Tim Lundy: You know, one of my favorite authors is John Steinbeck. The classic author, Pulitzer prize winner of Mice and Men, Grapes of Wrath, Californian. Toward the end of his life, Steinbeck was looking at his life, he was encouraged to retire. This was back in the 1950s. And as he started looking around, he realized he didn't want to settle into a soft retirement. In fact, listen to how he describes it. He said, "I've seen so many begin to pack their lives in cotton wool, smother their impulses, hood their passions, gradually retire from their manhood into a kind of spiritual and physical semi-invalidism. In this, they're even encouraged by their wives and their relatives. It's such a sweet trap."

So rather than doing that, he got a truck and his dog, Charlie, and he went on the road. Literally drove thousands of miles across America, revisiting parts of his past and writing stories along the way. The last book, Travels with Charlie : In Search of America, and he talks about one of his friends as he was leaving. He said, "This guy was an honest man, and he looked me in the eye and he said these words. He said, "If anywhere in your travels you come on a man with guts, mark the place. I want to go see him. I haven't seen anything but cowardice and expediency. This used to be a nation of giants. Where have they gone? To defend a nation it takes men. Where are they?"" Now, he's writing this back in the 1950s. Wonder what he'd say today? "If you find a real man, a man with guts, mark the place."

You know, we've been talking about what does it mean to be a man, and the last several weeks we've looked backwards. We've looked at the things that have shaped us as men, and some of us have gone to some places maybe we've never gone before, certainly not with other guys. I applaud you in that. That takes guts. That's why I love this week because as great as it is to look back and learn from it, it's even to better to look forward. As men, that's how we're wired. We're not wired to just live our lives backwards. We're wired to look forward and go, "What is it that we're supposed to be?" And if you look in your notes, I love that title It's Time to Define. It's time. It's time to move into it.

Every man needs a clear definition of manhood to guide his life. Every one of us. We need that definition. In fact as you think about it, I don't know who told you when you were a man. When did you know that? Who told you what it meant to be a man? If you look at cultures all over the world, even some of the most primitive tribes, they usually have some kind of manhood ceremony, something that marks when you became a man. Sometimes it's a hunt that a boy has to go on and make the kill. Sometimes it's a night away. One of the strangest groups, I don't know if you've ever seen the tribes that would build these towers, and your mark of manhood is you had to jump out of the tower with a vine around your ankle. Kind of bungee jumping without a bungee, just a vine, and you hoped they'd measured the right distance.

You look at that and you go, "That's crazy." In one way, and in another way, though, at least there was some kind of marker that said, "Okay, you've done this. Welcome into manhood." We live in a culture today that there's no markers. There's really no definition. It's changing all the time. If you look in your notes there, I love that line. "It's hard to become what you can't define." If you can't even define it, how are you supposed to become it? So what are our options?

Well, the first one is we can make up a definition for ourselves, and that's what a lot of us have done as guys. Especially if you grew up and you didn't have a father, you grew up and a father wasn't involved in your life, you grew up and dad was very passive, you grew up in a culture that's always changing, you just kind of have to make it up as you go. And you hope that you've defined it right, but it's hard to know for sure.

The second way, we can look to culture to define it for us. We look to the culture itself. This is often whoever's put forward as the man of the hour. Maybe it's somebody like The Rock and we look at him and we go, "Dwayne Johnson, there's a man." Or maybe a Steve Jobs. You go, "Oh, man, what a man. He conquered in it." When I was growing up, probably the man when I was a teenager was Arnold Schwarzenegger. Remember Arnold? I'm talking about back in the day, Arnold Arnold. He'd just come of being Mr. Olympia and Mr. Universe and was ripped like no one else and then went into the movies and became the Terminator. You look at it ... and then went into politics. I mean, in so many areas, you go, "Man, this guy conquered."

