

**GRACE DOCTRINE CHURCH
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ST. CHARLES, MO 63121**

BOYS TO MEN

Lately, I've been seeing and reading articles about "Gender Identity"; "LGBTQ"; "Non-Binary"; and on and on the list goes. I see constantly how "boys" and "men" are under attack and I started thinking about when I was a kid there were only "boys" and "girls". It was clear you were either a "boy" or a "girl" and if there were other things going on (and I'm sure there were) it was not talked about, and you knew it was **WRONG!**

As kids' girls did girl things and boys would run together doing guy things. When I was a kid, the girls would play hide and go seek, tag, things like this with the guys but otherwise the guys fought and played together and that included tackle football without pads, having wars with kids from other neighborhoods etc.

As I talk with Warden's, CO's (Correctional Officers), and Chaplains they all say, "There are no fathers in these incarcerated men's life." They also are quick to tell you, "These inmates have no idea what a man really is."

I thought about a book I read in about 2001 and it was called "[The War Against Boys](#)". As I thought about the book I started thinking about when I watch television the women are always beating up the men and how the men are made to look like they are weak and basically useless. It's really very sad and you start to wonder how in our current zeitgeist is it possible to raise a boy to be a man, a man that God can use?

This is what our study is about today and even if you don't have sons maybe you have a grandson or maybe you're looking to get married and you're looking for a "man". I think if you hang in there you will get something out of this study even if it just gives you some insight into the boys you may teach at school (if you're a teacher) or prep-school, etc. In this study I will even have a few points for mother's, men, fathers, and grandparents. So, there is something for everyone in what we will study today.

So, here's a question? Why, are there so many scenes in movies or on television these days where female characters physically overpower and beat up male characters?

It's because movie writers nowadays try to be politically correct and pander to "progressive" agendas. It's the same reason why, on movies and shows in which the main character is a male, females are portrayed as capable and helpful whereas in female-led stories, males tend to be portrayed as moronic, irrelevant and weak.

Christina Hoff Sommers writes in her book “The War Against Boys”, “Boys make adults nervous. As a group, they are nosy, rowdy, and hard to manage. Many are messy, disorganized, and won’t sit still. Boys tend to like action, risk, and competition. When researchers asked a sample of boys why they did not spend a lot of time talking about their problems, most of them said it was “weird” and a waste of time.”

In a “National Review Article” dated August 16, 2016, David French writes, “If you’re the average Millennial male, your dad is stronger than you are. In fact, you may not be stronger than the average Millennial female. You’re exactly the kind of person who in generations past had your milk money confiscated every day – who got swirled in the middle-school bathroom. The very idea of manual labor is alien to you, and even if you were asked to help, say, build a back porch, the task would exhaust you to the point of uselessness. Welcome to the new post-masculine reality.”

He goes on to say, “You have to ignore the voices who are telling you to indulge your child’s inclinations – no matter what they are – and train them to be not just morally courageous but also physical strong.”

They can have their Xbox or their PC, but they can also hit the weight room. Though it sounds simplistic, never ever underestimate the positive effect that raw physical strength can have on a young man’s development.”

Finally, David French writes, “Men were meant to be strong. Yet we excuse and enable their weakness. It’s but one marker of cultural decay, to be sure, but it’s a telling marker indeed.”

The feminization of boys is not just a problem in America. China maybe our nation’s biggest enemy also has an issue, and they are taking action. Let’s look at a few comments by Tiffany May in an article she wrote on February 5, 2021.

“Government officials in China believe that boys are getting more effeminate and want to toughen them up.”

“In the latest attempt to tackle what academics and news outlets call a “masculinity crisis,” the Education Ministry has proposed emphasizing the “spirit of yang,” or male attributes, by hiring more sports instructors and redesigning physical education classes in elementary and secondary schools.”

“The plan, a response to a top official’s call to “prevent the feminization of male youths,” was released last week.”

“It’s hard to imagine such effeminate boys can defend their country when an outside invasion looms.”

