



Man Plan

What is a Man?

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on June 18, 2016



Pastor Rick Lancaster

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Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **MAN PLAN: Becoming the man you were designed to be!**
- In the NT book of Galatians the Apostle Paul was inspired to write about how God sees people **Galatians 3:28**
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- Paul is telling us that God doesn't differentiate based on human definitions or gender roles – He treats us all the same
- In our culture today, some would like to do away traditional definitions of what it means to be a man or a woman
- Their justification for this is that traditional gender roles create inequality and discrimination
- As usual, our culture is attacking the wrong problem
- The real problem is the hearts of men and women who are far from God, doing whatever seems good in their own eyes
- Changing definitions and laws will not fix the problem
- In fact, that will make the situation worse
- Instead of bringing peace and order, it will produce pain, suffering, and more chaos
- My heart breaks for the families of those who suffered and died in Orlando
- But the answer is not gun-control – that won't solve the problem
- I read this week of an attack in China, 29 people were killed and over 100 injured by a group of terrorists with knives in a crowded train station
- Car bombings, suicide bombers, they will find a way
- What is needed is men and women turning back to God and living according to His will, ways, and Word
- And I believe that it is God's will that men be men, and women be women

- Because this is a Men's Breakfast, I am going to try to answer the question, 'What is a Man?'
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **What is a Man?**
- Turn in your Bible to **1 Corinthians 16**
- This is a familiar text to our Men's Ministry
- We did a retreat based on this text in 2013 and our current Men's Ministry logo is based off of it
- Let's go ahead and read it and then I will share some thoughts with you
- **1 Corinthians 16:13-14**
- First, this was not written to men only – it was written to the church
- So, 'How can I apply it to men?' you might ask
- Because a few chapters earlier Paul wrote **1 Corinthians 11:3**
I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.
- God created this universe with a very particular order – God – Christ – man – woman
- God the Father is supreme over the whole universe
- God has appointed Christ to be the head of man – that means Christ is responsible for man and is accountable to God for mankind
- God appointed men to be the head of women – that means men are responsible for and are accountable to God for the women in their lives
- It is not a matter of dominance or superiority
- It is a matter of shepherding **1 Peter 5:2-4**
Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.
- I believe as a husband and father that God has entrusted a small portion of His flock into my care
- And because that is true, I need to take the initiative and lead that flock

- What is a man? – He is a man who takes his role as shepherd seriously, knowing that he will stand before Jesus someday and give an accounting for the flock of God that was entrusted to him
- That is a general philosophical and spiritual definition
- Let's look at some of the practical things that define a man
- Let's read our text again
- **1 Corinthians 16:13-14**
- In verse 13 Paul gives us four very brief exhortations, and in verse 14 one overarching command
- I am going to depict this graphically with a series of overlapping circles
- The first one is **Watch**
- A man keeps watch over the flock of God entrusted to him
- What are we watching for **1 Peter 5:8**
Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- A man takes the threats of this world seriously and is being vigilant to keep watch for the attacks of our enemy
- A practical way this happens in my life is in my relationships
- Some kind of tension will develop between Kelly and I – maybe even working into an argument
- If I am watching, being vigilant, I know that it is an attack from the enemy of our soul, the devil
- Kelly, or your wife, or children, or any other person is not the enemy
- And instead of attacking Kelly I need to direct my actions toward my true enemy **James 4:7-8**
Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.
- Don't fight and argue with people, submit to God and resist the devil
- If I am watching and one of these attacks comes, I pause and let Kelly know we are under attack and ask her to pray with me against the attack
- A man is watching over his life and flock
- The second trait of a man is **Stand Fast**

- This is a man who has planted his feet and is not going to be moved by this world or the things of this world or the circumstances of this life
- For him to do that he must be standing on something firm **Luke 6:46-49**

But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.

- A man is standing on the Word of God
- The things of this world are shifting sands
- Part of shepherding the flock is making sure it is well fed
- I make sure my family is regularly in church and Bible studies
- I make sure my wife is being fed from the Word, either in her own quiet time or together
- Because of changes in our household, I recently rearranged my schedule so that I would be home in the morning when Kelly reads her Bible, and I read mine at the same time
- Regularly we talk about what we are reading
- And part of my responsibility to her is to know the Word well enough to make sure she understands what she is reading
- And then it is my responsibility to manage how the family responds to the different influences of life
- That when the storms of life come, I stand fast upon the promises of God and help my family to do the same thing
- A man is watching and standing fast
- The third attribute of a man is **Brave**
- I once watched a video about what you should do in an active shooter situation like what happened in Orlando
- The speaker said there are three recommended actions
- First – escape and lead others to safety away from the attackers
- Second – If you can’t escape, Hide from the attackers in a safe and secure location where the attackers can’t get to you

- Third – If you can't escape or hide, fight back – it is better to fight back and possibly overpower the attacker than to do nothing and be killed
- Most women would naturally think of the first two options, but most men would imagine themselves in scenario three
- But a real man is not just brave when the bullets are flying
- He is brave when the world threatens to invade his home
- It takes courage to tell your wife that giving to God when the finances are tight is the right thing to do
- It takes courage to tell your teenager that certain friends are not good for them – that certain activities are not permitted
- It takes courage to tell your family that certain kinds of entertainment are not good for your soul
- Or, in the workplace, letting your boss know that you will not do something they have asked you do to that is ethically or morally wrong
- Doing the right thing is always the right thing to do, but sometimes it takes courage to do it **Deuteronomy 31:6**

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

- When he knows the right thing to do, a man has the courage in God to do it
- A man is watching, standing fast, and is brave
- The fourth attitude of a man is **Strong**
- While it is true that most men are stronger than the women in their lives, this is not the strength that men should be known for
- What the flock of God entrusted to you really needs is strength of character – they need us to be strong in integrity
- There should be no hypocrisy – or double-standards
- We should be men of our word – we say what we are going to do and then we do what we said
- We should be examples of godliness to all those around us
- Paul told Timothy that **1 Timothy 4:12**

Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

- Let's be physically strong for those we are called to shepherd, but what they really need is a man of strong character and integrity
- That strength also needs to show up emotionally
- It is not unmanly to allow our emotions out – but a man is in control of his emotions
- A man is watching, standing fast, is brave and strong
- We will wrap up with one overriding command

- **1 Corinthians 16:14**

- The underlying principle behind all we do should be love

- Love first for God **Deuteronomy 6:5**

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

- And at the same time – love one another **John 13:34-35**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

- A man loves and he shows love
- Men, in the image here you see each circle overlapping into the other circles, and all of them are encompassed by the heart
- To be real men, real shepherds of the flock of God entrusted to you
- Men who have no fear of standing before God to give an accounting for how we cared for the flock He entrusted to us
- Then we are going to be working on each of these circles
- Be watchful over the flock and be vigilant to watch for the attacks of the enemy
- Stand firm upon the absolute truth of Scripture and help others to do the same
- Develop the courage to do what is right, no matter what the consequences might be, or from whom those consequences might come
- Build the strength of character and integrity that can withstand the severest attacks of this world or the enemy of our souls
- And use that strength to protect those entrusted to your care
- And above all, learn to love with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength

- That is the kind of men God is looking for – that is the kind of man your wife, children, or others need you to be – that is the kind of man who can change the world
- Let's be those kind of men – Amen?!
- **Prayer**