It was interesting back in 2011, as he had just left office and Newsweek did a profile on him, and he's describing himself. He said, "You know, when I look in the mirror now, I don't like who I see," and part of it he was describing himself physically, the toll that had been taken on his body now that he wasn't working out in the same way. He'd lost an inch and a half in height, he lost six inches off his chest, which that alone is amazing to me. If I lost six inches, it'd be crater that was there. But he lost six inches off his ... his biceps weren't what they were and physically he's looking at it, he had had a heart procedure, a valve had to be replaced, and he looked at himself and he said, "Man, I just feel like damaged goods," and he had one line in it and he said, "But like most things in my life, I live in denial."

It was a week later that the word came out that his marriage was breaking up because of his extra marital affairs, a child out of wedlock. I think of this guy that really in all fronts the world would say, "Man, he conquered life." But when he looked in the mirror at some point, he goes, "I don't like what I'm seeing here." What about you? What about the man that you look at in the mirror? Do you like what you see? There's days I don't. A lot of times, it's because I am trying to figure it out myself, or I am chasing after something that culture says.

Look at the third option. We can look to enduring wisdom for a definition. Instead of making it up as we go, instead of chasing something that changes all the time, we go, "Where is there enduring wisdom?" I love that passage from Jeremiah. It says, "Stands by the roads and look and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it and find rest for your souls." It's this picture of a guy standing there and here's the counsel. What path are you going to take? You can take the new path, you can take the path you're trying to carve, or do you take the enduring path? Do you look at it and go, "Okay. Somebody's gone before. Somebody has declared, "Man, this is a good way to go."" It's having that voice that speaks into your life, it's that coach that tells you, "You don't have to take what you see. Look for the right path. Look for the right move."

I love that movie, Searching for Bobby Fischer. It's about a little boy who's a chess prodigy. In it, his dad doesn't really know how to coach him. His dad doesn't even know the game. He has this coach who's constantly telling him, "Don't take what's right in front of you. Look ahead. Look for the right move." There's this scene where this little boy's in the championship against another boy, and he's there at the table and his coach can watch him from another room and he can hear the coaching from his past. He's just bringing up what he had told him in the past. The little boy's sitting there and he's about to make a move and then he realized, wait, look ahead. So he keeps looking ahead and he keeps looking ahead, until finally it clicks and he goes, "Ah," and he sticks out his hand to his opponent and his opponent says, "What are you doing?" He says, "I'm offering you a draw." The other boy goes, "A draw? Why would I take a draw?" He says to him, "You've already lost. You just don't know it." What a great line.

I love that line until I put myself in the shoes of the other boy. You ever feel that way, where you come to a point in life where you go, "Why do I always feel a few steps behind instead of ahead? Am I losing here and I don't even know it and I'm going to be the last to know it?" See, that's why it is so important at different stages of life, and I don't care what your age as a man, because every age you come into, it's a new season of life and you haven't been there yet and the enduring path, the wisdom that's gone before, can help every man as we're looking to our future.

So point C, what is history's greatest source of this wisdom? Where do we find it? It's the Bible. It's the Bible. I would say that unequivocally, there's no book that is better for men than the Bible. Yet it's interesting. Men in particular struggle with it. Just the struggle of really diving into it. Why do I say that? Look at some of the notes here. No book has transformed more lives for good than the Bible has, bar none. It's history's all time best seller. Still, it's on the best seller list every year. Isn't that interesting? Can you name one book written ten years ago that you still pick up? There's some. A book that was written a hundred years ago you still pick up? A book written a thousand years ago? Now just stop for a second. It's a book that was finished two thousand years ago. That's when it was finished, and it's still engaged regularly. I'm not talking about it's just kind of picked up every so often as a history book. I'm talking about it's regularly engaged by people, so much so look at it. Every week, 31% of the world's population looks to the Bible for guidance and help.

The Bible laid the moral, social, legal foundation for all Western civilization. Read your history books. It's true. Look at this. Every culture influenced by the truths of the Bible has flourished. Sit down with the world map at some point. Chart out the countries and the areas that have been most influenced by the Bible and you will find in it a culture with a well-developed legal system. You'll find a culture that has a healthcare system. You'll find a culture that respects women, a culture that respects life. In it, they flourished because of its foundation. So if we just look at that in the raw evidence, wouldn't we want the same in our lives as a man? So what do we do when we engage the Bible in manhood? Where do we turn in it?

