

Kingdom Men | Women
Kingdom Men • Message 1
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Prayer Points for Prayer Time:

- **Pray for older and younger generations to encourage and invest in one another.**
- **Thank God for the people who invest in our lives.**
- **Pray that we would walk closely with Jesus and live out His calling.**

Worship Psalm:

And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.

1 John 4:13 (NLT)

Scripture Reading:

I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 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, dear children, because you know the Father. 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 lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1 John 2:12-14 (NIV)

A. Introduction (Luke 9:52-55)

Bobby Video

Spanish Interpretation:

We want everyone to feel right at home here. If you or a guest would prefer English-to-Spanish live interpretation of our message, we offer it every week during the 11 am service. You can pick up a free headset in the concourse at the Spanish kiosk right across from the Information Desk.

We are doing a 5-week series on Kingdom Men and Kingdom Women. We are simply looking at men and women of faith in the Bible. So, we will look at 5 different characters in the Bible...

Today, I want to talk to you about what is a Kingdom Man...

I heard a celebrity say that what makes a real man is masculinity.

Google said the top trait of a real man is someone who takes responsibility.

I asked one of my kids what a real man is, and they said someone who is hairy.

But I want to talk to you today about what the Bible says a man is. What makes a Kingdom Man? Next week, I'll talk about what is a Kingdom Woman.

And the reason this is important... we live in a time where there is so much confusion. For the first time, people are arguing about physically what is a man or a woman.

But the Bible is clear that God has clearly created us male and female from birth, and He doesn't make mistakes. But there isn't just confusion on what physically makes us male or female. People are confused on what makes someone a Kingdom Man or Woman.

So, I did a thing in my house the other day... you know what I did? I gave my son the "talk" ... the sex talk...

How many of you have ever had that conversation with your parents? ... How many of you are still in therapy as a result? ... But one of the things I told my son is this...

I'm not trying to make you a good man... I want to help you be good at being a man... God has wired you to love Him, and love people, and use your life to make an impact in this world... but to do that, you are going to have to be good at being a man...

One of the best examples of a Kingdom Man in the Bible is the Apostle John. John was someone who walked physically with Jesus. He saw the miracles of Jesus, heard the teaching of Jesus, ate with Jesus, and prayed with Jesus. He was in step with Jesus. He wrote Revelation, 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John.

When John is younger, he's not good at being a man...

And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them.

Luke 9:52-55 (NIV)

This is why I love the Bible... Jesus rolls into town, and He's not welcome. And one of the disciples is like, *Hey, Jesus, you want me to kill them?* So, they've got a little bit of holy and a little bit of hood in them... like our people from Columbia have.

As he gets older and God begins to transform him... everything changes. And so today, he gives a word for us...

B. Kingdom Men

1. Word for EVERYONE.

(1 John 2:12, 14)

I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

1 John 2:12 (NIV)

John is nearing around 100 years old... When you are pushing 100, everyone is a kid. You can call everyone a kid...

We are into the 2nd and 3rd generations of Christians, and he wants them to know the Father heart of God...

A lot of you people have become Christians; there are a lot of new Christians, so he's going to help guide them...

And then he goes on to say this...

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

1 John 2:14a (NIV)

People of the Kingdom are people who know the Father heart of God and live from that identity!

Father: Note it is mentioned 165+ times in the four Gospels compared to only 15 times in the entire Old Testament!

A Kingdom person is secure and steady, not because of a job, not because of accomplishment, not because of money. They are secure because they know the most powerful person in the world is their Dad...

2. Word for YOUNG MEN.

(1 John 2:13-14. C/R: 1 Corinthians 13:11)

There is some debate on what age makes someone a young man... some commentators say a young man is 40 years old, some say 60... so we will roll with 40. And to prepare for this sermon, I've been...

(Look at the person and say, *Hey, old man.*)

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

1 John 2:13b (NIV)

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

1 John 2:14c (NIV)

Feed yourself and fight back darkness.

I shared this a few weeks ago: more women than men are attending church. In fact, the least likely person to attend church under the age of 40 is a young man.

- More women than men are in college.
- For the first time in our nation's history, more women than men are in the workforce.
- I love that now women have stepped up and found a voice in the 21st century, but somewhere, men overall have become distracted. There seems to be a gap in men stepping up...

So we have a distracted generation. Men that aren't interested in going to college or getting a particular job, and young men who aren't attending church and learning about Jesus... and what John is doing is he's sitting us down and saying this isn't just the way culture does things, but that there is a battle with the evil one... That the Father heart of God is wanting men to step into who God has called them to be...

Now, it's not a problem to act like a boy if you're a boy... if you're 16, then it's ok to be 16. My son is 12. If he breaks his arm, I'm not going to say, *Man up*. He's 12. But it's a problem to act like you're a boy if you're 35... Right?

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 the ways of childhood behind me.

1 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)

And one of the issues we have is we don't have a rite of passage... like, how do you know when you become a man? So, we created this stage called adolescence. But in the Bible, there were two categories: young men and old men. In the Bible, teenagers were leading and changing things...

