

Introduction:

1. We have lost them in our generation. No, not every one, but the American family has lost most of them. There are fewer and fewer real men—real husbands and fathers—in America. Not only have we lost them, a lot of Americans would no longer recognize them if they saw one.
  - a. Some people are looking for John Wayne—the great American cowboy. As much as I liked John Wayne, he was too much of a loner in his movie roles to be what families need today.
  - b. Some are looking for James Bond—smooth, debonair and cool. Not only was he a secret agent, he was a real ladies man. Remember that Bond is a fictional character. We already have too many men who fantasize that they are James Bond.
  - c. Others are looking for Donald Trump—the 18-hour-a-day workaholic making really big bucks. Let Trump stay in New York; you don't want him in your house. He might say "You're fired!"
  - d. One lady was looking for Chuck Norris—former world karate champion. In the movies, he can whip ten guys at once. If he lived in your house, you'd better hope he wouldn't whip you!
  - f. When America goes looking for real men, she is not sure what she is looking for!
2. Can I suggest that America needs to look for a man that looks like Jesus?
  - a. But, someone says, "We can't do that because we don't know what Jesus looked like. Furthermore, Jesus was never married and had no children. He certainly cannot be a role model for husbands and fathers today."
  - b. He can be; the qualities found in him are exactly what women and children are looking for in a husband and father. Jesus was a real man. And while he was never married in the ordinary sense, he does have a bride—the church.
  - c. The Bible compares the relationship of Jesus and His church to that of a husband and wife, Ephesians 5:23-27. See also Revelation 21:9-10. The church is the bride of Christ. We can learn something about real manhood—even about the man in the family—by studying about Jesus Christ. Here is what a real man looks like...He looks like Jesus.

The Lesson:**I. Jesus the Leader.**

- A. Jesus is the leader of His bride, the church, Ephesians 5:23.
- B. God's intent is that the man be the leader of the family, Ephesians 5:23.
  1. The husband is the ruler, just as Christ is the ruler. Jesus is a benevolent ruler over His family, the church. So must real men be in their families.
  2. In the real man's heart is a desire to lead, to provide order, justice and mercy within his family. He is a man who leads with a kind and generous spirit. It is evident that God created men with a nature to be out front, to lead; it's part of his masculinity.
- C. He leads his family to serve God.
  1. Just like with Jesus, he is a follower of God in his own life first, Psalms 42:1-2.
    - a. You cannot reach your potential with respect to manhood until you reach the point where you acknowledge a need for God in your life. You are not independent! You are not John Wayne! You are dependent on God for your existence, sustenance and your redemption. And your family is dependent on God.
    - b. Real men follow God—and it's time we stood up and said so! We've had enough of this philosophy that thinks being a Christian is for wimps and sissies! Jesus was a man's man; real men can serve Him and His Father with their heads held high; it is noble to belong to God; we serve the Master of the Universe!
  2. A real man is like Joshua (*Hebrew word for Jesus*) in leading His family, Joshua 24:15.
    - a. Joshua not only spoke for himself, he had the courage to speak for his family; he had confidence that his family would follow his example. He was unwilling to let his family just be thrown out there to the world and see how they would do.
    - b. Joshua provided spiritual direction for his family because he was a real man.
- D. A real man is responsive to his family's needs and concerns as he leads, 1 Peter 3:7.
  1. The real man is a servant to his family—just like Jesus to the church, Matthew 20:25-28. "Leader" doesn't just mean, "I get to be the boss; everybody has to jump at my word."

2. It means he has responsibility to lead, to direct and show the way. He leads with understanding, compassion and generosity. When his wife and children speak, he listens. He tries to hear with his heart.
- E. Donald Trump doesn't fill the bill here. Jesus does. Model Him!

## II. Jesus the Protector.

- A. Do you see Jesus as the protector of the church? You ought to, Ephesians 5:29. As the nourisher and cherisher of the church, he takes care of the church.
- B. If you are a man and have a family, it is God's intent that you be the protector of your family.
  1. You protect them from the cold, hunger and any harm or danger that might befall them, 1 Timothy 5:8. A protector esteems highly that which is in his charge. He holds to high principles; he is willing to live and die for those under his protection.
  2. That is what Jesus did. That is what real men do. They are concerned about their families; they serve as defenders of the family, shielding them from any enemy.
- C. As the protector, he loves and appreciates the woman at his side, Ephesians 5:25.
  1. He protects her from loneliness and from feeling unwanted. He wants her to feel secure in the marriage relationship. Her security is found in knowing that she is loved.
  2. On the day he said his wedding vows, he said, "...forsaking all others..." that he would cling to this woman alone. There is no "special female friend" in his life except his wife.
- D. As the protector, he stays with his wife and children. He is like Jesus, Hebrews 13:5b. Could you ever imagine Jesus forsaking His people? Impossible!
  1. A real man models Jesus. He protects his wife and children from want and danger. He will not allow them to be deprived of a man in the home. He will not let his kids be denied a daddy who is there for them every day!
  2. He protects his home from being a fatherless home! We hold high the model that says, "Good men stay." With his wife, he makes a baby and then stays to raise a child to adulthood. We must celebrate the ideal of a man who puts his family first—men who will be full-fledged real fathers through the entire process of rearing children.
- E. James Bond may be cool and debonair, but he's no daddy. It's up to you to be your kids' dad!

## III. Jesus the Teacher.

- A. A real man has a heart to show his family the right way; Jesus is his model, Ephesians 4:21ff.
  1. A man lives the gospel in his own life first, and then he guides his wife and his children.
  2. His method is much like that of Jesus—he makes disciples. He shows the way for them to follow. Jesus never asked others to do what He was unwilling to do. A real man doesn't just teach *things* to his family. He teaches *life*.
- B. He pays particular attention to his children, nurturing them in God's way, Ephesians 6:4.
  1. He is quick to set the example for his kids. "Do as I say, not as I do," has no place in this man's vocabulary. His life and word are the same. See Acts 1:1.
  2. Great men have always been teachers of their children, Genesis 18:19.
- C. Chuck Norris can teach your kids karate. It's up to you to teach them the Bible!

## IV. Jesus the Friend.

- A. A friend sacrifices, John 15:12-14. A friend is someone who loves. Jesus is the perfect model.
- B. A real man is a friend to his family. What does friend mean? In our time we have reduced it to mean "my buddy."
  1. A friend is much more than a buddy. He is a commitment-maker and vow-keeper.
  2. When he talks, he listens and remembers his word. Like Jesus, his word is sacred to him. He is someone you can trust. A friend is someone who genuinely cares. Because he cares he knows how to be friendly to his family, Proverbs 18:24. He is not gruff or mean!
- C. Real men, like Jesus, genuinely care for their families.

### Conclusion:

1. None of these things are particularly easy. But being a man isn't easy! Each one will try our patience and character. But real men cultivate patience and have character. Jesus is our model.
2. What your family needs is not found in Bond, Trump, Wayne or Norris, but in Jesus. Be like Him!