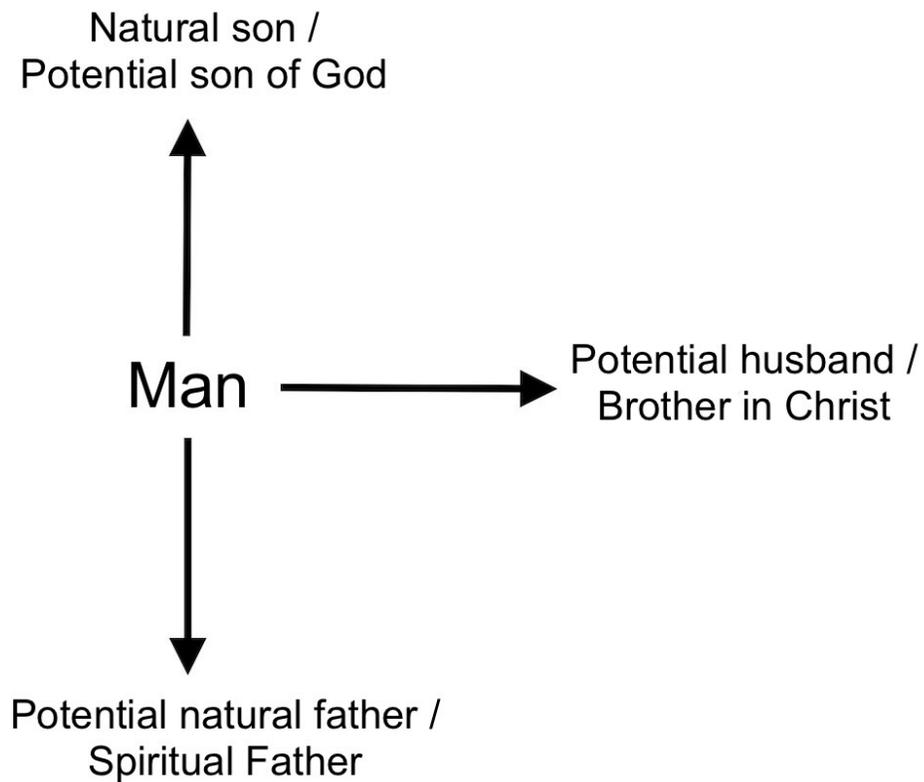


Pursuing Biblical Manhood
Relay 2026

Intro: the most manly deed of all....

- Colter's Run – Montana, 1808 or 1809
- Lt. Ronald Speirs – Bastogne, 1944
- A funeral home in Franklin, WV....

1) What are men *for*? Fruitful covenant relationships in three dimensions



Hypothetical vs. potential illustration

Son and brother

- Son of an earthly father and mother

Eph 6:2-3: “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

- Son of God

Gal 4:4-5: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Application question: is being a son of God the highest privilege of your life?

“If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.” (Knowing God, J.I. Packer, p. 182)

- Brothers in Christ

Heb. 2:10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,¹² saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

Application question: do you view fellow believers as family, or as rivals?

Husband

Gen. 2:18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone...

And yet....

1 Cor 7:7-8 I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am.....

Prioritizing and relativizing marriage....

Application question: are you pursuing marriage for the right reasons? Are you avoiding marriage for the wrong reasons?

Father

Psa. 127:3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.

5 Blessed is the man
who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

To be clear: if you're not married, there's no path to human fatherhood!

Job 29:16 I was a father to the needy, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know.

1 John 1:13-14

I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.

14 I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

The principle: mature masculinity takes responsibility for a household – through the two covenants of marriage and church.

Application question: do you aspire to be a man who can be a father in the home and in the church?

2) What do men *do*? Build and protect

Build:

- Starting point: avoid self-sufficiency AND passivity
- Principle #1: does God want it in your life? Then *you* build it.
- Principle #2: do *you* want it in your life? Then *you* build it.
- Goal: *develop a pattern of initiative and a weight of responsibility*

Protect:

- Starting point: sacrificial love, especially for the weaker, the needy, the vulnerable
- Principle #1: protect from physical harm
- Principle #2: protect from spiritual harm
 - Sin
 - The world
 - Satan
- Goal: *develop a pattern of sacrifice, and a weight of love*