TUESDAY

OPEN

Pardon me, darling, but are you looking for a man? And what kind of a man are you looking for? What is your model man, the kind of man that you’ve dreamed of, the kind of man that you want to be married to? Or excuse me, sir. Do you have a model that you can follow? Do you have an example of all that a man should be? We’re going to look at what God says a model man is.

PART ONE

There’s talk about all this confusion among men about what their role is to be. Books have been written, Wild, Wild Women and Passive Men. Men don’t have an example. Men don’t know who to follow. What does manhood really look like? Do I have to go the gym and workout and build all these pecs and all these muscles and every thing in order to get a woman, in order to be a manly man? If so, is that all there is to manhood? No, that’s not all
there is to manhood. And I have such good news for you today. God has in His Word an example of what a model man ought to be and that’s what we’re going to look at and what I want to do is I want to take you to 1 Corinthians, chapter 11. And I want to take you there and I want to show what God expects of man. Now I’m not talking about mankind in general. Right now, I’m talking about man male. What does God expect from the man? What does God expect from the husband? Well in 1 Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 7, it says that, “The man ought to have his head covered since he is the image and glory of God, but the woman is the glory of man.” So right off, you see this very high calling that God has for manhood. But I want you to know it is not an impossible calling. You say, “Yes it is. I’m in the image of God and I’m to be the glory of God. There’s no way.” Yes, there is a way. So be patient and listen and I promise you that if you will listen and if you will set your sites on the model that God lays out, then you’re going to find a whole new surge of manhood coming forth and whole new confidence. And you as a woman are going to look at your man and say, “Whoa, I am glad I married this man.” Or if you’re not married you’re going to know what kind of a man you need to look for. What should be his qualities? How should he behave? How should he conduct himself? So this is going to be very, very exciting and very enlightening. Now when it says that, “Man is in the image and glory of God, but the woman is the glory of man . . . .” we know from Genesis, chapter 1, that when God created man, “He created them in His image, male and female, He created them.” But now, what He’s showing us is He’s showing us the differences between the sexes. And now He’s focusing in. He’s taking those binoculars and He’s moving from both of them jointly and He’s focusing in on the man. And He’s telling us that man is in the image of God and man is the glory of God. Now the word glory in the Greek is “doxa”, “d-o-x-a”. And it’s a nebulous kind of word, until we see exactly what it says. The word means “to seem,” s-e-e-m. The word means “to be.” And so what He saying is, that the man is to give a correct opinion, a correct estimate of God. In other words, when you look at men, down here on earth, if they are following what God has designed for
them, you should be able to look at them and see what God is like, what God is like in His character, what God is like in His behavior towards us. That’s what you ought to see. You say, “That is impossible. Lady, that is impossible.” You hang on and you watch what God can do with you. And I promise you then when you go to shave that face in the mirror, you will not hang your head in shame. You will not feel totally inadequate, but you will have a strength and you will have a confidence that comes from Almighty God. And it’ll make a big difference in your relationships: first of all in your relationship with God and second, in your relationship with your wife and third in your relationship with your children. Those are the three most important relationships, and then in a relationship with your peers and with the opposite sex. Even with that woman that’s coming on to you. Even with that woman that’s giving you those little hints that she’s available when you see her at work. It’s going to give a confidence so that you don’t have to succumb to that and you don’t have to worry about that. So let’s look at what is the image of God. And there are four things that I want to share with you about God. First of all, God is creator. We know that from the beginning. