

White Paper

UNMASK MASCULINITY



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FOR: FICTION NOVEL *FACE MASKCULINITY*

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ABSTRACT

The suppression of masculinity in the United States of America is a multi-factor issue influenced by culture, society, and politics. Multiple views on the suppression of masculinity are interesting to explore and analyze the various dimensions. Shifts in societal expectations and cultural narratives are a viewpoint as to why traditional masculinity faces suppression. Political and social movements have contributed to the transformation of masculinity in America, which challenges conventional gender roles. An example of this would be the concept of 'toxic masculinity', which criticizes hypermasculine traits like aggression and suppression of emotions. These traits appear harmful to the individual and society. Professor Syeda Hadi of Stockton University, a specialist in social and behavioral science, points out with her expert opinions how these masculine expectations contribute to issues such as violence and social disconnection among men, suggesting that there is a need to redefine masculine norms more healthily and inclusively. "If we think about violent crimes and those who are convicted, it's mostly men who have perpetrated these violent crimes. And if you ask why, we have to go back to toxic masculinity and the expectation from men to be aggressive or act in a certain way," said Hadi (Kaminski, D, 2024).

Conservative Missouri US Senator Josh Hawley has framed the issue as part of a broader cultural battle by conveying that traditional masculinity is under attack by progressive forces. This is rhetoric that often connects with portions of the population that feel their cultural identity and values face suppression and marginalization. "It is the calamity of our age that so few men feel a sense of purpose anymore," Senator Hawley summarized in a speech at a Men's Conference (HEFFERNAN, D, 2023). Ponder on the portrayal of masculinity in the media and entertainment, which reflects deeper social anxieties. History says that concerns over masculinity tend to arise during periods of significant economic and social change. Shifts from manual to office labor in the mid-19th century drew fear that men were losing their traditional masculine edge. To a critical thinker's eye, those same patterns can exist today with transformations of society and the economy continuing to reshape gender roles and expectations (HEFFERNAN, D, 2023). The suppression of Masculinity in America reflects broader struggles over identity, values, and the changing nature of gender roles in a society that is quickly evolving. Therefore, it requires a deep dive into the complex interplay of family, religion, and politics, and how the fiction novel Face Maskulinity (fantasy/ romance/ dark fiction) is a great solution to efficiently and effectively unmask the masculinity that faces constant suppression in society.

Family

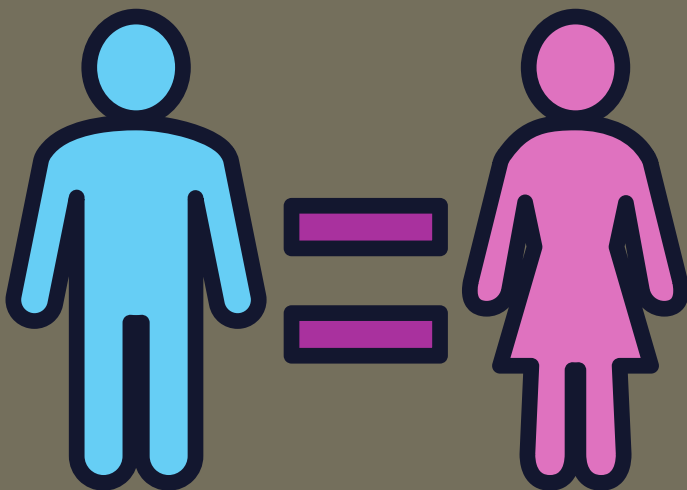
The notion that family can suppress masculinity is a complex and contentious topic that can navigate a variety of perspectives from cultural, psychological, and sociological angles. The concept of masculinity is diverse and is defined in many ways, which depend on the culture, historical views, and individual views and beliefs. Let us explore how family can suppress the traditional notions of masculinity.