Well, you got to go all the way to the beginning. The Genesis story introduces us to a timeless manhood. We want to go back and go, "What's that first picture that was in place? What was it meant to be?" When you go back to Genesis, there's almost a mythic quality about it. I'm not saying that mythic like it's not true, I'm saying that mythic it's larger than life. It's the prototype. There's a lot in Genesis as you read, especially those early stories, it's a prototype for me. You got to remember, the first person on the planet was a man, so that first erection should give us as men a picture like few others.

Immediately after his creation, God calls Adam to step up to specific responsibilities that if embraced would make him truly manly. He gives Adam in particular, because Adam was the only one there, specific responsibilities. And as sons of Adam, these manhood responsibilities have now been passed to us to guide us in our journey to a better manhood. I mean, when you look at it, we have this sense that Adam was created and he's kind of just hanging out in the Garden of Eden. I mean, all the pictures, you kind of see him there. You see him with Eve initially, but you got to remember it was Adam at the beginning and as Adam is there, he has specific responsibilities he's given as a man.

So if we step back from it, what do we learn from that first picture, and you'll see in it there are four responsibilities of real manhood. These are the four things. If you're going to go, "All right, I want a definition of manhood. I don't want just the current, I don't want to make it up myself. I want to step back and go, I need a clear picture. Let me go back to the very beginning." Here's the four things you see at the beginning that every man that we put ourselves to and we look to. Here's the first one.

A real man courageously follows God's word. He courageously follows it. Because we're different than the animal world. Unlike the animal world, we were created with special need for leadership and coaching and direction. The animal world lives by instinct. As humans, though, God said, "Let Me give you clear direction and specifically, Adam, let Me give you clear direction." Look at it in Genesis 2. "The Lord God commanded the man saying, "From any tree of the Garden you may eat freely, but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die."" It's real clear. It's not hard. One basic rule. "You have control here. You have the freedom here. You can eat of any tree in the Garden. You can enjoy all that's out here. Let Me just give you one boundary. Don't eat here. Don't do this. Life. Death."

Notice the proportion. Everything you see in this story, because it is this prototype story, it all has meaning. There's no part of it that you look at and go, "Oh, that's kind of a throwaway." If you look at even the proportion of it, look at the proportion of life of what he could engage and the proportion of what was restricted. There's this lie that goes around, "Man, God's just trying to keep you from living. As a man, God's trying to keep the good stuff from you." God's trying to keep you from dying. It's always been that way. So God ... if anybody knows, this is life and this is what you stay away from, it's God. He gives that clarity to Adam in it.

For us, if you look at it, a man begins to experience the real adventure of life-giving manhood when he courageously follows God's Word. See it takes courage to do it. It takes courage because you have a responsibility because whether you like it or not, as men somebody's following you. I don't care who you are. If you are married, you have a family following you. If you're in a job, you have people that look to you. There's something about manhood that you step forward and there's people following you and they're looking at you going, "Did you take the right path? Are you going the right way?"

Another story in the Bible I like is the story of Joshua, because here's Joshua. Can you imagine, for a whole generation, this whole nation of Israel has followed Moses. He's the man. I mean, literally everything came from Moses. Moses dies, now you're put in charge, and you've got to lead the people into the country they want to go to. You got to lead them into battle, you got to lead them in a conquest, you got to lead them into setting up a government. You got to lead them in all this. Look at the word that God gives to Joshua. "Be strong and courageous." There's nothing weak about this. You better be strong, Joshua. But here's how you know that you're leading the right way. "Be careful to do all that God commanded."

I would just encourage you. We're looking at this snapshot today, and we're going to dive into each of these things. Each of these responsibilities there's a part of it that you're going, "Okay, how to do it." That's what we'll look at the next several weeks. We'll give you specific how-tos on each of these. But on the first snapshot, don't you want to know as a man, I'm walking in the good path? Don't you want to know I'm not losing at life and I don't even realize it? I'm telling you, the clearest way to know is you start with what did God say? What did He say is life and death? We try to make this a lot more complicated than it is. We really do. We want to argue about theological things and we want to chase the ends of it. If you look at the core of it, so much of it is just crystal clear. "Here's life, here's death." Now are you following it, because here's the reality. Somebody's following you. When you want to know, "Man, I'm taking them down the right path," when you want to know, "This is enduring wisdom and they can follow me."