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Well, He created not only the heavens and the earth, but He created man. He was the one that brought Adam into existence. He’s the one that formed Eve out of the rib of the man. So He’s creator. So when a man is in the image of God, you’ve got to know this, that man plays that creator role also. What does he do? He, in a sense, with the help of God, creates life. He gives birth to children. I know the woman gives birth, but the woman needs the man. And so when the man comes together with the woman, he is taking his life that is in him and he’s imparting it to the woman so that it might meet with that egg, so that that sperm, a little biology here, so that that sperm might meet with the egg and that it might form life. But not only is God creator, but God is ruler. God rules over the earth. He’s the sovereign ruler. The Bible says in Daniel, chapter 4, that “God does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. None can stay God’s hand. None can say to God, ‘God, what are you doing?’ because God is
ruler.” All right, now where does that place man? Well, man is the head of the woman. And so man, and hang on, because we’re going to discuss this later. I can’t cover it all in just 30 minutes. But we’re going to discuss this headship and we’re going to discuss this rulership and we’re going to discuss submission. But as God is the ruler, so the man is the ruler. The man has this position of headship. And watch what it says here in 1 Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 3. He says, “I want you to understand, that Christ is the head of every man and the man is the head of a woman and God is the head of Christ.” Let’s look at this for just a minute. Because I don’t want you women to get upset saying, “Okay, he’s the ruler. I thought I was an equal ruler with him.” You are in God’s eyes, and there’s equality. But when it comes to marriage, Precious One, one has to be the head. And so the man is the head of the woman. But now watch what He’s saying, so that you understand it. The man has a head and that head is Christ. And if Christ is the head, then you and I don’t have any problems as long as he’s obeying Christ. You say, “I understand, but it’s when he doesn’t obey Christ that I really have problems.” I understand. And we’re going to talk about that. But you’ve just got to know that this is the way God set it up and God knew that we were not perfect. So you have Christ, then you have the man and the man then is the head of the woman. You say, “It’s demeaning.” No it’s not and let me show you why it’s not demeaning. It says, “The man is the head of the woman and God is the head of Christ.” So Christ has a head. And Christ is equal with the Father. They are one. In John, chapter 10, Jesus says this, “The Father and I are one.” So they’re one and yet, although they are one, although they have the same attributes, although they are part of the Godhead, still Christ has a head and it does not demean Him. And that head is God the Father. So, what is a man? A man is created in the image of God. And the man is the glory of God. He should be the correct estimate, give the correct opinion of who God is, so that when you see him, you’re seeing God. He seems to be like God. Not that he is God, but he seems to be like God in character. God is creator and man is creator. He brings children into the world. God is ruler and man is ruler. He’s the head over the wife. But now
catch this. Praise God, it doesn’t stop there. I mean, praise God, it doesn’t stop there. I’m telling you if you’re listening and you’re a man, you can be a man among men, by understanding this third thing about God. God is a lover. God is a lover. And that love is seen in full bloom in John, chapter 3, verse 16, where it says, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” In 1 John, chapter 4, it says, “God is love. And here in is love, not that we first loved God, but that God first loved us.” So when a man is in the image of God and man is giving a correct opinion or estimate of God, one of the things that you will find about man is that he’s the lover. He is to be the lover. Now that doesn’t just mean sexual love. It means that he is to love. He is to care for. He’s to be all those things that we saw in Ephesians, chapter 5, when it says, “Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for it.” So with that love goes a sacrifice, a sacrifice of self.

