christ established His Authority by submitting to the will of the Father.

Christ has authority: Mark 1
The authority of the prophets testify to Him
John the Baptist announces Him
The Father and the Spirit proclaim Him
His authority in teaching is unmatched
His authority over disease is demonstrated
And even the defiant demonic spirit world reluctantly obeys His authority
The Scriptures ooze the authority of Christ!

We have seen in this study that the Word has authority over our lives and that we must submit to its rule and reign or face the consequences:

Hebrews 4:12-13

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The table has authority and we will see today that the table has not only the authority to make us joyful for the love and forgiveness demonstrated at the Lord's Table but also we will see the authority of the Table has to call us to obedience. So with these thoughts in mind let's turn our attention to what it means to be a manly man and to carry that knowledge into how we carry ourselves as brothers and sons, as fathers and husbands, as citizen neighbors and as Kingdom Citizens. I saw this list the other day of the top 50 manliest men.

Top 15 of the 50 manliest men:
15. Bill Murray, 14. General Patton, 13. Chuck Norris, 12. Neil Armstrong,
11. Clint Eastwood, 10. Jackie Robinson, 9. Babe Ruth, 8. John Wayne, 7. JFK
6. Muhammad Ali, 5. Theodore Roosevelt, 4. Seal Team 6, 3. Pat Tillman
2. Abe Lincoln, 1. George Washington

Where do these men get their manliness and so called authority? From being first or being about to beat up someone, from having political power or just a persona of power, they can sneer and get their own way by force. And then there is Bill Murray - he's a Ghost Buster.

In 7th grade I went through a season where I became a bully and that had to have been odd! A 93 pound weakling bully. I mostly pushed around my friends until one called me on it. Power is attractive.

Illustration: Dave Bandimere and a man's desire for power - cars, guns, roller coaster rides and long straight golf shots – guys seem to be attracted to power. And I believe it is true. And when that desire for power and authority goes sideways we commit that first of the two fold sins: we make ourselves God of our own lives, refusing to give Christ His rightful place on the throne of our heart and mind and will.

If we wanted to be wise, we would choose a different pattern for manliness. The form we are looking to conform our lives to is Jesus Christ. Doing that at once we see that the character of Christ is unparalleled obedience to

God coupled with unabashed meekness and love that is unconditional, now we have a template for manliness and authority and it is at once represented in a lion and a lamb. So that makes us Lionhearted and Lamblike:

The Pattern for Manhood: Lionhearted and Lamblike

Revelation 5:5-6

And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I **saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain**,

**Lionhearted and Lamblike,
Strong and Meek,
Tough and Tender,
Assertive and Responsive,
Bold and Brokenhearted**

In **1 Kings 2:1-3**, we have David's final words to his son Solomon. It says,

"When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, ² "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, ³ and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn."

If we want to know what true masculinity is about, this passage provides us with a great foundation and insight. You see David's exhortation to his son is to **show himself**— reveal what he really is on the inside. He is to live out manhood and biblical masculinity as he takes on the role of king. **And he is to do this by submitting. Authority is always established by submitting not by coercing.** Solomon must submit to the will and Laws of God – to the **Word** of God.

When David says Solomon must be strong, this doesn't mean predominantly physical strength, but the meaning is that of an internal strength and moral fortitude. He is to be resolute in his beliefs, character, and integrity. He is to be firm as to what he stands for and in carrying out justice. He is to do his part to see that God's will prevails in the kingdom. He is to not only be courageously tall in battle, and he is to be courageous when it comes to standing tall for truth and the laws of God. David, who conquered Goliath, was not a man of fear but of great strength. He was not the biggest or strongest of men physically, but he had great faith. It was his faith and trust in God that anything was possible which made him strong. His great physical feats were wrought in internal fortitude based on strength which God could alone provide. David wanted Solomon to be strong in the Lord.

The apostle Paul wants that for us too.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14:

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Lion and lamblike. If you want to have authority in your life, in your school, on your cross country team, in your whatever...

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The measure of a man is not business success, physical strength and sexual conquests. Rather it is:

Knowing, Loving and Obeying Christ
Personal Sacrifice – ‘Dying to Self’
Courageous Choices – There are always consequences

It is not the unflattering physical passing from adolescence into manhood that establishes manliness. Though various cultures have tried to establish one, there is no rite of initiation or strange set of circumstances that a boy must pass through before becoming a man. There are many young boys and teens that are far manlier than grown adult men. This is because they stand for righteousness, they act in strength, and they obey God’s Word. This is manhood to the max. They treat women with honor, they respect their parents, and they are willing to share the gospel, among many other things which require faith and strength. David was young when he conquered Goliath, and the message is that the transition from boyhood to manhood has little to do with age as compared to commitment to the Word of God. Granted, there are physical, mental, and emotional changes that take place as a boy transitions through adolescence and into adulthood, but the main criteria for true manhood is who a person is on the inside in respect to fearing the Lord and trembling at His Word. ***There are men who live as boys, and there are boys who live as men. The issue isn’t so much age as it is character.***

And let’s be clear about another thing, marriage doesn’t make a man, getting a job doesn’t make a man, and having children doesn’t make a man, though each of these opportunities gives a man a chance to show himself a man.

A man is a man because God has made him male as opposed to female (Genesis 1:27), ***and*** if He fears God and lives according to His purposes. A moral single man is no less of a man than a moral married man, and certainly he is no less of a man than an immoral married man. A man who loves his wife as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25), who trains his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4), who does all that he can to provide for his family (1 Timothy 5:8), and who is himself a man of godliness and character (2 Timothy 2:21-22) may not be considered a “man’s man,” but he is God’s man, being like David, a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). It doesn’t matter whether our parents, friends, or anyone else considers us a man in that ultimately manhood is defined by God. God creates men to be men, and His men honor His Word. Curiously, in today’s society there is a schizoid conflict going on. At once we see that we are to be ‘***Fast and Furious***’ and the next minute we experience a great push for a gender neutral social order where the distinctions between men and women are blurred (Vogue male models). We look out in the world as we see that our nation now has a generation of young boys, and reared by confused parents and sometimes confused schools, who suppress and discredit manliness. God does not condone bullies, but God loves boys and men.

If you wish to be a man like Christ, you must pick up your cross daily and follow Him into meekness and servant hood and mercy and grace and love and beauty and purity and holiness and truth and life. And listen to this - ***in this, men and women are the same.*** We together are the Body of Christ conformed to His image and character and called to his purposes and oneness in Him. ***Sacrifices and choices,*** these are what we are about in Christ.

[Over the next couple of weeks we will be looking at our roles as husbands and wives and sons and daughters. I invite you to be in prayer.]

The Lord’s Supper: A Table of Sacrifice and Choices

Luke 22:14-20

And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

Yesterday we met as men at breakfast and I had a neat conversation with Kirk Hindley, He had been reflecting on the authority of the Table and he shared an important observation. In Kirk's mind, and I agree, the Authority of the Table is both a call to celebration and a call to obedience and sacrifice and oneness with Christ.

- It is a reminder to be joyful for the ransom that was paid for us as symbolized in the pouring out of the wine in the cup.
- But it is also a call to be strong and courageous and sacrificing as symbolized in the breaking of the bread which is the body.

The Body of Christ has three manifestations, His own first century incarnate visit – God in human bodily form. Then there is this symbol of the bread that has come down from Heaven and finally it is us, church, the Body of Christ, called to rejoice and to submit to the authority of the Table.