Here's the second responsibility. A real man loves and protects God's woman. He loves and protects God's woman. There's Adam there in the Garden. He has all the animals. He's naming the animals. God leaves him there for a time so that he feels that sense of aloneness and he feels that sense of, "Wait a second. I'm seeing all the other animals. I don't have companionship like that."

Genesis 2:22. "The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and He brought her to the man." Literally, He takes the rib out of Adam. She is made out of a part of him. Remember, the story's a prototype. There's no lost meaning in any of this. There's a connection there, a deep connection that he describes. So Adam's in this deep sleep, God takes literally a part of him, makes woman. Adam wakes up and he sees woman and if you read the Hebrew there, he's really excited. I mean, this is a good thing. He's seen all of creation, this is the best thing he's seen so far.

And it says in it, "They were naked and unashamed." I mean, there's complete openness there. In the South, we don't say naked. We say nekked. "They were nekked and unashamed." I had a couple once, I'd been speaking on this passage and she was really, I don't know, I think offended by the way I said it. She just came down. She said, "You need to know, it's not nekked. It's naked." So I looked at her and I said, "Naked is what you get in the doctor's office. Nekked is what you get with your wife. They were nekked." She wasn't amused, really, believe it or not, with that.

There's this openness there in what has been created and Adam enjoys that, but there's a responsibility that comes. We'll look, because this is a crystal clear part of our lives, guys. If we're ever going to get right what it means to be a man, you've got to understand what's our responsibility with women? For many of us, that means a wife or someone you'll date. But even if you're single, you go, "Well, I don't have this responsibility." You know, men are leaders. Men carry power. So learning the responsibility, the women I work with, the women in my life, the women around me and getting a picture of that and if you do have a wife ... look at that Ephesians passage. It says to husbands specifically, "Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her." There's this core part of it that it's sacrifice, that we're willing to lay down our lives in ways and we're going to look at what does that look like. How do you balance that? How do you engage in a relationship without losing yourself but still willing to lay down your life for those that you've been called to love and to lead?

Here's the fourth, or third thing, point C. A real man excels at God's work. A real man excels at God's work. When I say that, I'm not talking about you think God's work, you can think some kind of ministry with it. I'm literally talking about your job, about the work that you've been called to do. Look at Genesis 2:15. "Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate and care for it." Now, I'll remind you in the story, this is before sin has entered. This is before the Fall. So work is not a result of sin. Work was there from the beginning. In fact, God places Adam and He says, "Man, you're made to do this, to care, to cultivate." There's a reason we like working so much as men. There's a reason we find such fulfillment from it. It goes deep for us.

Look in your notes there. I love that. Vocation comes from the Latin word vocare, meaning a call. Work is a man's call to serve God. Your work, what you do, your job ... we've lost a sense of vocation. We turn everything into just a job. "Ah, it's just a job. It's just a paycheck. It's just a way to get by." When really as men, we're called to something bigger, which was a vocation, calling. This is how I serve God. This is the fundamental way that I'll serve God today. When you go to work today, when you're at your office or you're out on a construction job site or you're at your medical practice or your legal practice or an accountant, whatever God's called you to do, at your business when you're around the meeting room table, that's your calling. There's a part of that that it should be that fulfillment. There's a part of that as a man that you want to put your strength into it and succeed there. God made it that way for you.

In fact, Colossians says it this way. "Whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord rather than for men." You're not working just for your boss. You're not working for a paycheck. Literally, the work you're doing, you're doing it for God. It's been that way for men from all the way back to Adam. That's why it's so fulfilling in that. It is the Lord Christ who you serve. And I want us to ... we'll talk about this, because I think we've lost this perspective, especially as men, sometimes our work is just disregarded. It's one of the things I hate the most that the church has perpetuated in ways, that almost what we do here, this is the important way of serving God and we've lost that sense of calling out there, that if a man doesn't have, he loses that sense of fulfillment in life. That's the third thing.

