

**Special Men's Breakfast Series**  
**Wild at Heart: Becoming Men of God**

*Part Two: The Journey of Our True Identity Begins*

A young man was to be sentenced to the penitentiary. The judge had known him from childhood, for he was well acquainted with his father--a famous legal scholar and the author of an exhaustive study entitled, "The Law of Trusts." "Do you remember your father?" asked the magistrate. "I remember him well, your honor," came the reply. Then trying to probe the offender's conscience, the judge said, "As you are about to be sentenced and as you think of your wonderful dad, what do you remember most clearly about him?" There was a pause. Then the judge received an answer he had not expected. "I remember when I went to him for advice. He looked up at me from the book he was writing and said, 'Run along, boy; I'm busy!' When I went to him for companionship, he turned me away, saying 'Run along, son; this book must be finished!' Your honor, you remember him as a great lawyer. I remember him as a lost friend." The magistrate muttered to himself, "Alas! Finished the book, but lost the boy!"  
— *Homemade*, February, 1989.

There are two important principles that we will start our lesson off with today. These principles have everything to do with a man's identity. Mark these down and remember them well.

**Principle #1** – A man's identity is influenced by the values that are impressed upon him during his childhood.

**Proverbs 6:1-6** – <sup>1</sup>My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, <sup>2</sup> for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. <sup>3</sup> Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup> Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

- *What does this passage say about the values we are to pursue in our lives?*
- *What were you taught about the identity of a Christian man as a child?*
- *How did that shape your present view of Biblical manhood?*

**Principle #2** – Words alone do not produce character but a man of action creates a future man of honor.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-8** – <sup>4</sup>Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

- *What does this passage say about your identity as a Biblical man?*
- *What are the Christian lessons you are teaching your children?*

### **Definition of a Man**

Many men in our modern day world do not really have an accurate idea of who they really are called to be. Many men are looking for some sort of purpose in their lives. They are looking for something to fill that void that is deep within their gut that makes them sleepless at night. Most men are looking for the next adventure to embark on to quit the restless voice that cries out deep within them every day. Men are looking for purpose and they are trying to find their true identity in a world that says that they are not really supposed to be men.

- *How is the modern day world trying to redefine manhood today?*
- *What effect does this have on men in our society? How about the effect on the world?*

If we are claiming that the world is redefining the identity of men today and that the world is in desperate need of real men then who has the right definition and what is that definition?

- *Define a Biblical man made in God's Image. Does this differ from the world's definition? Explain.*

### **Made in His Image**

Most men do not have a healthy definition of a real man because many times they have father's that gave them an inaccurate definition, gave them no definition, or simply did not care to even be involved in their lives. This can sometimes cause men to search for their own definition by turning to alcohol, drugs, violence, and sex to help them discover their own identity but sadly they never find it and the cycle never ends until they look in the right place. Today, we are going to look at four identity traits of a man made in the image of God.

- **Genesis 1:27** – So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him...
- *What does it really mean to be made in God's Image?*

There is a good reason for many men to suffer an identity crisis when they try to answer the question of being made in God's image. It sounds simple enough yet it is almost paradoxical at times. If you don't believe me then answer this simple question and let it sink in for a minute before you answer.

- *Is Jesus Christ more like Mother Teresa or William Wallace (Braveheart)?*

The answer is not just a black and white answer. At times in Scripture we see a Jesus that goes to the sick and the crippled and heals them, cares for them, and feeds them. At other times we see Jesus draw an enemy out and expose him by presenting the truth in front of many witnesses.

**Luke 13:10-17** – <sup>10</sup> On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, <sup>11</sup> and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” <sup>13</sup> Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

<sup>14</sup> Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”

<sup>15</sup> The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? <sup>16</sup> Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”

<sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

- God truly has a battle to fight and the battle is for our freedom.
- **Identity Trait #1 – Man is Meant to Fight for Justice and Truth**

I want you to think about other characteristics of our Savior that might be perplexing and challenging yet needed throughout our lives.

- **Rev. 5:4** – Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” = **Lion of Judah**
- **John 1:29** – The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! = **Lamb of God**
- *How does the world describe the traits of Jesus?*
- *How would you describe the traits of Jesus? Rev. 19*
- **Identity Trait #2 – Man is Meant to Lead**

The third trait that we see in our Creator is the aspect of adventure. It is a fact that our heavenly Father loves adventure and wildness. If you don't believe me then take a walk

in the middle of the woods alone in the middle of the night or take a walk in the middle of a thunderstorm. God is a risk taker.

- *What do you think is the biggest risk that God has ever taken? Gal. 2:17*

John Eldridge points out that the biggest risk God has ever taken is to give man his own free will. Reflect on this statement. Why would this be risky for God? God desires to have a relationship with everyone of his creations and sometimes people respond while other times they walk away. The heart grieves when it is rejected but rejoices when it is accepted. Either way relationship are truly adventurous.

- **Identity Trait #3 – Men are Meant for Adventure**

The last identity trait that men are called to exhibit through the image of God is seen as we reflect on the entire book of the Song of Songs.

- *What themes do you find in Song of Songs?*
- *How do these themes relate to the identity of man?*

- **Identity Trait # 4 – Men are called to Love a Beauty**

We have learned a lot about our true identity today but there is much more to learn about our adventure of true manhood as we will examine over the next few weeks.

**!!NEW!!** = Starting in the next few months Cicero Christian Church is starting a new ministry that is truly “A Man’s Ministry!” It is called the **Solid Rock Construction Team** and it is a ministry that is focused on building relationships through working on actual building projects that different people in the congregation need to have done. Look in the next few bulletins for more information!

### Scheduled Lessons to Come for the Series

July 21 – Wrestling With The Question of Manhood

July 28 – Winning the Battle for a Man’s Heart

August 04 – The Adventure to Live

- Note: All lessons are available for download at the Cicero Christian Church website = [www.cicerochristianchurch.org](http://www.cicerochristianchurch.org)



1715 Stringtown Pike • Cicero, IN 46034 • 317.984.4653 • [cicerochristianchurch.org](http://cicerochristianchurch.org)