

Marks of a Man

"Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! **Wake up the mighty men....**"

Joel 3:9 NKJV

*"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, **act like men**, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." -1 Corinthians 16:13-14 ESV*

- I. Intro: What's a (godly) man look like?
 - a. What's the problem?
 - b. We don't know anymore—most men don't have a healthy model.
 - i. 1 in 4 fathers now live apart from their children
 - ii. 90% of Men in America say they believe in God but only 35% faithfully attend church with their wives
 - c. Liberal/anti-God culture is perverting masculinity and calling it toxic. We don't need less masculinity we need more of it!
 - d. The Bible says we need to act like men...but if we don't know what a godly man is supposed to look like, how can we act like it.
 - e. Paul was Timothy's mentor - he was a spiritual father and he made this statement, *"You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecution's, sufferings—what kind of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra...as for you continue in what you have learned and have been convinced of, because you know those from whom you have learned it.*
 - f. **Timothy you've seen my life**—you know what I've taught, you've watched me handle crisis and set back—now follow in my footsteps!
 - i. Note: Our children will become what we are not just what we say
 - ii. Let them see you fight to be a godly man
 - iii. Let them see you at the altar crying out to God
 - iv. Let them see you tell your wife you're sorry
 - v. Let them see you pay your bills
 - vi. Let them see you honor authority
 - vii. Let them see you succeed
 - viii. Let them see how you fail
 - ix. Let them see you work hard
 - x. Let them see you play hard
 - xi. Let them see you learn
 - xii. Let them see you pray
 - xiii. Let them see you give
 - xiv. Let them see you worship
 - xv. Model to them the marks of a man!

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- g. What if you didn't have a model?
 - h. If there's anything you don't know I have another resource Timothy...the WORD!
 - i. *"ALL scripture is God-breathed and is useful for **teaching**, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the MAN OF GOD may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*
 - j. So the Bible says we are to "act like men"
 - i. Not women, not children, not animals...MEN!!!
 - ii. Not women—men we must set the pace not our wives
 - 1. *"In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered."* -1 Peter 3:7 NLT
 - iii. Not children—must be unselfish
 - iv. Men!
 - v. *"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways (I put away childish things)."* -1 Corinthians 13:11 ESV
- II. Stand GUARD against the enemy- "Stand Watch"
- a. A godly man is a protector
 - b. We are called to be on guard
 - c. Men, you're not just called to physically protect your home, but your called to protect them spiritually and emotionally.
 - d. A real man stands guard over his home
 - e. Spiritual protector—the enemy is always seeking to steal, kill, and destroy
 - f. Watches over...
 - i. his own heart—sin is always seeking a way in.
 - 1. His thought life
 - 2. His relationships with the opposite sex
 - 3. His business dealings (yes must be yes)
 - 4. His relationship with God.
 - ii. His wife's heart – must nourish it
 - 1.
 - iii. His children's hearts—willing to confront, willing to bring pain, but also willing to take time, to listen, to instruct
 - 1. Eli wouldn't *restrain* his sons and they became worthless men
 - 2. Restrain def:
- III. Stand FIRM on conviction - "Stand firm in the faith"
- a. A man has convictions and is willing to stand on them.
 - b. Have conviction!
 - c. Not moved by the sway of cultural trends

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- d. Not swayed by the opinions of ungodly Christians
- e. Anchored in the word (Ps. 1)
- f. Determined not discouraged
- g. More concerned about being on the right side than the winning side.
- h. Popularity comes and goes... Integrity never goes out of style
 - i. Jesus wasn't moved by praise or persecution. His face was set "as flint" .
 - ii. Isaiah said about Jesus, "He will not falter or be discouraged..."
- i. A man who confidently trusts in the Lord
- j. "Keeps his head in all situations"

IV. Stand STRONG in adversity - "Be Strong"

- a. Word means "be strengthened, grow stronger"
- b. We have to be courageous enough to grow in the areas of our weakness
- c. Is willing to face his fears and doesn't run from responsibility
- d. Fear of inadequacy
- e. Fear of failure
- f. Fear of rejection
- g. Be strong enough to *pursue* relationships with other men.
- h. Be strong enough to be vulnerable.
- i. Be strong enough to confess your sins.
- j. Be strong enough to be a student.
- k. Be strong enough to ask for help
- l. Be strong enough to not quit on your marriage
- m. Be strong enough to keep standing even when it doesn't feel worth it

V. Love without STOPPING—"Let everything be done in love"

- a. Leaders are "in charge" but never in "control"
- b. We can't control life
- c. We can't control our children's minds or hearts
- d. No matter what someone else's behavior, we choose our response.
- e. We can choose to love no matter what.
- f. Every activity and action should be motivated by sacrificial love
- g. Men are known by their love for God and their love for others.