What's the final thing? A real man betters God's world. A real man betters God's world. Genesis 1:28. "God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it."" I love this verse because again it explains so much of our hard-wiring. That word subdue, from the very beginning, there's that part where God's looking at the first couple and He wasn't telling them, "Hey, I've given you this nice little Garden. Stay in the Garden, play house, and I hope you have a good life." Now, that's how we often present it, don't we? But notice what He said to them at the very beginning. "Okay, I've given you the Garden. Now, here's the plan. Take the plan. Go subdue the rest of it. Go conquer the whole thing."

Why do you think it's hardwired in humanity to explore, to go further and deeper and higher? To climb the mountains that are out there? Why do you think it's hardwired to conquer in a new way, whether it's in business or sports or want to win? There's that deep command that runs in us that we want to subdue and as men, I think we feel that. We can feel it to the point, though, that we leave out the other half of the command. Notice He gave two sides of it. He said, "Be fruitful and multiply and subdue the earth." I look at that one verse and I go, "Man, there's the challenge right there," especially as you're thinking about your legacy. Especially as you're thinking about the ways that you will leave something behind and shape this world.

One way we leave is through what we conquer in that and what we do and what we accomplish, but the other side of that, and look in your notes there. Children and manhood go together. We often relegate it, 'Well, that's the woman's side of the equation." God told it to both. God told both of them together, it's a partnership they're out there subduing, but also a partnership, be fruitful, multiply. I love the way this line puts it. A good dad is a real man. Never lose that. A good dad's a real man.

You know, it's one of the things I've loved about this younger generation that's coming up. We often bemoan and you'll hear people talk about, "Oh, millennials," and all that. You know, one of the things that I love that young guys have stepped into, especially young married guys? They've stepped into what does it mean to be a dad. What does it mean to be engaged in my kid's lives, in a way that we should applaud and encourage in that.

Psalm 127 says, "Behold, children are a gift of the Lord. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them." They're arrows that we shoot out. They launch into the future. Raising up and sending out healthy, well-grounded children is how we as men best contribute to bettering society and ensuring its future stability. Whether we realize it or not, our kids are going to shape the future more than anything else we're probably putting our hand to. I mean, think about it. Think about a project you're working on at work right now. How long will the impact of that project be? Now, you might be working on something pretty revolutionary, especially here. Here in the Bay Area, there's guys working on things all the time that you hear about it and you go, "Whoa, that's influential." But even the greatest of projects, how many years ahead will it impact people? And yet we're sending out kids that decades from now, they're going to shape life. They're going to shape the world. Just on a practical impact of just going, "Man, where should I be investing?" I think we lose perspective in it.

It was interesting, years ago with Larry Osborne, he's a pastor of a large church down in San Diego area, and he had a group of pastors and he was just talking about this balance of life for us. He said, "You know, we can get so caught up in trying to make a name for yourself and what you accomplish." He said, "In this group here, how many of you can tell me the full name of your great grandfather?" Let me stop for a second. Why don't you ask yourself what's the full name of your great grandfather? And then he said, "What's the middle name of your grandfather?" And we stopped for a minute. It was amazing when we started thinking about it, how much we struggled. His point ... he said, "So even in your family, how quickly we're forgotten. We just are." He said, "But here's who will never forget you their whole life. Your kids. And they'll never forget the season you're in, especially as you're raising them."

We've experienced that the last few weeks, haven't we, as we've gone back and we've told our stories and you find yourself in that place no matter what your age, you're going back to those places that you go back, "Man, I still remember that." As men, we're shaping and they come in those moments when you least expect it. They come in the small decisions. It'd be great if all of this happened and you could kind of plot it out. There's usually some competition between subdue and being fruitful. This is the balance that I feel, and I think we all feel as men. It's the choices we make.

