

INTRODUCTION TO CHRIST-CENTERED MANHOOD

Four Responsibilities for Men



LEADER NOTES

As we addressed the five roles for men during the last devotion, you may have already identified a few missing elements. These elements of Biblical manhood we refer to as responsibilities within the roles of men. Like the roles of men, these responsibilities will be carried out in varying degrees throughout a man's life.

STORY

Andrew's family dog had died three weeks ago. He was an awesome pet, but he really belonged to Andrew's dad. Andrew didn't have that tight relationship he really wanted with a dog of his own. So when his parents told him he could get his own dog, he was ecstatic.

He knew just where to go for his first very own pet. Last week he had played with a puppy golden lab that had been taken from its owners for neglect. The local pet store had allowed the agency to show the pet to their customers. The lab would be perfect.

When he got the puppy home, the first thing the dog did as it walked through the door was squat and pee right on the living room carpet. Andrew's parents didn't say a word. Andrew knew who was going to clean up the mess. So he asked his mom how best to do the job.

When he was done, his dad asked him to join him at the kitchen table. He said, "You know who's responsible for this new dog of yours, don't you? He'll need to be trained, walked, fed, groomed and bathed. He's your dog and he's your responsibility. That's a lot for you to take on. But if you're going to keep him, you must fulfill your responsibilities. That little puppy is counting on you and this experience will be very good for you."

"I know dad," replied Andrew. And he knew taking good care of his new dog would be well worth it.

Theme Verse

*Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways.
You will eat the fruit of you labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your sons will be like olive shoots around your table.
Thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord.*

*May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem,
and may you live to see your children's children.*

Peace be upon Israel.

Psalm 128

Four Responsibilities for Men

Discussion: *OPEN IN PRAYER* (Display the attached large print page for all to see)

Psalm 128 – God placed the Biblical roles and responsibilities for men in this one chapter of the Bible. Let's dissect the verses and find each one. We covered the five roles during the last devotional. **What are the 5 roles for men?** *From Intro Lesson 0.4.*

Four Responsibilities:

As we addressed the five roles for men last time, you may have identified a few missing elements. These elements of Biblical manhood, we will refer to as **responsibilities** within the roles of men. Like the roles of men, these responsibilities will be carried out in varying degrees throughout a man's life.

The first two revolve around **leadership** and are broken into two categories, each pertaining to one of the first two roles: disciple and servant.

Leading others in discipleship, leading others in service. **What would we call that?**

Spiritual Leadership and Servant Leadership

The next two responsibilities for men are alluded to in the Psalm. "You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours."

In other words, we work for our food. We *provide* for our family.

Men are to be the **provider**, bringing provision from the fruit of their work.

What were Andrew's responsibilities as a new owner of a puppy?

What is included in the "provisions" for a family?

Food, clothing, ipods? (not), a home, a car, a paintball gun? (not)...

Psalm 128 concludes with reference to peace and prosperity. The psalmist refers to prosperity in the city of Jerusalem, the religious center of their faith; he refers to peace in the nation of Israel; and he refers to living to see his extended family. Men are to be the **protector**, maintaining peace and prosperity for the family, church, community, and nation.

We now have five biblical roles and four responsibilities. **Can you name them all?** *Men of God are disciples, servants, husbands, fathers, and patriarchs. They are spiritual leaders, servant leaders, providers and protectors.*

Not all men will be called to fulfill every one of these roles. Some of these roles will be carried out during different seasons of life. Two of these roles also pertain to the Biblical woman: disciple and servant. And it's important to remember, God is always glorified in the fulfillment of each of these masculine roles and responsibilities.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Psalm 128

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
who walk in his ways.

You will eat the fruit of you labor;
blessings and prosperity will be yours.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;

your sons will be like olive shoots
around your table.

Thus is the man blessed
who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life;

may you see the prosperity of
Jerusalem,

and may you live to see your
children's children.

Peace be upon Israel.