

I AM MAN

REFLECTING GOD'S CHARACTER
IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

Week Six: "I Am A Man ... Of Selflessness"

I. The call to selflessness

- One of the most important characteristics He modeled was _____

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." – Mark 10:45

- Jesus brought a whole new perspective to what it means to be a man
- He turned the tables on common day views of masculinity

A. A Real Man Is Self-_____

- Jesus came to _____ Himself away
... to *give His life a ransom for many.*" – Mark 10:45

- But Jesus gave more than just His life

He gave ...

- ... His _____

Giving Himself away was Jesus. It was what...

**He lived to do,
what He loved to do,
what He was born to do,
and what He died doing.**

– Bruce Marchiano, *The Character of a Man*

- He was the perfection of human selflessness

B. A Real Man Practices Selflessness Through Self-_____ (Romans 15:1-3, 7; Philippians 2:3-4)

- Jesus did not live to _____ Himself
- To deny self is the _____ of pleasing self

(Matthew 16:24; Titus 2:11-12; Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:9-10; Galatians 2:20; 5:24)

- But self-denial is not just about giving up what is _____ and _____
- It's also being willing to give up what is _____
- It is a willingness to give up even that which brings us _____
 - ... more sleep
 - ... time to ourselves
 - ... recreation and relaxation
 - ... privacy and solitude
 - ... comfort and ease
 - ... recognition and reward

Self-denial has not its value with God, as some think, from the measure of pain it causes. No, for this pain is very much caused by the remaining reluctance to practice it.
 – Andrew Murray, *Like Christ*

C. A Real Man Practices Selflessness Through Self-_____ (Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 3:16-17)

- Self-sacrifice is the root from which self-denial springs
- In self-denial, self-sacrifice is _____
- Jesus' _____ was a self-sacrifice (Philippians 2:7)
- His life of self-denial was _____ of His self-sacrifice
- His greatest act of self-denial was the sacrifice of His own _____ (Philippians 2:8; Romans 5:8)
- Self-sacrifice is the very essence of true _____
- Without _____ self-sacrifice, we can't love as Jesus loved (John 15:13; Ephesians 5:2)
- Self-sacrifice is always *for* the _____ of others and *to* the _____ of God (Romans 12:1)
- What are you willing to give up so that God might be lifted up?
- What are you willing to die to so that others might have something to live for?
- Jesus gave His all so that you might have everything
- Jesus became sin so you might receive forgiveness
- Jesus left His throne so that you might wear a crown
- Jesus took on human flesh, so that you might be glorified

Selflessness. Giving. They lay at the heart of Jesus' manhood two thousand years ago. They lay at the heart of His hope for men today. – Bruce Marchiano, *The Character of a Man*

PRAYER TIME

Is your life characterized by selfishness more than selflessness this morning? Have you placed your life on the altar only to crawl back down and live the life you want to live? Does dying to self seem impossible to you? Does your wife long to see a man who puts her needs ahead of his own? Do your kids keep waiting for a dad who will lay it all on the line? Are your friends, neighbors and work associates longing to see what a real, selfless, godly man looks like? Ask God to make you that man. Ask Him to show you how. Ask Him to give you the strength.

ANSWER KEY: selflessness, less, give, time, energy, compassion, attention, mercy, forgiveness, touch, sweat, tears, leadership, prayers, denial, please, opposite, evil, sinful, good, pleasure, sacrifice, tested, incarnation, proof, life, love, complete, good, glory

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Week Seven: "I Am A Man ... Of Respect For Women"

What do you think of women? Wait. Let me rephrase that. What do you think of women that you would want others to know about? You see, the kinds of thoughts we entertain about women say a lot about us. They reveal the condition of our hearts. They display our moral character. While hidden from the view of others, they are in clear view of our God and our own consciences. Maybe your struggle is not with improper or immoral thoughts about women, but simply an attitude that takes them for granted or looks down on them. Who a man is in his relationship with women, or in the company of women, reveals so much about who that man truly is. How do you relate to the women God has placed in your life? How do you approach and regard them? How do you handle and deal with those women, young and old, who have been entrusted to your care or who merely cross your path in the course of daily life? The answers to these questions will go a long way in revealing just what kind of men we truly are.

- Take a few minutes and write down the names of any women you can think of who you come into contact with on a daily or regular basis. Include family members, friends, co-workers, etc.

- Now think about the women who are a part of your life who you don't even know, but whom you see daily. They could be someone who works in the same building as you do. A neighbor you see regularly, but don't know. They could even be an anonymous face staring at you from a magazine ad or billboard on your way to work. Even a movie star on your favorite show. How would you describe your relationship with these women?

How is it different from the women you listed in the first question?

How is it the same?

- Read John 7:53-8:11
What is going on in these verses?

How would you describe the woman in this story?

How did the Pharisees treat her?

How did Jesus treat her?

- Read Matthew 14:1-9
Briefly describe the scene recorded in this story?

What did the woman in this story do for Jesus?

What was the reaction of those in the room?

What was Jesus reaction?

- Read John 4:3-42
What kind of woman does Jesus meet in this story?

How did Jesus treat her?

What was the reaction of the disciples in verse 27 when they return?

What did Jesus do for this woman and how did it impact her life? How do you think it was different than the way she had been treated by all the other men in her life up until that point?

- Read John 19:25-27
What was the last thing Jesus did for His mother prior to his death? What is significant about this act?