

MY DEPLOYMENT

Real Manhood

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. – Genesis 1:26 NKJV

DAVID'S STORY

There's more to being a man than just being male. Here are my top five (5) observations about what it means to be an authentic, real man of God.

#1 - REAL MEN PURSUE VITAL RELATIONSHIPS

- **Real men regularly pursue a vital relationship with God.**

This is unquestionably the #1 priority in a REAL man's life. He must keep first things first (Matthew 6:33). Becoming a fully developing follower of Jesus is not a platitude or bumper sticker for him, it's a quest.

He is successful in life because he meets daily with Almighty God in the "secret place" (Matt. 6:6). There he receives counsel and orders from his commanding general, the Lord Christ Jesus.

- **Real men pursue a vital relationship with his spouse and family.**

How do you know if he is successful? Ask his wife. Ask his children. They'll tell you if he is the real deal or an imposter, a poser, a hypocrite. Children have few filters when it comes to telling friends at church, school, and the neighborhood if dad is a phony.

- **Real men pursue vital relationships with other men.**



If I look at the kind of company you keep, I would discover what you are truly about. A man may say anything he wants about his character, but his choice of friends speaks even louder. A friend is like an elevator: he can lift you up or take you down.

Every man needs at least four (4) types of men in his life. The following are well-known biblical figures. I encourage you to look them up and study them in the context of Scripture. But, to summarize, every man needs:

- (1) A "Paul" – a mentor
- (2) A "Timothy" – a mentee
- (3) A "Barnabas" – an encourager
- (4) A "Nathan" – an accountability partner

- **Real men pursue a vital relationship with themselves.**

Real men have goals and write them down. They start with "why," as in "why do I want to pursue this objective?" Men tend to lose their "way" when they lose their "why."

They have a plan, they are working the plan, and the plan is working.

They don't just passively react to life, they grab it by the horns and wrestle it to the ground and conquer it. He won't do something just because "everyone else is doing it."

Real men don't let social media, CNN, YouTube, or Google do their thinking for them. They are truth seekers and truth speakers.

#2 - REAL MEN ARE LEADERS, NOT JUST FOLLOWERS

Real men understand that true leadership is influence. Leaders are world changers. They don't follow trends, they set them. They understand that every man has the capacity to imitate men such as William Wallace, in Mel Gibson's movie *Braveheart*: REAL men take a stand, feel the fear and march into battle anyway. I may not be an actual battlefield that he is facing. Instead, he may face standing up for someone or something at the office, at school, at the gym, or at home.

Real men agree with Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said: "The time is always right to do what is right." Right is right no matter who opposes it – wrong is wrong no matter who endorses it – and Jesus Christ is Lord no matter who thinks otherwise.

#3 - REAL MEN ARE LIFETIME LEARNERS

Real men read and study the Bible. The Word of God is their all sufficient rule for faith and conduct. Real men study the Master Template of what real manhood looks like: Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Real men start with the Bible, but they don't stop there. The Spirit of God has anointed great men and women throughout history to communicate key life lessons. Real men read the books that these people have written, subscribe to their podcasts, follow their YouTube videos, and do whatever else they can to enrich their understanding of how to be a true man of God.

Real men know where to find truth. They also know how to avoid error. They know that the Internet is not a reliable source of truth and must be navigated with care: the Internet is a tool which, like a handgun, must be used with great precaution. They are aware that sitcoms, movies, late night talk shows, etc. can be sources of deception as well.

Real men leverage sage wisdom and critical thinking skills. They learn from their mistakes and fail forward. They realize that they cannot lead where they have not been, they cannot teach what they don't know, and they can't give what they don't have.

#4 - REAL MEN ARE GOING SOMEWHERE ON PURPOSE

Every man is going somewhere, but few men are going somewhere on purpose.

- **Real men are going somewhere on purpose in their relationship with God.**

Real men realize that they are God's workmanship, created to do good works which God has prepared for them in advance (Ephesians 2:10).

- **Real men are pursuing authentic relationships with other people.**

Real men understand that life is best lived in community with others. People matter most.

- **Real men are going somewhere on purpose in the financial life.**

Real men recognize that they are stewards of every dollar God entrusts in their hands. They do not live paycheck to paycheck, completely buried in debt. They are able to be generous because they have their financial house in order. If they find themselves in financial trouble, real men humble themselves and ask trusted friends for help and accountability.

- **Real men are going somewhere on purpose in their physical health.**

Real men are not fat, lazy slobs who have no respect for their own bodies. They don't just eat anything they want – as much as they want – anytime they want. They don't spend the majority of their leisure time in an easy chair watching TV. Instead, they are out and about and active, enjoying life with their family.

Real men are not too proud or stubborn to go to the doctor and get checked out if something is not working properly in their bodies, or if their wife notices something like a skin tag or mole changing color. Real men care for their bodies and present them to God as a living sacrifice, knowing that their bodies are, in truth, the temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16).

- **Real men are going somewhere on purpose in their life's work.**

Real men discover their gifts, talents, and abilities and do their best to find out what God created them for. They enjoy their work, the labor of their hands, and agree with Solomon who said: "A man can do nothing better than to eat, drink, and find satisfaction in his work" (Ecclesiastes 2:24).

When choosing their work, they don't ask, "What's in it for me?" but rather, "How can I fulfill God's purpose for my life and grow daily to be more like Jesus Christ, the perfect man?"

#5 - REAL MEN DO NOT FEAR DEATH

Real men are not afraid to die. They are already "dead" to the present world system. They agree with the Apostle Paul when he wrote:

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, the life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." - Galatians 2:20 NIV

"For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God" – Colossians 3:3 NIV

Paul is speaking metaphorically here, but the big idea is that real men recognize that they are citizens of another kingdom, sojourners passing through this life.

A man might be willing to take a bullet for a loved one. That is one way to die. But real men must be willing to die daily to their own selfish desires and defer their gratifications for somebody else's needs.

This is not easy,

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1 Cor. 15:57)

SUMMARY

So to summarize, there are five things that you need to do in order to be a real, true, authentic man of God:

1. Pursue vital relationships.
2. Be a leader, not merely a follower.
3. Discipline yourself to become a lifetime learner.
4. Be that one man in a million who lives for a higher cause than his comfort and convenience and is going somewhere on purpose.
5. Finally, do not fear death or be unwilling to die to yourself daily. Make this your banner: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21 NIV).

