

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Boys to Men, Pt. 3

Selected Passages

Keywords: Parenting, Masculinity, Man, Male, Maturity

PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

Sermon Audio Blurb: when does a boy become a man? Is it when he reaches eighteen or some other age? Does adulthood equal being a man? What are parents of boys to be thinking about as they raise those boys before both God and man? These are the questions that are answered so that the church might have a generation rising up behind us all that is ready to step into the gap and serve their Lord with all their might and heart and soul.

I. Introduction.

Dismiss
My Book

- A. The question before us: "When does a boy become a man?"
- B. Spiritual maturity sufficient to lead a wife and children.
 1. "Ungodly" at its simplest means without a thought toward God in the sense of delight or worship.
 2. Very easy to create in the heart of a child.
 3. Comes about in various of ways, here are two:
 - a. The father does not consider God himself in reality.
 - b. The father is busy being religious, but not understanding that everything is worship, nothing is secular, creating a bifurcated view of life for his wife and children.
- C. Alongside spiritual maturity a boy wants to strive toward several other qualities:

II. Boys to Men means

- A. Personal maturity that is sufficient to be a responsible husband and father.
 1. Unless a young man has been gifted with the gift of singleness (cf 1 Corinthians 7:32-34) then it is to be his trajectory in life to marry and have a family.
 - a. Note that the purpose of gift of singleness is to serve the Lord without distraction. Not increase salary or pursue career, or be free.

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- b. There are no other options before both men and women.
 - c. And therefore it is the task of the parents to raise up young men to be mature enough to marry and have children to the glory of God.
 2. This means that you are pointing your son (and daughters) toward that goal from day one.
 - a. My wife has prayed for our daughters and son since the earliest of days, that God might bless them with godly mates.
 - b. We have sought to train our children from the earliest of days toward their respective roles as women and men.
 - c. This required that the girls be treated and trained differently than Matt.
 - d. But that requires eyes of faith and a biblical mind set on what a man or woman is before God.
 - e. I have recommended to many over the years a book called *Future Men* and I sadly know of many who have bought it and then never actually read it.
 - f. What happens to some fathers is that they blink and one day the son is not a little boy and they realize that time is incredibly short and they start chasing because they did not lead.
 3. It is an important point to understand that the bible **does not** paint childhood as a desirable thing to be in. Rather, it is adulthood and all that pertains to it that is the desirable goal.
 - a. You are to be trying to grow up your child quickly, not slowly.
 - b. Everything you do as a parent is **NOT** to be giving your children a fun life or letting them relax or tolerating massive time toward pleasure.
 - c. Rather, it is to be training your child to be mature, responsible, and useful to both the Kingdom of God and society.
 - d. It is noted that in Britain right now 1/5th of the children there have never seen mother or father rise, shower, eat and go off to work as a normal days work.
 - e. In our land it is not much different.
 4. A boy must be taught to think in terms of marriage and a family.

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- a. The father who maligns and disrespects his wife is a man of shame.
 - b. The father who ignores the coming 'crisis' for his son as he enters adulthood and desires a young woman by never giving him wise counsel is a man of shame.
 - c. The father who does not instruct his son in what a godly woman looks like is a man of shame.
 - d. I say this not to be harsh, though for some perhaps it will be taken as such. I say this to perhaps cause parents and grandparents to repent and take on the critical cause of raising up godly men who will be a joy to their wife and children.
 - e. You parents of young men are given a unique opportunity to have a vision for manhood and raise your sons accordingly.
 - f. To raise a son to be a man who is unafraid to lead, capable of taking risks, who is willing to fight when necessary for what is right both in the home and in society, and to be owning his personal responsibility is a noble task.
5. The family unit is the most basic unit in society.
- a. This unit of human relationships was the first created by God and it is one to be respected and pursued after with all diligence.
 - (1) Not singleness.
 - (2) Not a city.
 - (3) Not even children.
 - (4) First a man and a woman who are called first and foremost to be fruitful and multiply.
 - b. When a father delights in his family and delights in the training of his children in the ways of God then good things are sure to come.
 - c. A father who loves the gospel in his own life and then breathes that into the lives of his children is a wise man.
 - d. When we spanked our children we did so to show them that sin has consequences, that sin is a liar, and that God is righteous and true.
 - (1) We did this to show them the truth of Proverbs 15:19, The way of the lazy is as a hedge of thorns, But the path of the upright is a highway.

