

## **Men: Lead Or Be Led**

The Need for Christian Men to Reject Passivity and  
Assume their God-given Responsibility to be a Proactive  
Presence in their Family, the Church and the  
World Around them

**A Man To Man Ministries Message**  
**by Pastor Pete Bertolero**  
**August 10/2002**

**1 Samuel 4:9b** *“Be men [behave or act like a man], or you will be subject to [your adversaries]; be men and fight.”*

**1 Corinthians 16:13b** *“Be on your guard [behave or act like a man]; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.”*

On those wonderful days when my 2 fine sons were born to my wife, SueJae, and me I knew what it meant to be a blessed in the fruit of my body. And there was no doubt that they were boys, because, like the good Sicilian-Irishman I am, the first thing I did was spread their little legs, and right there staring me in the face was the confirmation of their maleness. And by virtue of that equipment they were proudly pronounced boys. With confidence and bold assurance, I eloquently announced to all that were awaiting the news, like a proud stallion and a strutting peacock: “I got me a BOWOY!”

And you know, not one of my family or friends needed confirmation. From that time forward, it was assumed that they were indeed boys. All that was needed for them to be boys was their genitalia.

However, a lot more goes into becoming a man than the right physical equipment. No one becomes a man simply because he reaches puberty or grows older. I know a whole lot of older males who have never grown beyond being a boy. They have the right physical development to be a male, but they lack the character development to be a man. They think they are men, because they are fooled by their mature bodies. But their hair and muscles and testicles hang on a moral skeleton made of balsa wood. In a word, such men are morally castrated, and have become spiritual geldings.

The two verses above call for males to act like men, to behave according to recognized honorable, noble masculine traits not automatically assumed. The admonition to

**1 Samuel 4:9b** *“Be men [behave or act like a man], or you will be subject [lead or you will be led-you will be subject, enslaved by] (your adversaries); be men and fight [defend, protect what you believe].”*

**1 Corinthians 16:13b** *“Be on your guard [behave or act like a man- protect, defend]; stand firm in the faith [teach it, spread it, preserve it]; be men of*

***courage*** [masculine virtues needed to lead and respond]; ***be strong*** [moral strength; conviction].”

We have gone to great lengths this past year, from the time when one of our elders and fathers in the faith, Levi Taylor, ran his race, achieved his purpose, and died in the faith, in a labor intensive effort to help you break loose from every hindrance keeping you from being successful as a father, husband and Christian. We continue to work at helping you men learn and internalize the 5 components that make up our vision of Biblically oriented Christian manhood, 4 of which came from Robert Lewis’s book, THE MAKING OF A MODERN DAY KNIGHT. These are:

1. A Biblically oriented Christian man learns to Reject Passivity
2. A Biblically oriented Christian man learns to Assume Personal Responsibility
3. A Biblically oriented Christian man learns to Lead Courageously
4. A Biblically oriented Christian man has learned to be motivated by a Transcendent Cause (the will and glory of God)
5. A Biblically oriented Christian man has learned to compete for a Heavenly Reward.
6. According to J. Richard Fugate’s new book, from which I have drawn heavily, the three key roles God has given men the responsibility to fill are **Protectors** and **Providers** of their homes, churches, communities and Nation, and **Cherishers** of their wives.
7. Indeed, if these things are learned and applied in our lives as men, and passed down to our children to the third and fourth generation, we will have done much, by the grace of God, to protect and preserve the faith of our Christian forefathers in the hearts of our children. If we fail to do so, our great, great, grandchildren may go by the name of Muhammad.

## **I. A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CASTRATION OF CONTEMPORARY WESTERN MAN**

### **A. Prior to 1850**

- a. few major changes in society for the first 200 years of our then agrarian culture
- b. most families were self-sufficient, growing or making almost everything they consumed.
- c. average family had seven children who shared in the responsibilities of the family’s survival and were usually home-schooled

### **B. By 1840**

- a. Industrial Revolution made progressive changes to the American way of life from 1840-1940
- b. Family unit became restructured
  1. fathers left home to work in plants in the city
  2. father’s influence at home and in society began to decrease in larger and larger increments each year from then on

