

FUTURE MEN by Douglas Wilson (Canon, 2016)

1. It is important that we *teach* boys. We must train them. Take fighting for example. Of course, we don't want to encourage a fighting spirit in our sons. But we don't want to encourage cowardice either. So we must teach them. There are times when it is right to fight, walk away, turn the other cheek, etc.
2. When Teddy Roosevelt was young, he was a Sunday School teacher. One day a boy came to church with a black eye. He said a bigger boy had been hurting his sister, so he fought him. TR said he had done right and gave him a dollar. The church didn't allow TR to teach again.
3. God desires that parents *delight* in their sons (Prov. 23:15-16). But we must teach them. Yes

1. The Shape of Masculinity

- What is masculinity? According to BMW, in brief, it is lovingly taking responsibility to lead, provide for, and protect women in appropriate ways.
- They are called to be lords, husbandmen, saviors, sages, and glory-bearers.
 1. Lords, in that we are to take dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:26-28). We must encourage boys to be adventurous and visionary.
 2. Husbandmen in that we are to make things flourish (Gen. 2:15). A rich farmer was rebuked for having his sons work in the field when they didn't have to. He said: "I'm not raising corn, I'm raising boys." Boys then must learn to be patient, careful, and hardworking.
 3. Saviors, in that we have a deep desire to deliver, the greatest example being Christ (Gen. 3:14-15). That's why it is good for boys to play with toy guns and wooden swords. Boys have a desire to defend. They like to play war. Boys must learn to be strong, sacrificial, courageous, and good.
 4. Sages are those with great wisdom. Boys must learn that it is masculine to read books and study. Peter tells us to gird up the loins of our mind (seek intellectual discipline). Thus boys must be teachable, studious, and thoughtful.
 5. Glory-bearers because we reflect God's glory and are the head of the woman (1 Cor. 11:3,7; Eph. 5:23-24). Thus, boys are to be representative, responsible, and holy.

2. Effeminacy and Biblical Masculinity

- Feminine boys: is it wrong to play with dolls? It isn't for girls but it is for boys. Why? Why must we honor doll-playing in one sense but mock it in another? Because God has created boys and girls differently with different roles. We must not make incorrect guidelines for men and women. It is good for men to learn the basics of cooking etc. And a girl should learn how to paint and use her hands and save money. Proverbs 31 shows an industrious woman who considers a field and buys it. False masculinity says: "Woman, that's man's work."
- Counterfeit masculinity is prideful but does not accept responsibility. When a person is prideful, he is afraid to fail. So men make EXCUSES. True masculinity accepts responsibility, while false masculinity only takes responsibility for success. If a boy is playing a soccer game and missed an easy goal and after the game he says, "It's because the sun was in my eye", what should the father say? The father should rebuke the son because he is becoming accustomed to making excuses. If this habit continues, he will say things like: "I didn't know she could get pregnant" or "I missed work because I didn't know when the bus came". Why did this boy make an excuse? His self-respect and pride was wounded. But true masculinity refuses to make excuses.
- When is worse is that many parents make excuses for their kids. We hurt them when we do this. When he fails, doesn't get the grade, doesn't make the team, loses his job etc., the parents give all the reasons why this is wrong. All the while, the boy is watching taking notes.

When he grows, he will do the same thing. He may be tall and strong, but he has rejected biblical masculinity.

- We find a good and bad example of masculinity and responsibility sans excuses in the same story and the same man (David in 2 Sam. 11; Psalm 53).
- Now of course there are times when we have legitimate excuses. “I came home late because I was hit by a car and the hospital was busy.” But there is a problem if we say things like: “I didn’t come to church because I forgot to wash” or “I didn’t come to work because I had the flu” or “I drank the beer because my friends were laughing” or “I’m not working because I tried twice to find a job and there were none” or “I don’t read my Bible because I lost it” or “I didn’t come to prayer because it was cold” or “I don’t give 10% to church because I only make R50/week”.
- Boys must learn to say regularly to God, to others, and to themselves that they were wrong. They were responsible. Authority comes to those who take responsibility but escapes those who make excuses. When a father asks his son: “Why didn’t you do this job”, he should say, “No excuse, sir.”

3. A Call for Fathers

- It is difficult to follow Biblical masculinity because we are sinners. Why is it easier to ride a bike downhill than uphill? In the same way, why is it easy to forsake our responsibility as men? We are sinners and sin is pulling us down the hill.
- It is also difficult because our society is opposed to masculinity. Boy and girls are equal in every way, they say. We are most concerned with not getting AIDS, not children out of wedlock.
- A wise father disciplines (Prov. 3:12). The father disciplines the son he delights in (Heb. 12:5-6). If we refuse to discipline our child, we hate him. Many discipline out of anger, not love. Many men are competitive on the field AND in the home, and so they don’t let their sons do anything for fear of losing to them. This is why many strong men have weak sons.
- A wise father praises his son for his accomplishments (Prov. 23:24-25). A wise father teaches a lot.