“In recent years, as the country has sought to bolster its military and reckon with pampered children, mostly boys, born under its one-child policy, a more

stringent idea of masculinity has emerged. Television censors have blurred the pierced ears of male pop stars. Well-groomed actors have been publicly derided as “little fresh meat,” and parents have enrolled boys in boot camps, hoping they will become “real men.”

What is a real man? How do boys grow into the man God wants them to be? This is going to be what we study today.

Being a “male” does not make you a “man” you are a man because of how you think. You are what you think not what you think you are!

When God wants to check you out, He looks at what’s on the inside not at your outward appearance.

1 Samuel 16:7: “But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

We know every boy (every child) has their own volition. We can’t mold them or make them into carbon copies of ourselves. Even if we could, we’d be doing them a disservice. Because God gave them very specific gifts, talents, and abilities including their very own spiritual gift.

Sadly, we can’t even determine whether our children will choose to stick with Bible Doctrine as they grow or even if they will attend church. There are plenty of things we can do but we aren’t in control of their volition. Lack of parental control in this area is tough!

There are some basic character traits we need to teach boys, so they grow into the man God wants them to be. Then they can become the husbands and fathers we need them to be.

But first let’s start at the beginning which is really a journey for not only the parents trying to raise a boy to a man but also for the child.

First you have a newborn, and they are being completely controlled by the old sin nature. Their only thought is I want it and I want it now, with no ability to see anything beyond that.

Even at this early age babies have an instinctive ability to manipulate adults. From there we as Christian parents, hope they grow to be spiritually mature men glorifying God and keeping their sin nature under control.

Proverbs: 22:6: “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

As the baby grows you start with the word “NO”. It comes from parents willing to put the child first, be the bad guy when necessary.

Proverbs 12:1: “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.”

At this point in his life, it is a battle just to keep them alive, he is totally dependent on someone else to survive. He can be taught to understand “NO” already, and that actions have consequences to a limited degree.

As the boy grows to a toddler, if no one has taught them what “NO” means by now it is a battle, he can manipulate his parents, he’ll even throw tantrums in public to get his way.

Proverbs 29:15: “The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.”

Proverbs 29:17: “Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul.”

You must make decisions as parents; do you move things out of reach or teach them not to touch, or there would be discipline to follow.

Proverbs 13:24: “He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.”

The discipline will vary according to his old sin nature trend. Some children you only have to look at sternly, others may require more drastic measures.

Hebrews 12:11: “All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been training by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

Here is where you can start to introduce them to God and the Lord Jesus Christ. It starts with things like singing, “Jesus Loves Me”, reading them Bible History such as – “David”; “Moses”; the “Lord’s Prayer”; introduce praying at dinner and before going to bed and many other ways to start to teach them about our Lord.

Before you know it, he turns into a young boy. This is a make-or-break point.

Proverbs 1:8-9: “Hear, my son, your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching;

Vs.9: Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head and ornaments about your neck.”

PRINCIPLE: The duties of the father and mother coordinate in the education, instruction, and discipline of the child.

He clearly understands his role, with respect for the authority of adults who are responsible for him. This young boy can be a joy, or he is a rude self-centered brat who throws fits to get his way. At this age they start to understand biblical and establishment principles.

Although he is not yet able to comprehend or have the attention span for adult bible class, he can be taught Biblical Principles in every detail of life.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7: “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

Vs.7: You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

Let’s get a few points that are important at this stage of a young boy’s life:

1. Following their father around at this stage is a good thing.
2. Bible class should become more consistent with the basics being taught daily. You can do this in a variety of ways as I mentioned earlier.
3. Just as the chicken came before the egg, so authority came before human freedom. No baby is ready for freedom. The baby has natural, instinctive self-centered arrogance. Humility must be learned and acquired.
4. Humility begins in the home with obedience to parents. The home provides the environment for enforced humility. Parents are the first authority in life to train, teach, inculcate, orient to life, and bring the child in obedience to authority. (Deuteronomy 6:6)
5. The first responsibility of the child in the home is obedience to the authority and mandates of the parents.