Overprotective parents, unfortunately, can inadvertently suppress traditional masculine traits like risk-taking, independence, and resilience. Parents who constantly shield their children from risks and challenges may hinder boys from earning confidence and autonomy. A study published in the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* examined how overprotective parenting is related to anxiety and emotional regulation in children. The study included 278 Swiss teenagers from 14-17 years old, who filled out questionnaires that reported on their parents' level of overprotectiveness, their social anxiety symptoms, and their emotional regulation skills. This study not only found that overprotectiveness in parents is linked to higher social anxiety, which researchers found in a previous study, but this study expanded to link overprotective parents to emotional dysregulation in children, linking social anxiety to emotional dysregulation. Overprotective parents prevent their children from experiencing negative emotions, which will help them naturally try out different emotional regulation strategies to endure the negative emotions (Goodwin, C, 2023). While overprotective parents may mean well, they must be aware of how their parenting practices can leave their children at a disadvantage when they become adults. Parents must allow their children to navigate emotional regulation strategies under limited supervision, especially males, because men have a burden of performance in society, and they cannot afford to let negative emotions be an obstacle. Advanced emotional regulation strategies in adults can convert negative emotions into fuel.



Family

Cultural shifts and Societal Influences like feminism play a role in the suppression of masculinity in the family. With broader cultural shifts toward gender equality and feminist influences within families, it can lead to a redefinition of masculinity. Sometimes, families are in favor of more androgynous and gender-neutral traits and suppress traditional masculine behaviors. Feminism combats the idea of 'Toxic Masculinity,' but unintentionally, it has exposed that weak men are truly the wicked men of the world. Instead of teaching boys how to be men, men to be fathers, and fathers to be models of masculinity, the feminist model programmed for boys at home can leave them at a disadvantage in life. Consider a statement from political activist Don Eberly: "Young men badly need to see mature masculinity modeled out. Well-seasoned masculinity fundamentally transforms the aggression of young males by capturing their masculine energy and directing it toward socially constructive pursuits, self-restraint, and respect toward others." (DeYoung, E, 2024). It appears counterproductive for families to encourage boys to express their emotions freely because they can become violent. Instead, boys need an example of masculine energy to coach them into converting negative emotions to productivity that adds value to society. Perhaps there is no better example of masculinity than Jesus in Christianity.

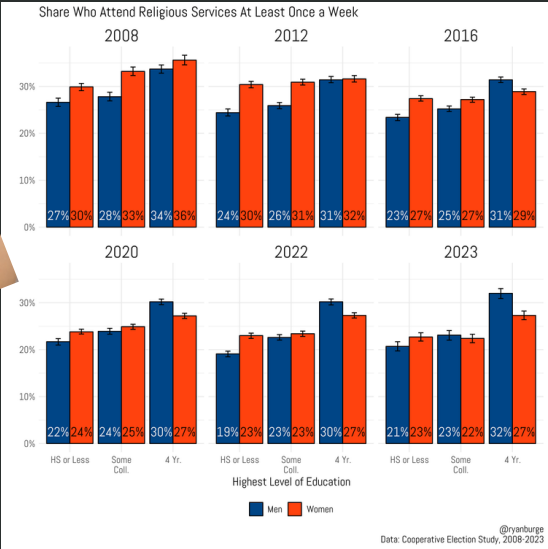


Religion

View religion from a sociological, psychological, and theological perspective to examine how religion can suppress masculinity in men. Various faiths have unique doctrines and cultural practices that tend to influence the expression of masculinity and gender roles.

Socially, there are evolving perspectives impacting religious communities that are re-evaluating traditional notions of masculinity and promoting more inclusive understandings of gender. Secular and interfaith dialogues encourage the integration of modern views with spiritual values, particularly on personal identity and gender equality. Often, religious communities' ideals of masculinity do not align with a community's interpretation of masculinity. Men in society can face social sanctions that discourage expressing aggression, competitiveness, or stoicism in favor of sedated behaviors that are cooperative to the community. According to

Pew Research, among Christians in different countries, women report higher rates of weekly church attendance than men, whereas, among Muslims and Orthodox Jews, the men are more likely to attend services regularly at the mosque and synagogue. This is because it is part of their religious norm to prioritize men's participation in worship. Some findings suggest gender differences in spiritual communities are in part pushed by the teaching of the religion. However, they only go as far as the national habits or cultural views intrinsic to that part of the world (Pew Research Center, 2016). It appears that the secular views of society that suppress the expression of masculinity have infiltrated religion, especially Christianity in the United States.