3. most home functions like growing food, making clothes and building furniture, as well as training children had to be abandoned
4. women, wives and mothers gradually were forced to take the place of men/fathers as the moral and spiritual leaders of the home, family, school, Church, and even social reform.
5. In other words, where male passivity leaves a God-given responsibility vacant, women, who were created to help and assist us in our roles, have no one to help or assist, only a vacant role, which they then fill (but were not meant to fill, nor were they made to fill like a man was made to fill)
6. While men became heavily involved at the factory (and the Industrial Revolution made sure there were more and more of these being built all the time) Women were left to be influenced by European Romanticism via Novels, which glorified the new levels of responsibilities being left to women to fill, if they were going to be filled at all.
7. Women quickly saw themselves as the champions of justice, Crusaders of the downtrodden and disadvantaged, and as the moral leaders of the country
8. Whereas, prior to the Industrial revolution, positions such as school teachers and Sunday School teachers were held by men, by 1890 they were predominantly assumed by women.
9. soon women assumed the leadership roles in the **Abolitionist Movement** (which in 1833 was lead by men); the **Temperance movement** (which had originally been started by a group of Pastors in 1826 to prevent drunkenness not abstinence); when the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified in 1870 granting black men the legal right to vote, it signaled the end of the Abolitionist movement, which then forced the Women's Abolitionist movement to find yet another cause, and so soon afterward the **Women's Suffrage Movement** was started to fight for women's rights to vote.
10. Historically, the social issues women are always prone to promote are health, education and welfare reform. They champion laws to protect children, relieve poverty, prevent harsh justice (prison reform and abolishing capital punishment), provide cradle to the grave education, and the prevention of private gun ownership and National war preparations. The God-given nurturing instincts built into the female psyche and meant to help and comfort her husband and care for her home and children, once unleashed upon the government, has been attempting ever since to eliminate mankind's evil tendencies through legislated education, and suffering through legislated compassion and health care, and the ending of all crime and violence through the compassionate care of criminals and the elimination of all publicly owned

firearms, by electing every liberal, social-issues candidate for the last 80 years!

- 11. Question:** Is America better off today in the areas of health, education and welfare (those areas where women have had the greatest political influence)? No. Each of these areas have been funded to the point of nearly bankrupting our nation. Yet

*“...our nationally funded Public Education System now produces the lowest test scores in our nation’s history; our Social Security/retirement system is totally insecure; and our welfare system is a windfall for swindlers. Obviously, the women’s right to vote has not solved the injustices of the world.”<sup>1</sup>*

### **C. The Generation of the 1900’s**

- a. Three Catastrophic events between 1914-1945 magnified the problem spawned by the Industrial Revolution

- 1. WW I**
- 2. The Great Depression**
- 3. WW II**

#### **b. The GI Generation (1901-1924)**

1. produced the GI Generation; experienced war – WWI and WWII, the influenza plague which killed 500,000 people in America, while only 116,500 died during the same period in WWI; this generation supplied soldiers for both wars, and fought and overcame insurmountable obstacles of war, plague, and economic collapse, and yet grew stronger in character because of all these things; successfully passed down to it’s sons the basic traits of manhood)

#### **c. The Silent Generation (1925-1945)**

1. produced the Silent Generation; survived the Great Depression and WWII; experienced deprivation, fear, insecurity, and suffering; learned to not make waves; were strong and silent, independent, self sufficient and private).

#### **d. The Boomer Generation (1946-1964)**

1. named for the 76 million babies (an increase of 17 million above the normal; comprised 31% of their adult population; this generation, by virtue of their sheer number have dominated entertainment, culture, politics, and product purchases since the late 1960’s. The demographic bulge of baby boomers will overwhelm the USA’s already overburdened social security system by 2020. A word to the wise: plan your own retirement)

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<sup>1</sup> J. Richard Fugate, *What the Bible Says About Being A Man*. P. 21

- e. **The “X” Generation (1965 – 1981)**
  - 1. also called the **Busters** and the **13<sup>th</sup> Generation**; seem to be truth seekers, but have a distrust for absolutes with which to compare information.
- f. **The Millennial Generation (1982-2000)**
- g. **The Next Generation, “Y” or the “Z” Generation (2001-2020** (if the world as we know it continues that long)