Well, the fourth thing that I want you to see about God is not only is He creator, and ruler and lover, but He is provider. He is the provider. In Philippians, chapter 4, verse 19, “’For my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus our Lord.’ “But, God, I am wealthy because You have promised to supply all my needs, not only my physical needs, my material needs, but my spiritual needs. God, thank you!”

**PART TWO**

God is provider. That’s why He says, “Seek first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.” He says, “Consider the lilies. Look it, they don’t toil. They don’t sow, and yet look at them. Solomon, in all of his splendor, was not as beautiful as one of these lilies.” Look at the birds. God knows every time a bird falls to the ground. God is there. God cares and God is provider. So listen, sir, if you’re going to be what you ought to be as a man, then you are going to step into this role of creator. Now, that’s creator inside the framework of marriage, unless God
has called you to be a eunuch. And a eunuch means you don’t have sex. Eunuch means that you live without a woman and you keep yourself sexually pure. Marriage is the only condition for sexual activity. “Marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers, God will judge.” So, you are there as creator. You are there as ruler. You are there as lover. So you’re a loving ruler. You’re not a mean or cruel despot. And you are there as a provider. So you’re not there as a ruler that says, “Okay, you peon, do this, because I need this.” No. You are there to provide. And that’s why it’s very dangerous when you want to marry a woman simply for what she can do for you. The way to really marry a woman and have the kind of relationship that God wants you to have is for you to just say, “You know, I love you and because I love you, I want to pour my life out for you. I want to provide for you. I want to shelter you. I want to nurture you. I want to cherish you. I want to love you just like Jesus loves me, just like God loves the world.” Wow, I’m telling you, you find a man like that and you don’t have to have that perfect chin. You don’t have to have those perfect pecs. You don’t have to have all that wealth because what you have is what a woman is really looking for deep inside. Now, I know we’d like them to be attractive. And I’d know we’d like them to be muscular. But I’m telling you that beauty fades, not only in a woman, but it fades in a man. So this is the kind of manhood that God is talking about. All right now, what does that man look like day in and day out? What does he look like? Well, I want to take you to Timothy. And I want to show you the model man. And as I do, let me just tell you a story. This man told us this story. I want to take you to 1 Timothy chapter 3. And the man told us a story of, and it’s a true story. Some neighbors moved into the neighborhood, came over to their house and they just became friends. And one day the woman looked at her neighbor and she said, you know, “Your husband is just, he’s just incredible. He is a model husband.” And the woman thought, no one has ever called him a model husband before. I think that I’ll go look that up in the dictionary. So she looked up model in the dictionary. And this is the definition that she saw: A small imitation of the real thing. So we’re going to
look at a model man, a small imitation of the real thing. What’s the real thing? The real thing is Jesus Christ. You see, they were both equal. They were both creators, God the Father, and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were all three there when the world was created. Nothing was brought into existence apart from Jesus Christ. He was the Word, as John 1 says. “He was in the beginning. He was with God and He was God. And all things came into being though Him.” But John 1:14 says this, “And the Word…,” this is God, Jesus the Son, “…became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” When Jesus was here on earth, one of the disciples said to Jesus, when He said I’m going away, he said, “Show us the Father.” And it suffices us. And He said, “Have I been with you so long Philip, and you say ‘Show me the Father’. Philip, if you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.” Now, that’s what a model man is. In that definition, he is an imitation of a bigger picture, a bigger model. He’s an imitation of the real thing. So where do we find this? Well, in Proverbs 31, we have an excellent wife. And then she’s described for us. The Bible doesn’t say who is an excellent man. Where can a woman find an excellent man? His worth is more than all the stock market put together whether it’s good or whether it’s bad. He’s worth more than anything else in this world. And listen, a model man is worth more than anything else in this world, if you’re going to spend the rest of your life with him, married to him, sharing his children, sharing his bed, sharing his house, sharing his old age. So where does God say that? Well, in Proverbs 31, we have an excellent wife. And then she’s described for us. The Bible doesn’t say who is an excellent man.

Where can a woman find an excellent man? His worth is more than all the stock market put together whether it’s good or whether it’s bad. He’s worth more than anything else in this world. And listen, a model man is worth more than anything else in this world, if you’re going to spend the rest of your life with him, married to him, sharing his children, sharing his bed, sharing his house, sharing his old age. So where does God say that? Well, I think the only place that we can find that is by going to what God says about the kind of men that are to run the church. In other words, the church is the bride of Christ, the church is the body of Jesus Christ. The church is what Jesus Christ died for. So the church is very, very precious to God. And we see that preciousness as we look in Ephesians, chapter 5. Where he talks about how the husband is to treat his wife just as Christ did with the church. Love her just as Christ loved the church. Give yourself up for her just as Christ did for the church. So when we go to Timothy, what we see is we see the model man. And what I want to do and we’re going to start looking at
this passage, and then, we’re going to continue looking at it. And I would just simply suggest that you read 1 Timothy, chapter 3, and look at what it says about an elder. Look at what it says about a deacon. And make a list and then go to Titus, chapter 1 and look at what it says about an elder. And make a list and compare them all and then you’ll be one step ahead of me. And you can be thinking about these things. But, here’s our model man. In 1 Timothy chapter 3, verse 1. “It is a trustworthy statement, if any man aspires to the office of an overseer, an overseer or a bishop,” or it’s the word “episkopos” and it means also an elder. “It is a fine work that he desires to do. An overseer then must be above reproach.” What does it mean to be above reproach? It means this in the Greek, that there’s nothing that you can take a hold of on that man and use it to accuse that man of falling short of what a man ought to be. In other words, this man should be totally and absolutely exemplary. Because what he’s doing is, he’s being excellent in every single area of his life. If he’s a ruler, he’s a God-like ruler. If he’s a lover, he’s a God-like lover. He’s not lazy. He’s a provider. If he creates so to speak, children, he’s going to be a good father. So he says, “It is a fine work he designs to do because this is a man that is going to be above reproach. This is the kind of model that you are going to have. You are going to be the husband of one wife.” Now listen carefully, that’s the kind of a man a woman wants and longs for.