4. A Covenant Home

5. Doctrinal Meat

- According to Titus 2:6-8, young men are to be:
 1. Sober-minded
 2. An example in:
 1. Doctrinal integrity
 2. Reverence (or, maturity)
 3. Incorruptibility (honest in speech and sexual matters)
 4. Sound speech (so, don’t say things like: “uh, dude, like, that was way cool.”)
- Focus on doctrinal integrity
 1. He must know the gospel
 1. Man is dead, not sick, in his sins (Eph. 2:1-2).
 2. Christ has died for his people (Eph. 5:25).
 2. Sovereignty

6. Secret Sin, Tolerated Sin

- It is the parent's responsibility to know and *want* to know about the sins of their children.
- Numb. 32:23; Heb. 4:13; Luke 12:1-3
- Tolerating a little sin is like being a little pregnant.
- Principle: secret sin grows
 1. He wants to make out, not get a girl pregnant
 2. He wants to joy ride, not kill the little girl with his car
- Secret sin affects other people
 1. Josh. 7:1ff
 2. He can cover it or confess it to God and others.
- Prudent Speech
 1. "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise" (Pr. 10:19).
 2. "A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart" (Pr. 18:2).
 3. "Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him" (Pr. 29:20).

7. Laziness and Hard Labor

- Introductory thoughts
 1. Boys tend to be lazy so they must be taught a work ethic. Prov. 10:5 says that "he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame." The shame is upon the parents because it was their responsibility to teach them how to work.
 2. We were created for work; it is not a curse of the fall, but difficult work is a curse. Boys must know what it is like to be exhausted, work with calluses, and work when he doesn't want to.
 3. The world talks about self-esteem but Gal. 6:3 says, "If a man think himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself."
- Parental preparation
 1. The lazy man is always frustrated. Nothing seems to go right for him. Other's are lucky, but he makes excuses.
 2. Parents might be soft with their children now, but one day, poverty will come to him like a thug with a gun (Prov. 6:6-11).
 3. Further, lazy men will have a bad reputation (Prov. 10:26).
 4. Lazy people are obvious (Prov. 24:30). Its not gossiping to point out to your son: "See that man; don't work like him. He is lazy. Stay away from him."
- Disgrace of Laziness
 1. Laziness is a disgrace (Prov. 10:4-5).
 2. Lazy men may work hard or quickly in the beginning, but they do not persevere (Prov. 12:27). It's astounding how some do not follow through (Prov. 19:24-25).
 3. Lazy men make excuses (Prov. 22:13). The lazy man becomes poor because of all of his excuses, none of them good (Prov. 20:4).
 4. Lazy men frustrate others (Prov. 10:26). Man #1 thinks he is working hard, while man #2 think he is lazy. Frustration abounds.
- Laziness to Deceit
 1. Laziness and dishonesty often go hand in hand (Prov. 21:5-6).
 2. God defines what is honest (Prov. 16:11).
 3. Money through dishonesty is very tempting and often done (Prov. 20:17).

8. Money Paths and Traps

- Wealth is not sinful, but often a blessing from the Lord. Often, when Christians do right, they will be given financial blessings (Prov. 8:21; 10:22).

- How are we to obtain wealth? (1) Humility (Prov. 22:4) (2) Generosity (Prov. 11:25) (3) Hard work (Prov. 14:23).
- Our sons must be cautious of borrowing (Prov. 22:7).
- Many things are more important than wealth, like salvation (Prov. 11:4), integrity (Prov. 28:6), a sensible woman (Prov. 19:14), a good reputation (Prov. 22:1).
- Throwing it Away (according to Prov. 28:19-22, fools...)
 1. Try to get rich quick.
 2. Show partiality
 3. Sins for small items
- Sleep is another way we can lose money. Love of sleep is foolish (Prov. 20:13) and so is staying up till 1 am watching TV.
- Many lose money because of sex and girls (Prov. 5:10, 29:3).
- Dishonesty brings poverty (Prov. 27:1-2)
 1. Not doing quality work is dishonesty.
 2. Doing work late is dishonesty.
- Two types of jobs should be given
 1. Jobs that he must do simply to carry his own weight
 2. Jobs he is paid an allowance for
- Sons must be taught how to give. If he makes R100, he should give at least R10

9. Christian Liberty

10. Moms and Sisters

- As head of the home, father is responsible to know spiritual state of each member.
- A boy must learn self control in video games and temper and appetite or he will not have it when sexual temptation comes later.
- Boys are often very good at manipulating their mothers.
- Three things to consider as mothers who want to instill toughness and not femininity in boys
 1. Talk often with husband about her sons
 2. Must have respect and obedience of sons.
 3. Never subsidize son's laziness`
- Manners
 1. Boys thrive under authority and are not threatened by it.
 2. Hammer this by teaching manners (e.g. holding doors for women, being neat, how to eat, protecting women, no play in kitchen etc.).

11. Church and Worship

- The Church and Femininity
 1. "Masculine worship does not exclude women in the same way that feminine worship excludes men. Women flourish when men take spiritual responsibility. Men wither or stay away when women lead in the church."
 2. Boys should see men leading the church.