## **II. THE FEMINIZATION OF AMERICA’S BOYS**

### **A. When Father’s Fail to Lead, Several Factors Converge Upon Their Sons**

- 1. the pursuit of potential prosperity draw men away from their homes
- 2. women are left in charge of the home and the training of the children
- 3. women are left to fill the vacant roles responsible for moral and spiritual training and education
- 4. boys raised by women at home, and taught by women in school, and trained by women in Sunday School become re-socialized (feminized) as a result

### **B. There is a Difference Between Boys and Girls**

- 1. Because of the domination of women in all the roles and positions of influence throughout our children’s formative years, a negative message was advanced about masculinity and being male
- 2. Obviously, boys have problems that need to be repaired

*“What are little girls made of?  
Sugar and spice and all that is nice,  
That is what little girls are made of.*

*“What are little boys made of?  
Frogs and snails and puppy dog tails,  
That is what little boys are made of.”*

- 3. Observation of preschool play yard behaviors of little boys reveal
  - a. Aggression seems to motivate their every activity
  - b. They run, compete, and attempt to dominate
  - c. They push, threaten, test, challenge, and explore; roughhouse, and tumble
  - d. They love bodily contact and insist on there being a winner in every endeavor
- 4. Women naturally detest certain masculine traits

- a. male aggression and competitiveness
  - b. uncleanness and unkemptness
  - c. risk-taking and impetuosity
  - d. academic laziness
  - e. general uncouth behavior
  - f. these are not very lady-like
5. Mothers and female teachers in school and church (and liberal media) have for a long time have tried to shame, guilt, and otherwise re-socialize, and exorcize the maleness out of our boys, and then sanitize and feminize them into clean, sugar and spice, genteel-like geldings.
  6. Women know little if anything about how to develop our boys masculinity. It was never supposed to be their job. It was given by God to fathers to do. However, without Dad, the tendency over the past 50 or so years has been for fathers to hand over their sons to female teachers, trainers and caregivers to be raised more like women than men; as a result, our boys souls have been emasculated
  7. this behavioral reconditioning away from masculinity has been disastrous for the past three generations of male adults graduating into society. When aggression is completely trained out (or shamed out) of a boy, it can produce a man who will not fight to provide for or protect his wife or family, or country.
  8. Women will never understand that by taking our boy's competitiveness might result in his becoming a loser in the game of life that most breadwinners must play (the Ungame).
  9. Boys need to learn to control their aggression properly, but if they are taught all aggressiveness and competitiveness is wrong will not likely strive for leadership positions in business, military, or government (or even their own home).

### **C. The Effects of Matriarchy on Boys**

1. When women rule a young boy's world, he tends to be pressed toward one of two extremes:
  - a. Naturally strong masculine egos are likely to become very macho
  - b. More passive egos tend to be squeezed toward emasculation and effeminacy
2. **Macho-males**
  - a. As boys were constantly in trouble for acting-out-behavior and so were constantly in trouble for being rowdy, loud, clumsy and aggressive) and generally did not like their female teachers (or effeminate male teachers)

- b. Developed a deep seeded anger against women during their years of being exposed and dominated by matriarchal influences
- c. By the time these boys reach 10-13, hormones kick in and they begin to feel macho (even effeminate tend to feel a little more macho than usual) like a boss over women. This is God's way of preparing them for leading, protecting and providing for their future wives and families.
- d. It is at this time that a father's influence is absolutely necessary to shape and guide and teach their sons to control their aggressive feelings and teach them to seek God and develop a vision shaped by God's plan for their lives. They must be required to learn the principle and virtue of honor toward God and the things of God, parents and other penultimate authorities, and womanhood.
- e. A strongly masculine boy's aggression can be controlled by his dad, helping him to develop self-discipline and redirect his raging hormones into strenuous activities – or work projects worthy of a man in training (athletic training fits in as well).
- f. But all activities need to be personally supervised by the father as much as possible. **It is the corrective action taken by the father to direct his sons unacceptable behavior which is the key to the training process.**
- g. The other half of this is the fathers teaching his son what the Bible says about being a man of honor and reverence and faith. **A son needs to see his father applying his faith and his knowledge of the Bible in his every day activities and behaviors.**
- h. A father must teach his son how to assume the responsibility for preparing for his future, for spreading and preserving and protecting the Christian faith, and for being a proactive leader in his family, church and community.