He owns
it

Never let your
child think that

sin brings
benefit

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- (2) Proverbs 14:12, There is a way which seems right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.
- (3) We did this because our Father in heaven disciplines every
son according to Hebrews 12.

- (a) The child does not enjoy it, but it is truly a work of
grace in their life. Just as the scouring of our
Heavenly Father is one of grace—for if we did not
have it, it would mean we were not His.
- (b) The purpose is to train them in the peaceful fruit of
righteousness.
- (c) The pain it brings is not to merely punish or to get
our frustrations out, it is always to be redemptive in
purpose—though often the child does not see it.

*No mother should
fight the father in
this.
No father should
be afraid of
this*

6. Basic aspects of parenting to raise a responsible, mature adult.

- a. Bottom line, child rearing is not something to be taken lightly and
the results will be ultimately known only after many years of labor.
But those results shall be the billboard of your life.
- b. First, repent and reject that which was trained into you wrongly.
 - (1) Unless you were raised in a very godly home there are
things that simply are wrong or unhelpful.
 - (2) Some have a small or non-existent well to dip into, this
means you must dig your own by the power and grace of
the Spirit.
 - (3) If your parents let you do whatever you wanted, demanded
little from your time then this will be a hard battle for you
to overcome, but it must be overcome.
 - (4) If you came from a harsh, legalistic or violent home, then
you must resist the temptation to flee too far to the other
side, for it is the same lie, different package.
- c. Second, make the marriage to be the center of the home, with
Christ at the center of the marriage.
 - (1) Long after your children are gone, you will be still together.

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- (2) A child centered home is not biblical and not wise.
- (3) Teach your children the glory of marriage, the sanctity of marriage, and the joy of marriage.
- (4) Marks of a child-centered home (*Heart of Anger* by Lou Priolo).
 - (a) Interrupt adults when they are talking.
 - (b) Use manipulation and rebellion to get their way.
 - (c) Dictate family schedule, including meal times and bed times.
 - (d) Take precedence over the needs of the spouse.
 - (e) Have an equal or overriding vote in all decision making matters.
 - (f) Demand excessive time and attention from parents to the detriment of the other biblical requirements of the parents.
 - (g) Escape the consequences of their sinful and irresponsible behavior.
 - (h) Speak to parents as though they were peers.
 - (i) Are dominant influence in the home.
 - (j) Are entertained and coddled, rather than disciplined, out of a bad mood.

d. Third, realize that your children are supposed to leave, so train them in that direction.

- (1) Husbands often need to remind mothers of this fact.
- (2) Little good is accomplished by letting a son live on and on in the home while he fiddles away his most productive years.
- (3) Boys are to leave the home and find a mate. Women are to be given in marriage. Everything in your home should prepare them toward that end. I mean everything.

Too many
Marriages begin
to grow after
the children
leave.

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- (4) This pattern is set for us in Genesis 2:24, For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.
 - (5) Get them working early and make no apologies for it.
 - (6) Make them save and expect them to give to the Lord. Put these in their lives early on.
- e. Fourth, never tolerate a complaining spirit.
- (1) This shows itself in tantrums, arguments, and whining.
 - (2) It is a terrible attitude and a terrible sin.
 - (a) In Number 16 we read of the sin of grumbling with Korah and his company. The result was God destroying them and their households.
 - (b) In Numbers 12 Miriam and Aaron grumbled and complained about Moses their brother and God afflicted Miriam with leprosy.
 - (c) James tells us not to complain for in this we act as judges and God shall then judge us. (5:9)
 - (3) It is not a bad thing to see a child whine or complain, but it is a sad and troublesome thing to watch parents tolerate it.
 - (4) At some point in a person's life they must learn to accept things that are unpleasant. For a man, this is a crucial part of maturity, for he must make many decisions that are unpleasant and unpopular and he must know how to stand up under that pressure.
 - (5) A key part of this is that the father must have the control himself to not be a complainer or grumbler. He is to establish the standard in grace.
 - (6) At the core of grumbling and whining is a failure to recognize God's sovereignty and the mystery of His purposes.