RELIGION

Psychologically, men raised in religious environments may be cemented with teachings that prioritize gentleness, self-sacrifice, and emotional openness, which often are at odds with societal expectations of masculinity. This internal conflict that men raised in religious environments face can lead to a suppression of traditionally masculine traits inside of them. As stated by the Apostle Paul, “To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22 KJV). Should the needs of men be the priority of the church? It appears easier to fall victim to desires than to be virtuous, have integrity, and add intrinsic value to others. It is easier for women to escape accountability, responsibility, and consequences than men who fall victim to their desires. This does not mean that women face no consequences, but since men have an elevated burden of performance to society, shouldn't

the church meet weak men where they are as the apostle Paul suggests? Instead of being a center of entertainment, shouldn't the church be a safe space for men to get increased dosages of the unapologetic biblical truth, absent of influence from the secular world? Arguments are made that the modern church suffers from feminization, but more precisely, the reality is that the church's message is trying to appeal too much to secularism. Churches also try to articulate a more nuanced biblical definition of masculinity, which almost immediately enters the egalitarianism versus complementarianism debate. The truth is that a properly articulated theology of a man's role is not enough to connect with masculinity. A man's character will get him closer to masculinity than articulating a theology. Integrity is one of the best characteristics and understanding that a man's instincts and physicality are not good enough to achieve masculinity (Replogle, C, 2021).

RELIGION

Theologically, different interpretations of sacred texts can suppress traditional masculine traits. Christian denominations emphasize Jesus' traits of pacifism and compassion, which can be interpreted as not traditionally masculine. In the KJV of the Bible 1 Corinthians 16, the apostle Paul encourages early Christians in Corinth by stating, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity" (1 Corinthians 16:13-14 KJV). His message to men is to put aside fear, insecurity, and reluctance and replace it with strength and courage to fulfill their duties. Paul encourages manliness, characterized by strength, bravery, resoluteness, and courage. "Quit" in this bible verse means to prepare as a man to fight, not to give up. Now, there are courageous women like Deborah, Rahab, and Esther in the Bible, however, God firmly places this feature in the realm of masculinity with men like Joshua, Sampson, David, the Prophets, the twelve Apostles, and of course, Jesus. The Bible is a wealth of examples of male strength; however, modern churches face the plague of male effeminacy. Do churches deliver in portraying the manliness of Christ? Is there a greater example of masculinity than Jesus, precisely in Matthew (Partridge, D, 2021)? " 17And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them,18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again." (Matthew 20:18 KJV). Jesus knew his disciples would betray him. He knew this path would lead to death and crucifixion, but it was necessary because he would rise again and ignite faith in believers that has led to the religion of Christianity today. The church has the greatest example of masculinity to convey to men but instead appeals to the secular and suppressed framing of manliness. Why? Perhaps American politics is the reason.

Politics

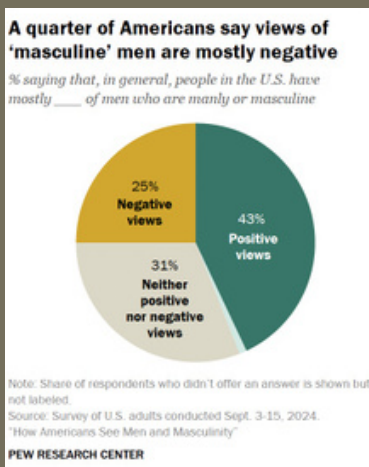
Looking at politics through the framework of policy decisions, cultural shifts influenced by political movements, and the evolving nature of societal expectations let us explore how politics can suppress masculinity.

Policy decisions promoting gender equality mandate equal representation in the workforce and educational settings; it can challenge traditionally masculine roles by emphasizing inclusivity and diversity. Affirmative action policies or changing gender roles are examples of how masculinity faces suppression in the workplace. Affirmative action attempted to reverse historic discrimination trends against demographics with representation in leadership and professional roles. Implemented are hiring quotas, grants and scholarships, and government funding and contracts that face denial if institutions fail to meet the policy guidelines (Kenton, W, 2023). This may appear good on paper, but hidden is an ugly truth that politicians will ignore. Male leadership and gender roles create structure and order, which protect society from chaos. The economy might collapse with declining male participation, and society might follow with women withdrawing participation in the nuclear family. The ugly truth, conveyed in Aaron Clarey's *A World Without Men*, theorizes that men's desire to have sex with women is the octane fuel of the economy, and no other force in the world can produce and achieve the economic production of a man's desire to be with women. There is no motivation, inspiration, or desire from a woman to accomplish the economic productivity of a man who desires access to women. Affirmative action and gender roles appear to get in the way of productive men by devaluing their traditional earned male leadership qualities, making them less attractive to the opposite sex, and ultimately outsourcing the woman's responsibility in the nuclear family unit to the state, daycare, and loved ones, which can unintentionally make it a nightmare to raise children.