So, if you're 16, it's time to have a pure heart and not get corrupted by lust... fight back the darkness.

If you're 26, it's time to stop making excuses and pick up the Bible and let God work in you.

If you're 36, it's time for you to use your voice to step up...

How many of you, when you were a young boy, played with toy guns or with swords? You should have. It's biblical... Tristan had a pool noodle and struck his grandfather... took him down...

"A boy gets to be a man when a man is needed.

Remember this thing.

I have known boys forty years old because there was no need for a man."

- John Steinbeck

We often try to get to the depths of the issues and wounds that men are carrying around. One theme always comes to the surface: a sense of rejection.

It may come as a surprise to some, but many men feel that they are not needed in the world today.

- Automation is telling men their skills are not needed.
- AI is telling men their wisdom is not needed.
- Activists are telling men their gender is not needed.
- Divorces are telling men their love is not needed.
- The media is telling men their masculinity is not needed.

When boys are little, they like to see themselves as heroes fighting evil, rescuing others and living in some kingdom... And the reason I believe God puts this desire in boys is because it's the storyline in the whole Bible...

There is a dragon, named Satan, the evil one... and guess what? Jesus is the dragon slayer who comes to rescue the bride, which is the church, and allows us to live in His kingdom... and now it's time for young men to step up and be like Jesus, to be a dragon slayer... and how do you do

that? ... what is John telling us? To be strong in the Word of God... in Hebrews, the Word of God is called the sword...

God is calling, I believe, a generation of strong men who reject looking at pornography or objectifying women, a group of young men who have strong character, who take responsibility, who have a knowledge of the Bible and love for Jesus, to be committed in a consumeristic culture... to have humility in a culture of entitlement... to work hard in a culture of laziness... to be mature and godly...

And how do you do these things? Fill your mind and life with this... we spend so much time on podcasts, sports sites, hobbies, work trainings, TV, and social media... but know this Book and let it guide your life. That's what John is saying a young man is.

I really believe the church needs strong men to lead in their jobs, families, and in the church...

No matter what your family history is... What if the course of your family's history completely changes with you, young men? If you have had a father who passed on a good baton, then you continue to do the same. But if you have a father who passed on a damaged baton or completely destroyed it, you are now changing the whole trajectory of your kids or those around you... and your family tree.

Once you know you are forgiven, once you know you have a Father, you can be strong and battle and overcome the evil one...

See, young boys have to be fed, but young men, you feed yourself... How do you know how to do that?

Dive into this Book. Learn what God is calling you to look like and do... Let this Book shape you... Dive into it...

We need young men because you bring life, strength, and vitality...

3. Word for OLDER MEN.

(1 John 2:13-14)

Pour out your wisdom to the younger generations.

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

1 John 2:13a (NIV)

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

1 John 2:14b (NIV)

Sometimes you have to repeat yourself... he repeats himself twice...

But notice the word *fathers*... they are raising up spiritual children... it's not meaning biological children...

you are investing in others... and so many in our church are doing that...

We will honor older men because God does. We want to be a church that is multigenerational. We won't disrespect them like so many people do...

The younger men have strength... the older men have wisdom.

Notice it says *who you know*... Your experiences with the Lord are incredibly helpful.

You can read a book about work, but it doesn't sink in until you do it. You can read a book about parenting, but it doesn't really sink in until you have kids. You can read a book about navigating pain or death, but it doesn't really sink in until you have walked through it.

So, take marriage... if you have had a faithful marriage for decades, you have a voice to speak into the younger men and women in the church... and if you've gone through a divorce and you've made some mistakes, your voice isn't discredited, you can speak to men about some of the pain, learnings, or failures you've made. With God nothing goes to waste, amen...

We want older men who teach the Bible, but teach from your life... let people in and see...

Why? Because John's family chat reminds us that we have been forgiven and we have a Father...

We want older men to say, *Here's what I learned. Here's a mistake. Here are some things God's wisdom has shaped*... Your experiences are incredibly valuable. You are needed...

And that's why we can't have older men tuning out and just thinking about retirement, or traveling around, or home projects, or hobbies... We need men who are going, *How can I invest? How can I build up? How can I impact those younger? How can I utilize my most important years in life?*

John Connelly video...

What I desire for you, if you're an older man, is to have a father's heart for the young men.

John's most repeated line in 1 John is *Dear children*... Because he's caring and operating out of a father's heart. It's a dad's heart.

I love what I heard one pastor say. Young men are like the sails, and older men are like the rudder...

In church, we need both... churches that are all young men... they are going fast but right to the rocks... Churches that are all older men are heading in the right direction, but it's going to take a very, very long time to get there.

We have to understand that there is a real enemy who wants to disrupt this... That's why being a man isn't just physical; it's spiritual. That you need to pick up your Bible and pray and walk with Jesus because it matters.

Commissioning moment:

Young men

Older men