

Key Point from Last Lesson: **Masculinity is not just about being a natural-born leader, but about courage!**

Take a moment to read through Genesis 3 aloud as a group – suggestion: break apart into sections

I. Misunderstanding God's Design

- a. Adam failed in these areas. He did not show the courage to lead.
  - i. Genesis 3:6 *"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes... she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate."*
- b. There are 2 typical "misses" when it comes to experiencing God's best for our life.
  - i. **The Way of the Fruit**
    1. Adam and Eve chose their will over God's (Genesis 3:6)
  - ii. **The Way of the Fig Leaf**
    1. Those who try to cover themselves with good behavior and try to perform their way into God's favor. (Genesis 3:7)
      - a. Genesis 3:7 *"Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings."*

II. God's Solution

- a. God **gave grace** to Adam and Eve despite their sin.
  - i. Genesis 3:21 *"..and the Lord God made for Adam and his wife garments of skins and clothed them."*
- b. God has made provision for all of us through His son, Jesus.
- c. Jesus not only models an inspiring masculinity, He also enables us to live it ourselves!
- d. Just like Adam and Eve **we are all sinners** and our sin is an **offense** to a perfect and holy God
  - i. Romans 3:23 *"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"*
  - ii. This doesn't mean we're the worst people in the world, and from the world's standpoint we probably look a lot better than some people.. but that's not an accurate picture of how God sees it. You see, **God is perfect. Sin = imperfection. Logically, how can a perfect God be with imperfection and still be considered perfect?**
- e. **This is the very reason we need Jesus! He's our only hope. Here is the Good News: God gives us grace and mercy through Jesus!**
  - i. Grace = being given a gift you don't deserve
  - ii. Mercy = taking away a punishment you do deserve
  - iii. Romans 5:8 *"God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ dies for us."*
  - iv. Romans 3:22 *"Righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus to all who believe."*
  - v. 1 Timothy 2:15 *"There is one mediator between God and man, Christ Jesus"*

f. **Only by placing our trust in Jesus can we have salvation as well as the power that fuels Authentic Manhood!**

III. **Misunderstanding Manhood**

- a. The same misses of Adam and Eve, the fruit and the fig leaves, can show up in the “misses” of today’s conventional manhood.
  - i. Men who choose the way of the fruit become childish consumers
    1. They become totally obsessed with
    2. 1 Corinthians 15:45 tells us that our model, Jesus, is a **life-giving spirit**
  - ii. Men who choose the way of the fig leaves become **cowards** and **critics**
    1. They **take pride** in what they don’t do
    2. They would rather **criticize** than create
  - iii. Without a clear understanding of Authentic Manhood, we will all be tempted to be childish consumers or cowards and critics

IV. **Conclusion**

- a. How should we respond to God’s mandate for us to create and cultivate?
  - i. **Trusting Jesus for our salvation and look to Him as our model for Authentic Manhood**
  - ii. Embrace the mandate today: Have courage to live it out at work according to **how God has wired you**
- b. This session was about the big picture of our manhood mandate. In the next video session, we will explore a clear and compelling biblical definition of what it means to be a man

**Discussion Questions:**

- How are you creating and cultivating in the different roles in your life?
  - In your family?
  - At work?
  - At school?
  - On your teams?
- Are you more tempted to run away from God toward the pleasure of this world (the way of the fruit) or are you more likely to try to impress God with your accomplishments (the way of the fig leaves)?
- What has God provided for us through Jesus?
- Is it easier for you to be a consumer or a critic?