

Operator's Manual "God-Designed Masculinity" – Ben Foote February 2-3, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

Bible References: Genesis 3:8-12 and Philippians 2:5-8, 12-13

Community:

1. How did you spend Super Bowl weekend and who did you pick to win?
2. Regarding the whole idea of masculinity, where did you see "healthy" masculinity exhibited during the Super Bowl, and where did you see "unhealthy" masculinity?

Core:

1. Ben said that when men look for a satisfying definition of manhood, outside of God's perfect design, they get all turned around and knotted up and "rule" out of one of two places: tyranny or passivity. Where have you seen this to be true?
2. Ben defined tyranny as unchecked, unaccounted for, unbridled power and authority. He also said that passivity is men looking at the people God has entrusted to them and saying, "Not my problem." How can we protect ourselves from falling into either of these damaging behaviors?
3. **Read Genesis 3:8-12.** Looking at Adam's passive, destructive behavior, how convicting is it, knowing that passivity always leads to damage and deeper struggles for everyone?
4. **Read Philippians 2:5-8.** Looking at this, what attributes do you see in Jesus that show His God-designed masculinity—"the glad assumption of sacrificial responsibility"?

Challenge:

Ben's final challenge was to "*get off the couch*"—a metaphor to take action. We all have our "couches" where we passively neglect our God-given responsibilities. But the greatest encouragement we have is found in Philippians 2:12-13. We see here that God wants to do all this good work through each of us. Start each day this week by reading Philippians 2:12-13 to remind yourself that God is always with you, by your side, helping you to "*get off the couch!*"