Ephesians 6:1-3: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’”

Colossians 3:20: “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”

6. Some of the basic rules that maintain order in the home are:

- a. Do not disobey your mother.
 - b. Do not talk back to your mother.
 - c. Do not correct your mother.
 - d. Do not argue with your mother.
 - e. Do not deceive your mother.
 - f. Do not lie to your mother.
7. The child's obedience to the enforced humility of parental authority is the key to his attainment of genuine humility, honor, and long life. The humble child learns how to say "no" to the many temptations of life in their formative stage. With genuine humility, the child will develop a sense of destiny, make decisions from a position of strength, and recognize the attacks of the cosmic system, and avoid the devastating traps and snares set by Satan's tacticians.
8. You must start to break the "arrogance" in the young man. Why?
- A. Arrogance rejects authority.
 - B. Arrogance divorces from reality.
 - C. Arrogance distracts the Christian from growing.

PRINCIPLE: You can't learn if you think you're right all the time!

- D. Arrogance is highly contagious. Arrogance is the only disease known to mankind which makes everyone sick except the one who has it.

Proverbs 29:23: "A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor."

PRINCIPLE: Do not discipline your children when you are angry!

The mental attitude of anger is devastating to a young man and is a precursor to bitterness. He will carry this bitterness around in his soul and when provoked it will ignite into a "thumos" explosion.

Parents do not need to be the source of this. Instruction, training, discipline, and punishment must be administered through love.

Next comes the teenage years and they can be a great joy, or they can become legalized terrorists.

3 John 1:4: "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth."

Teenagers are capable of understanding who Christ is and hopefully chose the path of accepting Him (Jesus Christ) as their Savior, and it's the parent's job to steer them in the right direction and to make sure they are evangelized.

Ephesians 6:4: "And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

Parents should work to inspire his freewill, at the same time guide him towards the best paths to utilize his gifts.

Philippians 1:6: "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."

As parents if we are doing our duty, we will be laying a foundation that will be written on the young man's heart and be there for recall even if he goes down the "my way highway" later in life.

Proverbs 3:1-7: "My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments;

Vs.2: For length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

Vs.3: Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.

Vs.4: So, you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man.

Vs.5: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

Vs.6: In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Vs.7: Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

1. During the teenage years speaking Bible Doctrine, applying Bible Doctrine is the knowledge that must be gained by them.

PRINCIPLE: If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.

2. Parents want to lead their children to a place of responsibility, self-control, and honor.
3. Living it (Bible Doctrine) is the means to reinforce what we teach our children. We learn by what we observe.

PRINCIPLE: You can witness more with your life than with your mouth.

Deuteronomy 6:7: (Really 5-9): “You shall teach them diligently to your sons and you shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

4. Remember God wrote the 10 commandments on the tablets of stone just so it must be written forever in the soul of a child by teaching and by example.
5. Home teaching includes simple subjects...like manners. There are no manners in the world anymore.

PRINCIPLE: “Teaching kids to count is fine but teaching them what counts is best.”

6. You have to teach them respect for others in the home. That’s where you start.
7. Respect for the property of others.
8. Reinforcing good decisions based not only on common sense but on spiritual sense from the Word of God and Bible Doctrine stored in your soul.
9. Most importantly Bible Doctrine must be taught and applied by the parents.
10. Remember how a parent lives his life constitutes experience for the children. It’s consequential instruction for the children.
11. It’s never a matter of do what I say not what I do. They will do as you do not as you say! Count on it. They won’t do it if you don’t do it.
12. As a parent don’t make issues of inconsequential things when larger issues are ignored and uncorrected.

PRINCIPLE: Have flexibility in the nonessentials, but inflexibility in the essentials. You must know Bible Doctrine to know which is which.

13. Without parental demonstrations of Bible Doctrine and its application, it’s likely the child won’t do what you ask them to do because you don’t exhibit the action and the decisions with Bible Doctrine in your own life which is your responsibility – taking in Bible Doctrine – to apply the Word of God in your life.

