

# Man Up

One of the things that our times have brought into focus the significant differences between men and women. It is difficult, though, to be thankful for men being men without sounding like you are endorsing what has been termed "toxic masculinity." Most of this revolves around the idea of men being strong.

## 1. The glory of a man -

Prov 20:29 The glory of young men *is* their strength: and the beauty of old men *is* the gray head.

If you extol masculine strength, complaints and disclaimers are quickly added on. The world is quick to disparage that and admonishes that men can be bullheaded, controlling, and overpowering. The world is quick to downplay male strength and reminds us that women can be strong and that men are afraid of a strong woman. It should not be surprising that if that male strength is bottled up it will explode at some point. It might be in self-destruction or it might be in aggression in society. But it would be better if it were harnessed and allowed to go to work. Throwing gas on a house and lighting a match can be devastating. But if you harness the gas by compressing it in a cylinder with a piston and applying a spark it can drive an engine that will rush you to the hospital, till a farm, or take you on a vacation. After all the apologizing and disclaimers and trying to remove the distinction between men and women in order to keep women from being suppressed, the reverse is happening and women are being erased. As some men are trying to identify as women, women in sports are losing opportunities as they have to settle for fourth place. Young men and young women are being mutilated because they are not encouraged to embrace their difference. Men are told they are not

needed so they leave.

One of the things that impressed me from my father was his strength. On one occasion at work the upper floor of a job site began to collapse and my father was there to hold up a beam until everyone else was able to clear out. I watched him simply picking up and moving equipment. I saw him handling heavy block after block as he built up a wall. But I also admired him because he had a strong strength: his strength was able to endure. He kept going to work in spite of the weather or how hard his job was. He repaired things, planted things, built things, year in and year out.

1Cor 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Earlier, when we read Proverb 20:29, you might make the mistake that only the young men are noted for their strength. According to Hebrew poetry, that is only half the thought. The gray head of older men complements and completes the thought: it speaks of the strength it takes to endure for a lifetime.

While there are many qualities that make up Godliness, I would like to unapologetically capitalize on the importance of masculine strength that is harnessed in Godly manliness.

## 2. Be spiritually strong -

Matt 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

If our spiritual vision is not obscured by the distractions of this world we will be filled with the light of His glory. There is a requirement for such clarity of focus on vision of God:

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,

whatsoever things *are* honest,  
whatsoever things *are* just,  
whatsoever things *are* pure,  
whatsoever things *are* lovely,  
whatsoever things *are* of good  
report; if *there be* any virtue, and  
if *there be* any praise, think on  
these things.

God and His work, though we greatly  
admire Him, is something many people  
merely *add on* to their lives. The Hindu  
might be happy to place Jesus on a shelf  
*with* his other idols, the Moslem might  
pay lip service and call Jesus *one* of the  
prophets, the cultists might acknowledge  
Christ is an angel, the liberals might  
question the deity of Christ, but aren't  
Christians who have their liquor  
cabinets, cigarette and cigar boxes, 500  
channels, and Sunday morning sports  
leagues doing the same thing?

Ps 24:3-6 Who shall ascend into  
the hill of the LORD? or who  
shall stand in his holy place?

4He that hath clean hands, and a  
pure heart; who hath not lifted up  
his soul unto vanity, nor sworn  
deceitfully.

5He shall receive the blessing  
from the LORD, and  
righteousness from the God of  
his salvation.

6This *is* the generation of them  
that seek him, that seek thy face,  
O Jacob. Selah.

What does it take to be a man?  
Heroic figures are often not physically  
gifted. They are often ordinary men  
doing ordinary things in extraordinary  
times. Manly confidence does not depend  
on being the biggest and strongest. It  
depends on taking responsibility.

1Tim 2:12-14 But I suffer not a  
woman to teach, nor to usurp  
authority over the man, but to be  
in silence.

13For Adam was first formed,  
then Eve.

14And Adam was not deceived,  
but the woman being deceived

was in the transgression.

The kind of strength we need is strong strength that keeps us moving forward in spite of the distractions and challenges.

