

## When Does a Boy Become a Man?

Father's Day 2017

6/18/2017 Sunday AM

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 2:3-4

### Introduction

- Last week we spoke about Are You a Wise or Foolish Builder?
- We discussed the importance of building your life on a firm foundation which is the Holy Word of God.
- So many are building their houses on "sand" which is shifts and the house comes crashing down.
- Are you ready for the storms of this life to come crashing against your house? Will it remain standing?
- With today being Father's Day, I want to talk about what uniquely sets a man apart from being a boy.
- One of the tragic things that is happening in our world today is that we are losing our identity.
- Once this fully takes place, the societal structure will completely collapse. Its crumbling as we speak.
- It's time we allow the Bible to be our foundation for truth and not the world.

### 1 Corinthians 13:11

<sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

- I could demonstrate the identity issue that we have in our culture today if I asked several people to stand up and define what manhood is or what womanhood is.
- There are so many different opinions on what makes a woman a woman and a man a man.
- Different cultures have different standards as to when a boy becomes a man and at different ages.
- In Jewish culture a boy becomes a man at age 13 when he has his bar mitzvah.
- In America, we seem to set the age at eighteen when we can vote and join the military.
- However, age is not THE defining factor in a boy becoming a man.
- There are plenty of boys who shave in this world, and plenty of youth manning up in tough circumstances.
- So, when does a boy enter into manhood? How do you define manhood?
- Paul says in v. 11 that when he was a child, he talked, thought, and reasoned like a child.
- How does a boy talk, think, and reason?
- He then goes on to say that when he became a man, he "childish" ways behind him.
- What are these "childish" ways that Paul is referring to?
- We could speculate all day long as to the details of what Paul is saying.
- In our culture today we seem to define boyhood and manhood a little different than Paul.
- We speak of manhood in the sense of going out and getting a job in order to provide for yourself.
- Some would say that they became a man when they moved out of their parents' house.
- Does living on your own and providing for yourself make you a man?
- Go back to what Paul said in v. 11, "talk, think, and reason."
- It seems that Paul was thinking about something a little bit deeper than simply self-reliance.
- The main issue with how the world sees manhood today, is that it all revolves around external factors.
- I want us to focus this morning of our spiritual selves not just our physical selves.
- What does Spiritual Manhood look like? Isn't that what you should be striving for?
- I want to submit to you that our 28<sup>th</sup> President, Woodrow Wilson knew a little about spiritual manhood:

"No man has ever risen to the real stature of spiritual manhood until he has found that it is finer to serve somebody else than it is to serve himself."

---Woodrow Wilson

- Let that really soak in a bit, what do you think about what he said?

- I believe if Paul himself was writing a commentary on what he meant in 1 Corinthians 13:11 he would have said something very similar to what Woodrow Wilson said.
- Going from Boyhood to Manhood is not a transition that fully takes place on the outside, it also has to be coupled with an internal change.
- Boys and Adolescents typically are "childish" in the sense that they mainly think about themselves.
- Their speech, thought process, and reasoning are all childish and immature.
- A man has to have a higher level of maturity than that of a child.
- Examine yourself today, have you made the transition yet?

- It was profound for me when the Holy Spirit confirmed in my soul what true manhood was.
- Sadly, we do not have a whole lot of examples in our world of true manhood.
- Spend some time "deleting" the false notions that the world has given us about manhood.
- Quit thinking just in terms of self-reliance and age, think about how Jesus was.
- You become a man when you fulfill what Paul wrote in **Philippians 2:3-4**, <sup>3</sup>"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."
- Orison Swett Marden said, "This is the test of your manhood: how much is there left in you after you have lost everything outside of yourself?"

- With today being Father's Day, it is important to note that a true father looks out for the interest of his family, above himself.
- Our world needs father's to step up and be men as the Bible as outlined.
- Think about what that world looks like, when every father is a man according to what we have said today.
- Where does this change start?
- Our young men needs true examples of manhood in their lives, that starts with every one of us men in here today.
- Whether you have children of your own or not, there are many boys in the world today that need a man to stand up and show them the way, we you step up to the plate?

### **Tonight's Bible Study**

No Service tonight.

### **Wednesday Night Bible Study:**

Who's Who in the Bible? Lot - Genesis