I remember years ago, I was leading a church. It was a large church and I'd just come into the senior leadership role. One of the first things we did, we had this national conference for children. We brought in this speaker on parenting. He was known, had about a thousand people coming to it. I'd really pushed it and I'd worked with one of the elders who was on the board of this speaker. So I was looking at the weekend and the conference and everything was great. We had a Friday night, Saturday morning, packed house. Pushed all of it, and I was so excited it had worked until I looked at the Saturday morning and I realized, oh crud. During the conference is also my six year old son's first basketball game in life. I was like, "Oh, what do I do?"

So I'm kind of looking at it and finally I made the decision well maybe I can kind of show up and then I'll sneak out the back door and then go to the basketball game. Nobody'll know any different. Until the Thursday night before the conference. We're at dinner and the speaker's there and he's kind of walking through it and he said, "All right. I'm going to do this on Friday night." And he goes, "Now, Saturday morning I want to bring you up on the stage." I said, "What?" And he goes, "Yeah, we need to bring you. I mean, you have pushed this and this is so impactful and I think it'd just be great and honor you and honor all the people with it," and I tried to play the humble card at first. I was kind of like, "Um, let's not make this about me. I really don't want to make it about me," anything I could to get out of it. He goes, "No, I insist," and I said, "I really don't think I'm going to be able to do that."

He looked at me and he goes, "Uh, why not?" I said, "I'm not going to be there." The elder who had been on his board, he goes, "What do you mean, you're not going to be there?" You feel that tension of the moment of going, "Oh crud. Here's my responsibility here, but here's a commitment there," and I said, "You know, it's my son's first basketball game and I really feel like I need to be there." My friend, he looked at me and he shook his head and he said, "Won't there be other basketball games?" I looked at him and I said, "Yeah, there'll be other conferences too." Didn't go over real well.

I'm going to tell you. I'd love to stand up here and go, "I have never missed a game." I have missed more games than I like. I got a bunch of kids, so it's hard to go to all of them, and there's responsibilities in life and we'll all feel this tension. So I don't say that as, "Oh man, I've done it always." There's more that I've missed that I wished I hadn't. That's the point, though. Where you can control it, do. Even at a cost. You can't always control it, but where you can. But because there's a legacy that's there of what you're leaving behind.

How do you put all these together? Look at it. So what defines real life-giving manhood? A real man courageously follows God's Word, loves and protects God's woman, excels at God's work, and betters God's world with his children. Courageously follows God's Word, loves and protects God's woman, excels at God's work, and betters God's world, especially through his children.

Now you go, "Why don't we experience that more?" Well look at it. Adam tragically stepped away from God's call into real manhood, resulting not in a better life for him and his wife but in a lesser, harder one. In the moment when Adam should have stepped up in his major moment of testing, he refused to follow God's Word. He refused to do the one thing that he was told. "Don't eat of that tree." So when the serpent comes in the Garden and speaks to his wife and convinces her and she takes the fruit and she ate and it says, "She handed it to him who was with her." He's there the whole time. Instead of stepping forward and stopping it, he failed and look who he failed the most. He failed to love and protect his wife. He failed to keep her away from the serpent. He failed to protect her from herself, to look at her and go, "That is not right. We were given a few things that we were told to do and that's one of them and we're not doing it. We're not going there." If he had just stepped up in that moment.

Because of that, look at this. Today as sons of Adam, we, too, have a choice of stepping up into real manhood or stepping away into a manhood of our own design. We either step up or we step back in passivity. So part of this is going, "I'm not going to be passive. I'm not going to let life happen. I'm not going to let choices happen around me that I know are wrong." That's a key part of this. That's a key part of Adam's failure. It wasn't so much what he did initially, it's what he allowed around him because he just didn't engage. So real manhood today says, "I'm not going to live that way."

So how do we practically apply this definition? Look at some of the practical implications around this, of what we can do. First one, this is a manhood every man, with God's help, can aspire to. I don't care who you are, what stage of life, what kind of man you are. You can aspire to this one. That's one of the reasons I like this. I like a definition that you can go, "Man, I could step into this and live in this." It doesn't matter if you're big, macho, small, nerdy, if you are an athlete or an artist. There's all types of men. We're not chasing after some prototype of what a man's supposed to be. We're embracing here's the men that God has created, here's the men that we are, and here's the men that we want to be and any of us can step into this.

