

A Biblically Authentic Man Pt 2

Review

“See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land.” Isaiah 32:1-2

What does it take for us men to foster shalom in our homes, to be the shelter from the storm?

Eph. 4:1-2

“Live a life worthy of the calling you have received.”

Worthy- having equal balance, equal weight between belief and practice.

How do we move toward balance? By character that comes from knowing God.

“Be completely humble”

God requires *complete* humility. What does that look like?

Philippians 2:1-11 “he humbled himself to the point of death.”

If not for Christ’s complete humility we would not be here.

Jesus’ one description of himself- “I am *humble* and gentle in heart.”

The God of the universe is humble and gentle in heart! Paul uses the same word.

We must have this same moral quality or we cannot be the shelter for our wives and others!

This is the highest calling and vision we can have.

It demands everything from us. Christ gave all and so must we (Romans 12:1).

“gentle”

A wild stallion tamed and brought under submission.

A moral quality that enables one to be strong on behalf of others. (Strong and loving)

“patient”

You resist the temptation to strike back.

One who does not avenge wrongs.

The longsuffering of God leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4).

This idea is linked to those people we don’t like.

It’s very easy and natural to avoid and withdraw from people who we don’t like or who hurt us. We can’t do that!

We will get hurt by others. We must learn to give and receive grace.

“bearing with one another in love.”

Learn to live with the idiosyncrasies, faults, and weaknesses of others and still do good to them.

That’s what Jesus does for you and me every day.

God bears up with our selfishness, immaturity, and stupidity.

If I am to walk worthy, or in equal balance, I must do the same for you.

Love doesn’t stop when it sees a negative or gets hurt. Love never fails.

These are the moral qualities we must be growing in if we are to make God’s vision for our homes and the church a reality. Here’s what we must do with those moral qualities:

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

“Make every effort” is present tense.

The seen and unseen world looks on and sees the manifold wisdom of God.

Satan the divider seeks to divide, bring enmity, strife, hatred, discord, darkness.
God is on the side of oneness because that is what he is!

“Hear Oh Israel the Lord is one.”

Paul uses the word “one” seven times.

John 17 “so that the world may believe.”

Unity is the very basis for our worship and evangelism.

If a non-Christian doesn't see us display visible oneness with our wives and others, he or she has the right to judge us and decide if God sent Jesus.

“Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.” Eph 5:21

“Subject” is a military term in Gk: “to arrange or rank under.”

“Submit for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether the king as the one in authority...” (1 Peter 2:13-15)

“...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life a ransom for many.” (Matt. 20:26-27)

“Every obedient, Spirit-filled Christian is a submitting Christian.” John McArthur

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church”

Three times Paul gives us a fundamental charge: “husbands, love your wives” (v 25),

“husbands should love their wives” (v 28), “let each one of you love his wife” (v 33).

All with the heart and purpose of Christ, “just as Christ loved the church.”

The focus and theme of the Old and New Testament: God pursuing and redeeming his bride in order to reveal his goodness and greatness.

“and gave himself up for her”

We must be the first to bleed and die.

This is total self-sacrifice for the good of our wives.

Are you out of balance with being strong and loving? Do you fear initiating prayer or confessing you were wrong? Do you avoid responsibility through blame-shifting? *Face it. Feel it. Don't minimize it. Do something about it.* Die to it so you can be the man, the shelter instead of the storm.

We must always relate to our wives through the eyes of the atonement.

“to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

Next to loving God, we have no higher calling than to love our wives. Just as the church is Christ's bride and priority, so our wives should be ours.

The purpose for our love is to provide a context so she can grow in inner beauty and be all she can be in Christ.

This means knowing and caring for her wounds, fears, longings... Initiating, pursuing, praying.

We are to feed and cherish our wives. If you don't know what that means, ask her.

“In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives.”

Questions for discussion

1. Which of the character qualities (4:1-2) would your wife say best defines you? Which would she say least defines you? How do you think that impacts her? How often do you face that? Feel it? And do something about it? Talk about that process. How do you face it, etc?
2. What do you most need in order to move toward loving your wife/others as Christ loved us?
3. Next to loving God, would you say your primary goal in life is to give yourself up for your wife in order to present her blameless to God? If not, what is your primary goal? Would you be willing to ask God and your brothers to help you grow toward loving her this way?