POLITICS

Cultural Shifts powered by political movements like feminism and progressive education policies play a role in the suppression of masculinity. Feminism attempts to redefine masculinity by dismantling traditional gender roles and suppressing masculine traits like stoicism, competitiveness, and dominance. Progressive educational policies also emphasize inclusivity and gender neutrality and discourage traditional masculine behaviors in schools, like competition or rough play, in favor of cooperative and empathetic behaviors. America is becoming a nation of decreasing manliness as the feminist agenda is to weaken men to make women equal. The truth is that men and women have separate roles because they have different strengths and weaknesses that complement one another. It does not mean one is better than the other, but to have a productive society, children deserve to be raised in the social construct of a nuclear family, so, men because of their competitive nature should prioritize their contribution to the workforce, and women because of their nurturing ability should prioritize their contribution in the home and family. Men defend women and children against harm because they are stronger, which inherently makes them providers and protectors. Women bear children and care for them and their husbands due to their natural ability to be nurturers. Wouldn't it be wise for women to reject the lies of feminism built upon career women and abortion, and for men to "Man up" even in the face of feminism and progressive education (Wright, C, 2014)? Feminism forces the genders to be competitive, which is unfortunate and counterproductive to society because men cannot compete with women emotionally, and women cannot compete with men physically. Feminism weakens both sexes to make them competitive by separating men from their masculine and women from their feminine superpowers, which can make it pointless to date in this culture because dating should be a complementary experience.



Politics



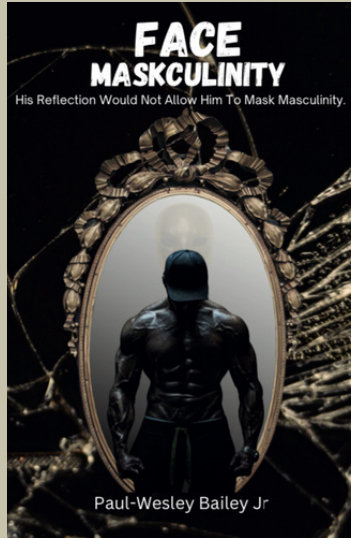
Societal expectations are evolving, and political correctness and the social norm to avoid offending others can suppress traditional masculine expressions. Language and behaviors seen as dominant or aggressive face discouragement for more subdued and respectful interactions. Again, although men and women are humans, the male and female experience is drastically different. As mentioned before, women do not have an octane fuel to achieve great economic production like a man's desire to have sex with women, which means that women do not have to earn sex, but men do. One of the primary ways men access sex is through their achievements and accomplishments in the workforce. Men have an elevated level of burden of performance, whereas women have a moderate burden of performance at best because they automatically have access to sex. Some argue that women have a burden of the "mental load," which involves the exhaustive, cognitive, and emotional labor of managing a household, family responsibility, and emotional well-being. Also, women face challenges in advancing in their careers or pursuing opportunities for professional development due to the time and energy it takes to manage household responsibilities (Bon Secours, 2024). As real as these concerns may be, in the real world, men have an extremely high burden of performance, not only to have dating options, but so society does not collapse. In a man's world, it is extremely competitive to the point that political correctness is ignored and subdued, and respectful interactions come after tested and proven competence. There will be clear winners and losers; the most dominant and aggressive are usually the winners and rewarded, selected for mating by women. Socially, women may say they want politically correct language and may avoid offending others, but the men that women typically select choose to break the rules of the suppression of masculinity. For men, life does not get easier, but they can improve. There will never truly be a rest from performance for men. Very few people care about men who perform poorly, and that adds low value to society. Last, women will never have the same standards of performance for themselves that they expect men to have and maintain for themselves (Tomassi, R, 2014). The masculine burden of performance should not be interfered with by the feminine need to be inclusive. Men should have a safe space to sharpen iron without worrying about offending women. It could be unpleasant for women to watch the manufacturing process of masculinity like observing a sausage manufacturing plant; however, when packaged and put on the shelf, it has high value and demand. Let's explore how the fiction novel *Face Masculinity*, published by Thought Provoking, offers a unique solution to combat the suppression of masculinity in the United States.

