

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The manhood realities discussed in session one should be a startling **WAKEUP**.
2. We want to bring **CLARITY** to our current confusion about manhood.

II. The Original Manhood Design: CREATE & CULTIVATE

1. In chapter one of Genesis, we see God model LEADERSHIP through two specific actions:
 - God **creates**
 - God **cultivates**
2. Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him." (ESV)
God intended man to be like HIM.
3. Genesis 1:28 "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (ESV)
 - God has given us a mandate to **CREATE** and **CULTIVATE**.
4. God created men to be **social** and **spiritual** leaders.
5. When men don't lead, **CHAOS** follows.
6. Masculinity is not about just being a **NATURAL-BORN** leader. It's about having the courage to just do it.

III. MISUNDERSTANDING GOD'S DESIGN

1. Adam failed in these areas. He did not show the courage to lead.
 - Genesis 3:6
2. There are two typical "misses" when it comes to experiencing God's best for our life.
 - 1 - The way of the **FRUIT** (Genesis 3:6)
 - Adam and Eve chose their own way over God's will.
 - 2 - The way of the **FIG LEAVES** (Genesis 3:7)
 - Those who try to cover themselves with good behavior and try to perform their way into God's favor.

IV. GOD'S SOLUTION

1. God CARED for Adam and Eve despite their sin. (Genesis 3:21)
2. God has made provision for us through his son, JESUS.
3. Jesus not only models an inspiring masculinity, He also ENABLES us to live it ourselves.
4. Just like Adam and Eve, we are all SINNERS.
5. Our sin is an OFFENSE to a perfect holy God.
6. Here is the good news, God gives us grace through Jesus:
Romans 5:8, Romans 3:22, 1 Timothy 2:5
7. Only by placing our trust in Jesus can we have salvation as well as the POWER that fuels the Authentic Manhood we're talking about.

V. MISUNDERSTANDING MANHOOD

The same misses of Adam and Eve, the fruit and the fig leaves, can show up in the "misses" of today's conventional manhood.

1. Men who choose the way of the fruit become CHILDISH consumers.
They become totally obsessed with CHEAP THRILLS.
1 Corinthians 15:45 tells us that our model, Jesus, is a life-giving spirit.
1. Men who choose the way of the fig leaves become COWARDS and CRITICS.
They take pride in what they DON'T do.
They would rather CRITICIZE than create.
3. Without a clear understanding of Authentic Manhood, we will all be tempted to be childish consumers or cowards and critics.

VI. CONCLUSION

1. How should we respond to God's mandate for us to create and cultivate?
 - **TRUST** Jesus for our salvation and look to Him as our model for Authentic Manhood.
 - Embrace the mandate:
 - Have courage to live it out at work according to how God has wired you.
 - Be creative with your wife, cultivating that relationship by giving her something to anticipate.
 - Be a **MODEL** for your kids by leading them as you passionately follow God.
2. This session was about the big picture of our manhood mandate. In the next session, we will explore a clear and compelling biblical definition of what it means to be a man.

DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How are you creating and cultivating in the different roles in your life? As a husband? As a father? At work? As a friend? Are you being a "life-giving spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45)?
2. Are you more tempted to run away from God toward the pleasures 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)?
3. What has God provided for us through Jesus?
4. Is it easier for you to be a consumer or a critic?