PRINCIPLE: Children are great imitators. So, give them something great to imitate.

Remember peer pressure is a powerful influence.

PRINCIPLE: It takes courage which comes from Christian integrity for young people to do the right thing and ignore peer pressure.

14. If they (Children) don't see the advantages of Bible Doctrine and they only see what the cosmic system offers because they're bombarded with it then you have in many cases lost them to the cosmic system.

15. Teaching is one way of protecting them from it.

16. You must learn it and apply it in the home. Make sure it becomes "spiritual muscle memory".

17. Children are a lot more likely to follow your lead especially as they get on with their own life when they have had good training and they know that it works to their advantage. They know the benefits and they know the results of having the Word of God in their soul and applying the Word of God to life and circumstances.

When Bible Doctrine is not taught expect negative results.

You set the pattern for keeping or forgetting Bible Doctrine in their souls.

If they are in rebellion as teenagers they will still be cognizant of the message they hear and see from you the parent.

It will be implanted in the recesses of their souls.

When confronted by various trials, tests, and circumstances if they use positive volition the child might return to it at a later time.

However, it may require some very hard knocks to activate positive volition but that's the result of bad decisions in life.

It is never, never, too late to use Bible Doctrine starting with rebound and get with it and to move past those bad decisions.

When you have taught and when you have demonstrated the children will have the foundation of the Word of God to apply later and in the end, they will make good decisions and they'll overcome the bad decisions they've already made, and the best decision will be to return and to get back with the program.

Kids are listening and watching very closely even though you don't think they are. Not only at the world around them but at you. How you live and how you handle things and how you apply Bible Doctrine that you keep talking about. How important is it?

In the teenage years you may see rebellion against authority and rebellion will be driven by arrogance. When you see anti-authority and arrogance you must it must be squashed.

Remember authority orientation is critical in life and it includes personal humility and respect for adult supervision. Exodus 20:12

Let's get a few points on authority orientation and then we'll take a quick look at humility.

- 1. Submitting to authority is a necessary part of life and must be learned. Authority orientation is one of the most important things we can teach our children.**
- 2. Without authority orientation first taught in the home – because that's the first place anyone meets authority orientation – in the home.**
- 3. Authority is not a loss of freedom. Authority is for the maintenance of freedom. You cannot have freedom without authority.**
- 4. Without authority society degenerates to every man doing what is right in their own eyes. Everything is relative.**
- 5. The rule of law is lost as is something very individually and very personal – self-discipline. Parents must teach norms and standards...brush your teeth; take a shower; wipe your butt; comb your hair; stop when a policeman tells you to stop, etc.**
- 6. Submitting to Biblical authority is not the loss of freedom it enhances freedom. The mandates and the rules of scripture are for your benefit. They are to direct you into the good decisions you make in life. They don't limit your fun. They point your fun in the right direction. They keep you within the parameters of divine standards.**
- 7. Remember this: arrogance challenges any legitimate system of authority (Authority of parents over the children. Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20) (Divine establishment authority). (Law enforcement and government. Romans 13:1-7). Authority in the military, the teacher in the classroom, coaches over athletes, management over labor, husbands over wives in a leadership role, not in a tyrant role (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18)**

8. **Permissive parents need to realize that discipline and authority orientation are beneficial. It's not damaging. It's part of training.**
9. **Authority Orientation is the first asset a leader must have. It starts with accepting the authority of Jesus Christ and submitting to that authority.**
10. **God is the supreme authority. All creation is subject to His authority. (Psalm 103:19; 135:5-6; Isaiah 40:18-26; Daniel 4:25 and 34-37; Acts 4:19-20 and 5:29; Romans 9:20-23 and 13:1; Revelation 19:16).**

Psalm 103:19: "The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over-all."

11. **God has delegated authority to certain individuals among mankind. (Romans 13:1)**

Romans 13:1: "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."