Solution

Face Maskulinity by Paul-Wesley Bailey Jr is a fiction novel (fantasy/ romance/ dark fiction) that can unmask masculinity in America. Let us begin with the title, Face Maskculinity. Maskulinity is purposely misspelled with a 'k' to emphasize the 'mask' that society forces masculinity to wear. Through the journey of reading the novel, readers can unmask the true gift that masculinity is to the world. Readers will gain the insight to navigate around the opposition and demonization of masculinity in America and Western culture. Face Maskulinity targets young men but could also be for women who are open to the idea that feminism lied to them and that masculinity in its greatest form is essential for their survival.

Average beta male customer service clerk Robert Smith mysteriously gains supernatural ability after an intimate encounter with his girlfriend Destiny Williams, who is at the center of a love triangle with former congressman and cult leader Eric Webb aka Jinteen on the other end, guided by The Lord of Wrath. This fantasy explores dimensions that make accountability a superpower and dimensions that seduce through sexual desire.

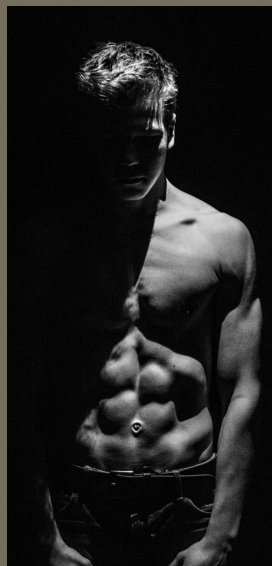
Robert begins the story lacking confidence, especially with women, however, Destiny falls in love with him, and he encounters a major source of inspiration that motivates him to meet the best version of himself. The antagonist, Jinteen, is consumed by wrath, lust, and his desire to destroy Robert and Destiny's relationship and the Christian social fabric of America, opening the dark fiction that will take readers to the depths of hell and a convergence with The Lord of Wrath.



This story occurs in a fictional modern America that masks masculinity via family, religion, and politics. Paul wrote Face Maskulinity to arm men with the character traits needed to embrace and reflect masculinity, including provider and protector components. The novel also offers suggestions for how women could preserve their empowering feminine energy that has inspirational, supportive, and healing components. Face Maskulinity will show readers that the world does not revolve around feelings or thoughts. Actions are most important. To do positive things in this world, an individual's character must be actively improved. Those who feel sorry for themselves when they fail are the true failures, and those who see new opportunities and possess hope will unlock the hidden golden treasure of the hero's journey that all men must face to earn respect.

CONCLUSION

Masculinity faces demonization and suppression in modern America through family, religion, and politics. In families, overprotective parents, cultural shifts, and societal influences like feminism can limit the masculine potential in men like growing a big plant in a small pot. In religion, socially, secular views have more influence in the church than religion has on the world, challenging traditional personal identities and pushing gender equality. Psychologically, church teachings of masculinity often reflect weakness, which is incompatible with the societal expectations of masculinity. Theologically, masculine qualities of Biblical characters like Jesus and the apostle Paul face suppression by religious interpretation that can lead men astray from true masculinity. Politically, policy decisions like affirmative action that push for equal representation in the workforce can cause men to have earnest questions and doubts about their contribution and value to society. Political movements like feminism can demonize masculine traits and pedestalize feminine qualities, which decreases manliness in men and makes it less likely for them to want to participate in the workforce and society. Last, politically correct language suppresses masculinity because, like on a sports team, the coach needs to talk to their athletes tough and offensively at times, or they cannot grow and be competitive. Men need offensive language and tough talk to improve. The fiction novel *Face Maskulinity* highlights the topics discussed in the form of fantasy, romance, and dark fiction. It talks to men in ways they will respond to. It gives women a glance into the world of men, which is often difficult for men to articulate, and it takes men out of the mindset of feeling sorry for themselves to one of constant improvement and adding value to society. Although masculinity faces suppression in America, men are not victims. Men are the true reason masculinity faces suppression because they have allowed weakness primarily through sexual desire to corrupt their minds, hearts, and souls. The suppression of masculinity in the West is a punishment to men, however, courageous men will take the challenge to save masculinity in America and Western culture, not for external validation, or to be abusive to women, but to explore the unlimited opportunities and potential for their nations, and all of humanity. Men must stop at nothing to unlock their greatest masculine form, and the novel *Face Maskulinity* will lead men down the right path.



Visit www.thoughtprovoking.space to learn more and purchase *Face Maskulinity* by Paul-Wesley Bailey Jr.

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