12. Giants, Dragons, and Books

13. School Work

14. Friends

- Good families are hard to find outside of good churches. Parents who care about their sons growing up faithfully should therefore place a high priority on finding a faithful, flourishing church.
- Stay away from friends: who talk too much (Prov. 16:28; 17:9); are fair-weather friends (19:4).
- It is not wrong to have unsaved friends. Paul assumed that Corinthians Christians may get invited to pagan parties (1 Cor. 10:27) but it is wise to have strong Christian friends (Ps. 119:63; Prov. 13:20). Stay away from those who are opposed to the faith (Prov. 28:7).
- Though neighbor kids coming over can be annoying to Mom, she should be thankful. The alternative is your kids want to go to *their* house.

15. Fighting, Sports, and Competition

- Boys must never fight for light or trivial things (Mt. 5:21-26; 12:36).
- All anger is not bad, as seen in: Jesus (Mk. 3:5), Eph. 4:26 and 4:3.
- Boys playing war are being trained as men just as much as girls playing with dolls. Its wrong if the girl abuses her doll, and wrong if the boy does evil in war.
- Sports is really mock war, and young men learn many of the lessons they need in the context of disciplined athletic competition.
- Athletic competition is NEVER even close to be considered sinful in Scripture. We don't have to prove their worth, only that Scripture does not prohibit it. Paul loves to use athletic metaphors because he sees it as valid.

16. Girls and Sex

- Respecting Women
 1. Boys should treat girls and women with honor.
 2. Lust is a matter of the heart (Matt. 5:27-30).
 3. In every boy, a sexual struggle will be occurring. Thus a father must teach his son from the Word of God. He must check up on him constantly.

17. Courtship and Betrothal

- Family has the right to disinherit. If a son deserts the faith or marries an unbeliever, he should be disinherited.
- Courtship means six idiots are involved instead of two.
- Principles of finding a wife:
 - Attitude is first. Most youth are arrogant.
 - Maturity. Marrying before adult maturity is very foolish.
 - Young men need to know their limitations. You need confident humility. 12 year olds think they can play with adults in bball. Men think they have high view of marriage but really high view of self.
 - Preparation: just like astronauts and concert pianists, so must parents prepare their sons. Give restraining advice. Women are a wonder to have around. Or a horror (Pr. 12:4!).
 - There are certain women to avoid (Pr. 30:20; 6:24; 22:14; 5:3; 9:13). Mouthy women are a pain in the neck (27:15). Godly women build (14:1) and is sexually attractive (5:19). She's a gift (18:22).
 - A woman's *priority* is in the home (Prv. 31). A godly father says, "Get a woman like that."

18. Contempt for Cool

1. Our world says you're cool if you wear Nike or Tommy.

2. Clothing is big deal in Scripture. All of salvation can be understood in terms of clothing. (Zech. 3:1-5).
3. Sinful to dye hair purple as a young man. Nothing in Bible, just like no F-bombs in Scripture. Purple hair means something. Rebellion. Parents should be teaching their children what clothing and expressions *mean*. Tattoos, body piercing, rap, movies. Fundys say “don’t” but there is no thinking either. Just don’t.
4. Culture is meant to be handed down. Pop culture is mud fence ugly. Disposable. Can’t hand it down. Anti culture then. Really going to hand down Spice Girls.
5. Bach is demanding on performer and listener, which is why most don’t like it. It invites contemplation, thought, and discipline. Pop culture does not discipline or enculture. In biblical culture, a man expects great grandchildren to read what he read, sing what he sung, listen to what he listened to.

19. Conclusion

0. Many talk about what they require in a wife but don’t talk how they prepare themselves in their study, work ethic and behavior.

20. Proverbs was written for boys

0. [PS: perhaps chief trait for raising boys is teaching them to be teachable, which is really teaching them to be humble. Youth, especially young men, are prideful. In my own church, where many of the men have no father figure at home, have *never*, not a single time, come to me for advice. Think of this. Is it because he doesn’t love them? No, for he has come half way around the world to teach them. Is it because he cannot communicate with them? No, for he has learned their language. Is it because he does not know their culture? No, for he has lived right among them for over 13 years. The reason is because they don’t *want* his counsel. In their 25 years on earth, they know so much that advice would only confuse them. They are not teachable. They are not humble. In fact, they are filled with pride.]
1. If you can teach your sons only one thing, teach them to *listen*. There is a lot of information to listen to (marriage, work, attitude etc.) but this isn’t important if they won’t listen. Shut up, sit down, turn off your phone and LISTEN!
2. PS outline: The Caution; The Command; The Correction; The Content; The Consequences (if a father will not teach his sons, he really hates them. Why are so many fathers absent? It is hard work to teach boys. It will reveal their own sins and take them away from what they value most. He hates his children, though you’ll say this is too harsh (Pr. 13:24). If he refuses to use the rod on his sons, one day God will use his sons as a rod upon the father (Pr. 19:13, 18; 29:17).
3. Content: women (lost of bad women look good at first, thus so much divorce (5:1-5), marriage, lust (pr. 23:26); money (Pr. 6:1-3); revolutionary politics (24:21-22), laziness (pr. 23:19-26), friends, parents, manliness.
4. Make a catechism for the sermon? A catechism for raising boys
 1. What is the chief command a father must give to his sons? Listen!