### 3. Effeminate Males

- a. More compliant than more aggressive males
- b. Desire to please mother
- c. Are generally mild mannered and nice, and socialize well with little girls and other effeminate boys
- d. His mother may be sharp tongued, critical and controlling

- e. His father will most likely not be a strong influence in his life toward masculinity either because he was absentee, or emasculated himself
- f. Mothers, teachers and other matriarchal authority figures love this type of boy because he is helpful, mannerly, gets good grades, and is no problem (doesn't even get dirty)
- g. He can be easily manipulated by his mother, by her w/holding approval from him, or by telling him she is disappointed in him or ashamed of him.
- h. In order for a boy to become a real man, fathers must take an active role in leading the boy into manliness and godly masculinity.**
- i. It is the amount of time spent in a variety of circumstances in which they are able to see you function in an intentionally godly way.***
- j. All boys, but especially this boy, needs to sit under a strong male Bible teacher, and needs to learn that Christianity is not a woman's religion, and Jesus is not effeminate nor is becoming a Christian the same as becoming sissified (too long, fathers have coopted this responsibility)**
- k. This kind of boy will need to be lead into doing things he does not necessarily want to do (sports, contests and competitions, rough housing with dad) even though what he wants to do is artistic hobbies like drama, art, baking, music, dance, etc...and academics, reading, and stuff that doesn't require loudness, getting dirty, etc... (these things are not bad in and of themselves, but need to be balanced with other things that require uniquely masculine traits to emerge.**
- l. As a family man, once such a kid grows up he will likely be deficient as a leader, for both his children and his wife; will tend to look to his wife to take control of the kids, handle the family finances, and look to her for emotional support (baby him when ill, talk in little boy talk when hurt or injured, or suffer loss) and generally be shy, non-physical, not very manly or masculine in his mannerisms, and passive as the head and leader of his household**
- m. Personal Testimony**

### **III. THE SPIRITUAL AND GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES OF MALE PASSIVITY**

#### **A. Both the passive, uninvolved Macho man and effeminate man may end up raising a son whose name one day may be Abdul, Sultan, Saddam, or Muhammad!**

1. Singapore's caning of 18-year old **Michael Fay** for keying a car is a case in point. His caning as an 18 year old was a clear

consequence of his father's passivity while he was growing up. Our press reported the incident as if Fay was being dealt with too harshly for merely spray painting a few cars. But that wasn't the full story. What we weren't told was that Fay had also vandalized 16 other cars, and that those acts of vandalism were committed "relentlessly and willfully" over 10 days and amounted to a "calculated course of criminal conduct". The teenager only pleaded guilty... to vandalism by spray-painting two cars ...with two or three others. We also were not told that he was fined a total of \$3,500 by District Judge F.G. Remedios on two counts of mischief and one charge of keeping 16 stolen items. Sixteen other vandalism and four mischief charges were taken into consideration before he was sentenced. He was initially supposed to receive 12 blows, but ended up receiving only one, while the other partner native to Singapore, received the full sentence. An article came out saying what most Americans were thinking:

“First of all, as an American and proud of it, Michael Fay deserved to be caned for what he did. If his father took a yardstick to his sorry \*ss at a younger age, maybe he would have acted better as a teenager.

“Is that [the sentence] too much for simple vandalism?

“What Americans don't really understand is that a car in Singapore will cost you at least \$60,000 US dollars. And that's for a little tiny subcompact car that you wouldn't want to be seen in. A mid-sized car that costs \$15,000 in the US will run you \$100,000 in Singapore. Vandalizing a car is the equivalent of breaking into someone's home and damaging that. People in Singapore work years to buy or pay off their cars and any malicious damage to a car shows extraordinary lack of respect for that.