David, at the end of his life, he looked at his son, Solomon. Look at this. It's a great, great verse and it's a great father and son moment. He looks at his son because his son's about to be the king. You got to remember, David is the rockstar king. He'd made major mistakes, but he is the king. He's the guy that slayed Goliath. He was the warrior king. He's the one that conquered all their enemies. He looks at his son, Solomon, and Solomon's not a warrior by the way. He's not the one that leads them out into battle like David did. But he looks at him and he says, "Be strong and show yourself a man."

Isn't that a great line? Show yourself a man. You got to step into being king now. You got to step into leading. You know what it's going to take? It's going to take a man. Not the same man that dad was. Not even the same type of guy. But you know, Solomon expanded the kingdom greater than David ever dreamed. Solomon built the temple that people all around the world would come to see. The wealth of Solomon's empire was known throughout the world. He wasn't the same man as dad, but he was the man that he was meant to be and I'd say the same is true for us. Some of you, you're chasing after you're supposed to be the man your dad was. Stop. Be the man you're supposed to be. You're chasing after some definition of manhood culture's defined. Stop. Show yourself the man that God's made you to be, and that's why I like this definition because I think it gives you some practical ways that you can aspire to it.

Second thing. This is a manhood that can serve as one's life compass. You want a compass, and this makes it real simple. Here's your true North. True North in life? God's Word. If you're ever wondering what direction to go, true North is God's Word. Then you think about East and West. What's around me all the time that I'm having to deal with? Women and work. Really, you navigate those well? Man, 80% of life. Then South is what I leave behind, my legacy, especially through my kids. I mean, it just gives you a quick picture of what life is about and how to navigate that.

Third. Point C. This is a manhood women long for. Women long for this. We hear so much derogatory talk about men today. You know why? Because they're not getting a picture of this kind of manhood. They're getting the picture of manhood of guys out there trying to figure it out as they go and as they figure it out as they go, they're leaving a lot of damage behind. So you're hearing in the culture today the problem is just manhood in general. When a man steps forward living this out, when you step whether it's in a marriage, whether it's in your office, whether it's in the relationships, the extended family around you. When you live this out, it gives women a sense of calm. They feel secure in it. They don't feel threatened. They feel your strength for their good and that's a great combination. When men are willing to be strong, but the strength is not for the man's own good, it's for the good of those around him.

Point D. This is a manhood dad's can confidently call their sons to. If you wanted to sit down with your son and go, "Hey, let's have a conversation, or let's have four conversations of what manhood looks like," you go through these four things. Just go to them. "Hey son, let me tell you. You need a true North in life. God's Word's your true North. Let me tell you what you're going to deal with everyday. You're going to deal with how do I relate to women in this world, and specifically if you get married, how am I going to relate to my wife? How do I relate to my work? How do I put my hand to that? What's the legacy I'm leaving behind? What about the children that will follow me?"

You ever had a conversation like that with your sons? You ever just sat down and go, "Hey, let's talk about what it means to be a man?" So often, I think we want to as dads, we just don't know where to start. This gives you tracks to be able to talk to them.

E. This is a manhood history affirms. It's a manhood history affirms. History has repeatedly described manhood in terms of four domains. Religion, family, work, and community. As Bill Bennett, former Secretary Education. I mean, you look in history. History is a great model because you'll see men in history, maybe they succeeded in the moment but they don't succeed in history. Then other guys who sacrificed and you look how enduring their legacy is. Look at the difference between Abraham Lincoln and Joseph Stalin. Abraham Lincoln, who as he led ... one of the things that he was most admired about is any of his enemies, instead of just keeping them defeated, he would always bring them alongside. He always respected them. Even people in politics who fought him. Some of his people who criticized him the most were the people he brought on to his Cabinet. He said, "I need their strength. They make me stronger."

After the Civil War was over, instead of dominating the South, instead of just going in and saying, "We're going to subjugate it," he said, "If this nation is ever going to be healed, we have to rebuild it and respect it and come back together as one country." It was a stand that he took that many criticized him at the time and said, "He's weak. He's weak," and he lost his life over it.