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- (a) James 1:2-4 speaks of the value of trials and the command is that in the midst of them we are to consider it all joy and the bear up under them.
 - (b) 1 Peter 1:6 says that we are to rejoice in the certainty and fulness of our salvation even in the midst of trials. We know that our eternal inheritance and our very salvation are kept safe by God Himself.
 - (c) This is what you teach your children. To look beyond the now (which is passing away) and look to the One who is eternal and the One who offers eternal life through Jesus Christ.
- (7) At the same time, if you have tolerated this for some time, you must first repent before you then change direction suddenly. Speak to your children, explain YOUR sin in tolerating it, and then begin to lovingly move the home to a better direction.
- f. Fourth, understand the heart of the child.
- (1) It is a heart that is dead in sin and in rebellion to God and man.
 - (2) It is not innocent. Romans 5 makes it clear that all who belong to the first Adam are under sin and its condemnation from God.
 - (3) But it is naive and this is good.
 - (a) A child is not given to the fulness of evil, but there is the lack of knowledge.
 - (b) This gives them a softness that allows the parent to teach and correct them in the way of the gospel.
 - (4) To do this, however, requires that you have them under control.
 - (a) Not under an iron fist.
 - (b) But under control, where they are listening to your voice and you are able to direct them.

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- (c) The child who throws a fit, yells and screams and refuses to listen is a child out of control. There is little possibility to speak to them of the gospel and of grace.
 - (d) Grace needs to abound in your home for as parents, you are sinners raising sinful children.
 - (e) But grace makes no sense until first they understand responsibility, guilt and sin. Only when they know that they are deserving of discipline and it is withheld by grace do they see it as grace.
- g. Fifth, understand the simplicity of child-rearing.
- (1) The New Testament gives only two commands regarding children. Take them as the broad principles and you will find life to be easier for both you and the child.
 - (2) The first command is to obey your parents, Ephesians 6:1.
 - (a) This is not an option, it is the expectation.
 - (b) When you have to decide if a correction of some sort is needed the first question is this, "Are they obeying me?"
 - (c) Assuming they understood your directions the answer is very easy to determine.
 - (d) It is how we operated in our home, did my child respond in obedience? Or did they fight, argue, whine, moan, spit, yell, throw things, kick and the myriad of other ways a little one shows his displeasure and rebellion.
 - (e) For us, early on it resulted in a simple spanking and as they got older, from 10ish on it moved to verbal rebukes as a norm.
 - (f) But it was done faithfully and consistently with no favoritism and no winking at what our Lord calls sin.

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- (3) The second command is to show respect, Ephesians 6:2-3 (turn).
 - (a) Instead of making a million rules that we would never remember, we taught our children to respect us, and then branching out from there, to respect others.
 - (b) This was much more serious in our home.
 - (c) Notice that it is connected with a promise of blessing and life.
 - (d) A young man who does not understand respect for parents and others is simply a burden and a shame.
 - (e) But when he is taught to show respect, and what that looks like, then he is one who is on his way to a life of godly maturity.
 - (f) Again, this needs to be modeled by his father and mother.

III. Conclusion.

- A. In verse 4 we find that the sin of a father is to provoke his children to anger.
 - 1. In Colossians 3:21 it is to exasperate the child.
 - 2. It is easy to focus everything on the child, but this is a serious error, for they are only children.
 - 3. It is similar to the error of focusing on a wife submitting rather than on the husband loving her as Christ loves His Church. Both the child and the wife are in positions of weakness and therefore need to be protected not exploited.
 - 4. We must understand that there is a difference between provoking your child to anger and seeing your child become angry.
 - 5. But to treat your child harshly, with inconsistency, with favoritism, by ignoring and such you are sure to provoke them.
 - 6. Fathers, you are the only expression of what our heavenly Father is to these young men. Be a faithful picture.

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- B.** I hope to develop this idea of not provoking your child to anger next week since it is huge in raising up godly young men.