“Also consider that Fay, mostly due to the whining of his father to the US government, got off easy. He got only one stroke of the cane and served no jail time. His "friend" from Hong Kong, however, was not so fortunate. He got the full sentence. How's that for American justice? Ironically, Fay has been in trouble with the law back in the US more than once since his Singapore incident.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> From an internet article. Author unknown

4. The American Taliban soldier and Traitor **John Walker**
5. Cassius Clay to **Muhammad Ali**
6. Lou Alcindor to **Kareem Abdul Jabbar**
7. Islam is one of the world's oldest religions. More than a 1,000,000,000 people practice the religion and it's currently the fastest growing religion in the world.
8. Mosques, Islamic centers and Muslim schools are found in every community of any for its size. Islamic organizations and institutions abound, now at last able to minister to the needs of the Muslim congregation in America. Muslims' voices are heard speaking up for their faith in official circles, to the media and in every field of endeavor. Muslims are now able to make a significant contribution, especially in the realm of spirituality, values and morals, to the life of this nation.
9. At present, the number of Muslims in the United States is estimated to be between 8 to 10 million. It is the fastest growing faith in this country. There are more Muslims in the United States than there are Methodists, and by the year 2010 the number of Muslims in this country is projected to be double what it is today- to a possible 16+ million. The estimated conversion rate among Americans is 135,000 per year. The Defense Department reports that there are now approximately 9000 Muslims on active duty in the U.S. armed services. It is reported that more than 3000 Americans embraced Islam during the Gulf war alone. A vast network of Muslim *dawah* organizations also cater to some 300,000 converts in prisons, with an estimated conversion rate of 35,000 per year.
10. An estimated 45 million Christians have been martyred for their faith since the 1900's, mostly at the hands of communist and Islamic regimes. 1.5 million more by those Muslims who committed genocide in Armenia. The killing of Christians by Muslims continues. **An estimated average of 160,000 Christians have been killed every year since 1990 in places like Algeria, Nigeria, Sudan, and Pakistan.** The "global persecution of Christianity is still in progress but in most cases is ignored by the mass media and Christians in the west."
11. If Christianity and Islam were compared to an Olympics track meet, it would appear that the only team competing to win was the Muslim team. In fact, most of the time, Christian men don't even show up for the meet!
12. **Men: Lead or be led!**
13. In a speech presented to the first "Back to Patriarchy" conference in May, 1996 in Springfield, Virginia, near Washington, D. C. Philip Lancaster, editor of Patriarch, said,

*"The home rules the nation." Our national crisis is a consequence of the crisis of the home, and the crisis of the*

*home is a crisis of male leadership. Men have abandoned their calling to be the spiritual leaders of their families, to be the builders of Christian character, the teachers of Christian doctrine, the models of Christ-like faith and virtue. They have abdicated their responsibility to be the guardians of that wellspring of Christian civilization: the Christian home. Because men have forsaken their families, we are losing a civilization.*

*It may be that the decline of America has gone too far, that God will not now allow a restoration to our former greatness. That is up to him. Our mission is the same in any case: to restore our homes so that they become Bethels, houses of God. However depraved and mournful and anxious the peoples around us may yet become, our homes can be sanctuaries of righteousness and joy and peace. But the fact that you are here, the fact that the Lord has preserved a sizable remnant of men who are ready to take responsibility and reclaim spiritual leadership suggests to me that it may not be too late for America. Let's do our part and see what God will do.*

*The biblical term patriarchy is derived from two words in the Greek language--patria (taken from the word pater, "father"), which means "family"; and arche, which means "beginning," "first in origin," and "to rule." A patriarch is a family ruler. He is the man in charge.*

*What is needed today is nothing less than a return to patriarchy, a society led by strong, godly men. We need family leaders who will also become leaders in the churches and throughout every institution in the nation.*

*It is time for men to look back to the past so that they can look to the future with hope. They need to repent of generations of failed leadership and reject the feminizing pressures of today. They need to again accept the burden of godly leadership.*

*Patriarchs are men who walk with God, who fear the Lord and accept responsibility for leadership. God's chosen nation Israel was founded by the patriarchs. America was set on its blessed course by patriarchs. By God's grace we, too, can become patriarchs so that succeeding generations may live under a blessing instead of a curse."*

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**1 Corinthians 16:13b** *“Be on your guard  
[behave or act like a man]; stand firm in the faith;  
be men of courage; be strong.”*

**14. Men. Lead or be Led!**