Then you take a guy like Joseph Stalin who when he went in, he goes, "I'm not going to be weak. I am all powerful," and he killed every enemy he had and anybody who ever stood up to him and he actually was responsible for somewhere between 30 to 50 million people being killed in Russia. He dominated and one of the other things he did, he built statues of himself and placed them all throughout the country. But history has a way of revealing the true legacy, doesn't it? Because as soon as Communism fell, you know one of the first symbols of it was? People, men, women, children, they went out with ropes. They wrapped them around the statues of Stalin. They literally pulled them down with their hands and with hammers, they crushed it. They said, "You are not our leader. Your legacy is not going to survive." But you look at a guy like Lincoln, and people every day go and stand in front of one of our nation's most treasured memorials as we remember his life.

Guys, it's easy to succeed in the moment, but what's your legacy? Maybe you won't be in the history books, but what will they say about you? I'm telling you, this is the kind of manhood that if you live this out, someone would go, "Yeah, he was worth following."

F. This is a manhood that promised deeply satisfying rewards. Look at the rewards if you lived this out. The reward for following God and His Word? Real freedom in life. Jesus said, "You'd know the truth and the truth makes you free." There's a freedom that comes with it. You know the right thing to do. It simplifies your life.

What's the reward for loving and protecting God's woman? Deep, intimate companionship called oneness. Oneness. Genesis 2:24. "For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." It's not just abiding together. It's not just living life. It's not just, "We've settled into a relationship." Look what God's promising here. He says, "I want", and the way He designed it, "I want you to experience oneness. I want to have a connection that you're not going to have with any other person." That's what He's wanting for us.

Third reward. A reward for excelling at God's work? Success and influence. God wants you to have influence in life. I've always loved this proverbs work. "See the man skilled in his work." See the guy who worked hard and he got skilled in what he did. "He will stand before kings. He will not stand before obscure men." God says that you work hard in what you do, it gets noticed.

The reward for bettering God's world? Gladness and joy as a dad. Gladness and joy as a dad. Proverbs 23:24. "The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice. He who sires a wise son will be glad in him." I'll just say in my life, there's few things that have brought me greater joy. The joy of just your children. There's a joy, and I don't know how to describe this in words, guys, but there's a joy as a dad when you don't feel like you're winging it anymore, when you really do feel like, "Okay, I got a plan. I got a picture. I'm not perfect in it, I don't always make the right choice, but I at least know what to come back to." Then being able to settle in that helps you settle in your own skin and then it gives you something that you can look at them and go, "Okay, follow me. Come and we're going to go do this together in life."

Guys, if you look in your notes, the true superhero, and we don't say it anymore in our world but it needs to be shouted from the rooftops. The true superhero is a real man. It's a man. I don't know about you, I'm sick of a culture that's beating up even the idea of manhood, because I think it's the lie of the enemy to try to get men to fall for the same thing Adam did, to just be silent, to just be passive, to just sit there and let life play out and let everybody make decisions and we stand on the side of the game and we stand on the side of the road and we don't get into the action because we're getting told over and over again, "You know what's wrong with world is men," and I'm telling you, it's not true. It's not true. You know what the world needs today? It needs real men. But it needs men that step forward and instead of just trying to wing it, instead of just doing life as it comes to you, men who are willing with the kind of discipline and the kind of guts to go, "Okay, if that's the picture, that's what I'm going for. That's what I'll model my life after."

If I could find the man, he's not alive today, the man that looked at Steinbeck and said, "If you find a real man with guts, mark the spot," you know what I'd tell him? I'd tell him, "Hey, it's right here. I'm in a room with men full of guts. I'm in a room with men who've chosen instead of just letting life happen have chosen all right, let's step into this with courage." I really, over the next few weeks, we got a great opportunity as we drill down in each of these and we go, "Okay, that's what it looks like. That's what I want to be."

I challenge you to learn it takes some courage, to live it takes a lot more. It takes courageous men around you. So as we finish out this session, here's my commitment. My commitment every time I do this, I want to live this better. I want to step into it more. I challenge, step into it with me. Let's go for it. Let's not just take life. Let's go for this kind of life and see the fruit of it.