12. **God has instituted human authority in order to:**
 - a. **Protect free will.**
 - b. **Protect the human race from self-destruction.**
 - c. **Give order to life.**
 - d. **Maintain peace.**
 - e. **Allow the gospel and Bible Doctrine to spread.**
 - f. **Support the believers' witness by their authority orientation in a rebellious world.**
13. **But I want to make it clear love and understanding are also beneficial. There must be a balance.**

Remember this principle: Devoid of boundaries self-absorbed children will reject automatically rules and authority figures and sometimes divine establishment norms and standards. They will be replaced by peer pressure. They will follow what their friends are doing rather than what their parents are telling them to do.

So now we need to get a few points on humility.

1. **Humility is the gateway to learning.**
2. **Humility is the opposite of pride or arrogance (Proverbs 11:2; 29:23; 1 Peter 5:5-6; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Daniel 4:37)**
3. **Humility is the mental attitude that is required for right action within a group of believers (Philippians 2:3-8).**

4. Humility accepts the authority and organization that is necessary in any group, including athletics and yes even the church.
5. Humility is freedom from pride and arrogance. This requires orientation to authority as well as objective thinking over subjective thinking.
6. Humility is a way of thinking about oneself in relation to God and others. (Daniel 5:23; Philippians 3:21; James 1:9-11)
7. Humility is a mental attitude which Jesus Christ demonstrated. (Matthew 11:29; Acts 8:33; Philippians 2:8)

Matthew 11:29: “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, you and you will rest for your souls.”

Philippians 2:2-5: “Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Vs.3: Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

Vs.4: do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Vs.5: Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Humility should characterize our service to the Lord. (Acts 20:19; 2 Corinthians 11:7; 12:21; James 4:11)

8. The humble person is not concerned about who gets the credit. He is concerned about doing his job as unto the Lord. (Acts 20:19; 2 Corinthians 11:7)
9. Humility makes spiritual growth possible. (Proverbs 22:4; Philippians 2:8; James 1:21)
10. Humility makes you teachable (James 1:21), makes spiritual growth possible (Proverbs 22:4; Philippians 2:8; James 1:21), always precedes true honor (Proverbs 15:33; 18:12; 1 Peter 5:6), and provides the capacity to receive grace blessings (James 4:6; 10; 1 Peter 5:5-6).
11. God planned that humility be a part of our lives (Ephesians 4:2): toward God (1 Kings 21:29; 2 Chronicles 7:14; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6) and toward people (Romans 12:16; Ephesians 4:2; Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 3:8; 5:5).

12. God will humble every person when Christ returns to earth. (Isaiah 2:11)
13. Humility is not a negative such as down grading yourself, thinking you cannot do anything, or a lack of confidence.
14. Humility is not by any means humiliation. Humility is the virtue of being free from arrogance while humiliation is to reduce your view of self to a lower status in your eyes or the eyes of others.
15. Having humility doesn't mean you are weak. Humility means you orient to authority, and you are able to handle authority even if it's unfair.
16. God exalts or promotes the humble. (Matthew 23:12; Luke 1:48-52; 14:11; 18:14; James 4:10)
17. The dependence on human power and ability is reduced to zero in biblical humility and the dependence on God's power and ability is increased to the max.
18. Humility is the root of all other virtues. Arrogance spoils everything. There can be no real love without humility.

1 Corinthians 13:4: "Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant."

NOTE: Augustine said, humility is first, second and third in Christianity!

Because boys will grow to men and hopefully lead families it's very important that they learn wisdom and especially learn Godly wisdom. So let's get a couple of points on wisdom.

1. Teach boys to fear the Lord. Proverbs 9:10 says that the **"fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom."** Teaching boys God's amazing grace is an essential piece of establishing wisdom in their hearts.
2. Encourage daily Bible study. Going to church as a family is important but encouraging boys to have a daily Bible study is important in gaining wisdom.
3. **PROVERBS 9:11-12** - Says that wisdom will **"multiply your days and add years to your life."**
4. Doesn't it make sense that we should encourage our kids toward wisdom as one of the most important character traits as the steppingstone to all other character traits.