In her book, *HERO: Being The Strong Father Your Children Need*, one author (pediatrician Meg Meeker) wrote:

...children need their fathers. More importantly, children WANT their fathers. Children see you, their father, as their HERO. Let me put it another way:

Fathers need to see themselves the way their children see them. You are, whether you know it or not, the center of their world, the hub of the wheel that is your family, the hero they depend on. If you're not there or not engaged, they suffer. —  
HERO, Ch. 1

That is a lot of weight and responsibility on a father. But I want you to know that you, Dad, are hard-wired to be exactly what your children need. They already see you as the strongest, bravest, most incredible man in their world. They believe that nothing is impossible for you and that you would conquer all evil to protect them and your family. Your children have already given you this role! You just have to step up to the plate and be the very best father that you believe you should be.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. Spiritual strength in the home -

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<sup>1</sup><https://megmeekermd.com/blog/dad-you-are-your-childrens-hero/>

Deut 6:4-9 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD:  
5And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.  
6And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:  
7And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.  
8And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.  
9And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

This passage is identified as the *Shema*.

The Shema is one of only two prayers that are specifically commanded in Torah...It is the oldest fixed daily prayer in Judaism, recited morning and night since ancient times. It consists of three biblical passages, two of which specifically say to speak of these things "when you lie down and when you rise up." This commandment is fulfilled by including the Shema in the liturgy for Ma'ariv (evening services) and Shacharit (morning services). Traditional prayerbooks also include a Bedtime Shema, a series of passages including the Shema to be read at home before going to bed at night.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.jewfaq.org/shemaref.htm>

Look at verse 7: thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

If there was something about being a man and a father that I would like to extract from this passage it is that we must lead our children and our families in Godliness. It could easily be applied that the parents share in this burden, but I think there is a special emphasis on men because later on we read about the responsibility of passing on this challenge from son to son. in verse 20.

Children want you to succeed as their hero. When you fail, they want you to get back up again. We need to be their example.

Deut 6:17-19 Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee.  
18And thou shalt do *that which is* right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers,  
19To cast out all thine enemies from before thee, as the LORD hath spoken.

Teaching and then exercising what we teach, is not the end of the matter. We need to point them to the greater meaning of life.

Deut 6:20-23 *And* when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What *mean* the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you?  
21Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand:  
22And the LORD shewed signs

and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes:

23And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers.

We need to teach them the Gospel. We were bondmen, slaves, to the world but the meaning of all the testimonies, statutes, and judgments of God is that He bought us and brought us out of the world to a new and heavenly land.

At the end of the ministry of Joshua, he gave a stern admonition to Israel.

Josh 24:14-16 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

15And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

16And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; **[The people affirmed that they would *not* forsake the Lord]**

Joshua called them to account and they swore *again* they would not forsake the Lord.

Josh 24:20-21 If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

21And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve

the LORD.

It is a sad testimony that the next generation did not continue on in that strength.

Judg 2:10-13 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.

11And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:

12And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that *were* round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.

13And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

As much as we would judge them, our generation is not far off. Jeopardy! fans were furious after the contestants failed to answer a 'simple' question about the Lord's Prayer during the game. Players Joe, Laura, and Suresh were unable to give the correct answer to host Mayim Bialik's question regarding the commonly recited prayer. 'Matthew 6:9 says, "Our Father, which art in heaven, [THIS] be thy name," Bialik said, asking the group to fill in the blank with the correct word. Shockingly, the group made an error of biblical proportions by not even attempting to guess the correct answer as the stage remained silent until Bialik gave the answer. How does this happen? Who failed to take them as children to church to be taught? The only hope that we have that this will not happen in our generations is found in Psalm 145:

Ps 145:4-5 One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.



I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.

All Christians need to be aware of this, but God especially holds the men accountable. Man up. Take the lead and be the Godly man God has called you to be.

1. The glory of a man - Prov 20:29
2. Be spiritually strong - Matt 6:22, Eph 6:10, Phil 4:8, Ps 24:3-6
3. Spiritual strength in the home - Deut 6:4-23