



BIBLICALLY AUTHENTIC MEN

BAM 2011-12 | Week 1

The vision, mission and purpose of BAM.

BAM Vision: Biblically authentic men who imitate Jesus Christ in all aspects of life.

~ Our vision is a picture of where we're headed. Our goal.

BAM Mission: Through Spirit-led teaching and Christ-centered relationships we will deepen our understanding of who God is, what He has done, and what that means in the context of manhood.

~ Our mission is how we accomplish our vision.

The purpose of BAM

Provide a venue where men are encouraged with grace, equipped with truth and challenged in love to engage life's tensions with courage, conviction, humility and gentleness in obedience to Jesus Christ.

~ As we meet, we grow in our faith by God's Word, His Spirit, and His people.

BAM 2011-12 : Manhood Unleashed

Theme: *"Releasing the masculine soul to fulfill our roles as husband, father, friend and mentor."*

In BAM this year you'll be unleashed – in a good way.

- ~ Unleashed to live as a redeemed son of God.
- ~ Unleashed to be a better husband, father, friend, mentor and worker.
- ~ Unleashed to bring grace, truth and love to all of your relationships.

In this community of Christ-minded men, we'll learn more about how we were created, what went wrong and what it means to be blessed and released to live with God-honoring manliness.

Today's Spiritual Focus: Characteristics of a Redeemed Son of God

What does it look like to live as a man whose soul has been released to live as a redeemed son of God?

Man Wall

I'm on a mission of making my sons into men. Our Man Wall (on which hang swords given at age 13 via a ceremony) is a visual reminder of our vision for manhood. My boys and I discuss often the journey to manhood. After the sword-giving ceremony we transition from man-to-boy talks to man-to-man talks.

A key component of our Man Wall is this verse:

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NIV) *13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. 14 Do everything in love.*

In these verses are **five key words** that characterize, at least in part, what it looks like to live as a redeemed son of God.

Key word #1: Guard

From the phrase, *“Be on your guard”*

A redeemed man protects himself

- ~ He is alert, awake, searching, scanning, questioning. He is not caught unaware.
- ~ To defend yourself well, you must know your weak spots (e.g. lust, laziness, eating, anger, harsh words, perfectionism, passivity)

We have an enemy hungry to take-out good men – men like you.

Don't think the enemy isn't after you. Just by being with this group of men puts a target on your back. A redeemed son of God guards and defends against our enemy, Satan.

Key word #2: Stand

From the phrase, *“stand firm in the faith”*

In my home growing up, my mom placed on the inside doorknob of our bathroom a placard with a list of sayings. One of the sayings was, *“stand for something of you'll fall for anything”*

That phrase comes to mind often, particularly in moments of weakness when it might be easier to go with the crowd. Stay quiet. Hide in the background. Fall for anything.

A man who is released to live as a redeemed son of God stands firm in his faith. A faith that rests on the finished work of Jesus Christ. He is confident, but humble. With gentleness, he's not afraid to let others feel the weight of who he is. He is upright, ready to serve and work and be an agent of grace in this world.

Key word #3: Courage

From the phrase, *“Be men of courage”*

Perhaps when you think of courage, images of Aragorn, Braveheart, Maximus (Gladiator) come to mind. If you do, perhaps you think, *“I'm not that kind of man. I'm not a mighty warrior. I can't even kill the moles in my lawn.”*

Well, the good news is bravery in battle is just one facet of real courage.

“Courage is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm” – Winston Churchill

Does that quote resonate with you?

I propose some of the most courageous things we can ever do as followers of Jesus have nothing to do with fighting against an oppressive government or battling wild animals in a Roman arena.

- ~ It takes courage to play with your kids when you’d rather watch Sports Center.
- ~ It takes courage to take your daughter on an ice cream date instead of spending the afternoon golfing with your buddies.
- ~ It takes courage to be interruptible and approachable, instead of angry.
- ~ It takes courage to walk away from crude joke telling during break time at work.
- ~ It takes courage to pass-up a promotion that would bring more money, but require more time away from home.
- ~ It takes courage to be a one-woman man – for life.

There will be times of weakness when we aren’t courageous. It’s in those moments a redeemed son of God must turn to Jesus Christ, beg for help and mercy, and cling to the truth that God will meet each of us in our moment of need – if we ask.

Key word #4: Strong

From the phrase *“be strong”*

This is an issue of character and spiritual integrity, not muscle mass.

It’s been said, “you are what you eat.” **So, what have you been feeding your soul?**

God’s Word is food for our soul.

A key to being strong spiritually is a regular intake of Scripture. A redeemed man has his soul released as he reads and studies and meditates on God’s Word. The resulting strength is a confident strength – not in ourselves, but in the person and power of Jesus Christ.

Key word #5: Love

From the phrase, *“Do everything in love.”*

The idea of doing everything in love can seem trite or rote at times. A bit too familiar. But what undergirds the strongest, most courageous redeemed man must be a heart filled and motivated by love.

Love for Christ, not ourselves. Love with no agendas. Love with no expectation of reciprocation or praise.

Many of you are familiar with the mantra of Men’s Fraternity. The last phrase of that is, “And expect a greater reward – God’s reward.” Real love waits for God to acknowledge and commend acts of service delivered in the present. Be patient. The reward for sacrificial love is coming!

As biblically authentic men, we must be content with being last. Being servant leaders – like Jesus.

Men in Mentoring video

Do you think we have a man crisis?

Being a follower of Jesus is tough work.

We have an enemy who is always about the business of setting traps. He wants us to stumble, compromise, settle, or even give-up. He works daily to kill our spirit and desire and redirect our affections from God, to lesser things like sex, money and power.

But biblically authentic men persevere. We press on.

We seek to develop the characteristics of a redeemed son of God we've talked about today (guard, stand, courage, strong, love).

Think what it would be like for you to be released to have more of those characteristics?

~ What might flourish in your marriage that is currently dormant, or dead?

~ What might you release in your children?

~ What might you do, out of love, for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom?

I can't wait to see what God has in store for each of us personally, and us as a community of men – Biblically Authentic Men – over the next six months.

Expect, and pray for great things!

Small group questions

- Basic introductions (name, age, family stats, employment, hobbies, etc.)
- What do you long for as a man?
- Which of the characteristics of a redeemed son of God mentioned today do you feel weakest in? Strongest? (guard, stand, courage, strong, love)
- How would you rate your marriage, parenting, time with God? Rate 1 to 10, 10 being best. (You can't choose "5"). Explain your ratings.
- What is your desire in attending BAM this year?