

Introduction:

How do you define a “real man?” Sometimes referred to as an Alpha male or as a “man’s man.” Movies glamorize vulgar language, beer drinking, womanizing man as the “real man.” I still tend to think of being a man as defined by those older men I grew up knowing, tough minded, hard working men. Let us look as how the Bible defines and shows us what real men look like.

I) Real Men Fulfill Their Responsibilities

A) In the home

1. ***Colossians 3:19*** **Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.**
 - a. Notice the contrast between the two ideas – love vs. bitterness.
 - b. Consider the needs of their wives as the weaker vessel. ***1 Peter 3:7*** **Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.**
2. Consider the spiritual needs of their wives.
3. He recognizes her work and proclaims it to others. ***Proverbs 31:28*** **Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her:**

B) Provide spiritual leadership in the home.

Joshua 24:15 **"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD,**

choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

1. Not just Joshua was going to follow God but his whole household.
2. What kind of spiritual leadership are you providing?
 - a. Do you study your Bible?
 - b. Do you spend time in prayer?
3. Do you spend time with your children so they will know what a godly man looks like?

C) Provide spiritual leadership in the church

1. Have you noticed the qualifications for being an elder involves the home?

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; 3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; 4 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence

2. Many homes are missing the godly men and the church is also hurting because of this.

D) Strives to help his family go to heaven

1. Are you the godliest man your wife and children know?

2. Are you doing everything you can to help them get to heaven?

II) Real Men Cry

John 11:35 *Jesus wept.*

A) **Jesus wept over the suffering of others.**

1. He had compassion on the crowds as they followed Him.
2. He had compassion, groaning inside over those mourning the loss of a love one.
3. He mourned the upcoming destruction of Jerusalem.
Matthew 23:37 *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"*

B) **Jeremiah cried, often called the weeping prophet.**

Jeremiah 9:1 *Oh, that my head were waters, And my eyes a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night For the slain of the daughter of my people!*

1. He cried because the people had rejected God and the punishment ahead of them.
2. I have known many men to cry over a loss child, a rebellious child, a loss mother or father, or a loss spouse.

III) Real Men Repent

A) **Real men are not perfect.**

1. The only perfect man was Jesus.

2. Some men may give the façade of being perfect, of hiding their imperfections.
3. Growing up I thought of the actor Carry Grant as the epitome of being a gentleman. Perhaps you have known someone who you consider the perfect man and was surprised to find out they weren't. A preacher, an elder, etc.

B) Real men acknowledge their sins and repent.

1. David's sin with Bathsheba. **2 Samuel 12:13** *So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.*

2. Paul had to repent of his sins, persecuting Christians.

Acts 9:6 *So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*

Acts 22:16 *'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'*

3. Repentance involves more than sorrow, but a change in life.
4. Some find this really hard to do.
 - a. Blame others, get angry, quit.
 - b. Hold others responsible.
5. A real man acknowledges his mistakes.

IV) Real Men Practice Self-Discipline

1 Corinthians 9:26 *Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

A) They learn to control their anger.

1. Not like Ahab. **1 Kings 21:4** *So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.*
2. There will be disappointments in life, a real man does not quit or blame others.

B) Real men learn to control their desires.

1. Some men as just plain jerks.
2. Real men are faithful to their spouses. **Job 31:1** *"I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?"*

V) Real Men Live For God

Galatians 2:20 *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

A) They have their priorities right

1. God comes first.
2. Family comes second.

3. Your fellow man comes third.

B) Eternity in view

1. Daniel's three friends were real men.

Daniel 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 "But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

2. They stood by their convictions; they would not bow to an idol.
3. Make decisions based on God's word, not popular opinion, or what everybody else is doing.
4. I have known some Christian men make their decisions based on financial success and not spiritual success.

Conclusion:

Real men do not look to Hollywood for role models or modern culture. But to God and other godly men as their role models. The words integrity and virtue come to mind when thinking of a "real man." Paraphrasing Proverbs 31 and the "virtuous woman" let me describe the virtuous man:

Proverbs 31:10 Who can find a virtuous husband? For his worth is far above precious stones. 11 The heart of his wife safely trusts him; So she will have no lack of gain. 12 He does her good and not evil All the days of his life. 13 He seeks flocks and crops, And willingly works with his hands. 14 He is like the merchant ships, He brings her food from afar. 15

He also rises to work while it is yet night, And provides food for his family, And a portion for his menservants. 16 He considers a field and buys it; From his profits he plants a vineyard. 17 He girds herself with strength, And strengthens his arms. 18 He perceives that his produce is good, And his lamp does not go out by night. 19 He stretches out his hands to his staff, And his hand holds the tools. 20 He extends his hand to the poor, Yes, he reaches out his hands to the needy. 21 He is not afraid of snow for his household, For all his household will be warm. 22 He makes what is needed for him; His clothing is fine linen and purple. 23 His wife is known in the marketplaces, When she sits among the ladies of the land. 24 He provides wool and linen for his wife to make garments and sell them, And supplies sashes for the merchants. 25 Strength and honor are his clothing; He shall rejoice in time to come. 26 He opens his mouth with wisdom, And on his tongue is the law of kindness. 27 He watches over the ways of his household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 His children rise up and call him blessed; His wife, she praises him: 29 "Many sons have done well, But you excel them all." 30 Smooth talk is deceitful and handsome looks is passing, But a man who fears the LORD, he shall be praised. 31 Give him of the fruit of his hands, And let his own works praise him in the gates.