

PK's Perspectives... What is a real man?

“What is a real man?” In thinking about this question, my mind goes back to a personal experience that was shared by Christian author Stu Weber. I want to share Stu’s story with you...

I can’t help but recall a statement from a young man who lives near us – a sixteen-year-old high school sophomore. His parents divorced when he was eight years old. His father left the home, the boy’s life, and has never returned. His stepdad, a tyrannical and poor excuse for a man, treats him poorly. Tells him to “shut up” all the time. Tells him he’s worthless, stupid, and will never amount to anything.

But just ask the boy about his dream and his eyes will light up. This is what he’ll tell you: “I’d like to find out where my real dad lives. And I’d like to move in next door without him knowing who I was. And – I’d like to just become his friend. Once I had become his friend, then maybe it would be okay for me to move on.”

This same young man who has had all kinds of difficulty in his life was asked to write an essay on the subject, “What is a real man?” The following is his brief essay, written by a boy who has never really been around a real man, never really seen one. But I think there is something so inherent, so ingrained, so intrinsic, and so fundamental about what truly constitutes a “real man” that even a young boy who has never seen it modeled can put it into words. Here is what he wrote:

A real man is kind.

A real man is caring.

A real man walks away from silly macho fights.

A real man helps his wife.

A real man helps his kids when they are sick.

A real man doesn’t run from his problems.

A real man sticks to his word and keeps his promises.

A real man is honest.

A real man is not in trouble with the law.

This is one lonely boy’s vision of a real man: a man who stays and who finishes; a man who is both an authority and under authority; a man who is draped in integrity. It’s a vision of a tender warrior, a selfless provider, and a man who is gentle in his strength and strong in his gentleness. Men, I hope you’re paying attention. Cya in Sunday School & Worship, PK