

## Do You Have the Right “Equipment?”

Have your wife and family been asking you what you might want as Christmas gifts? If so, we men usually have a list of the “equipment” that we need: If not tools for our duties around the house or on the job, equipment for our hobbies. I’m an outdoors enthusiast and always have a few items of equipment that I could use—guns, decoys, camouflage clothing, fishing gear, etc. Just ask my wife!

For some of us, the banner question of this column may not have led us to think about Christmas gifts, but may have struck a nerve that challenged our masculinity and our sexuality. What “equipment” do you think it takes to be a “man’s man?” This world gives us lots of thoughts regarding what it means to be an adequately “equipped” man.

I believe that most social problems in today’s culture are symptoms of one problem: we men don’t know what it means to be real men. Our concept is distorted. The distortion comes from our fathers and the culture in which we live. How is that concept of what a man is playing out in our society?

- 9 of 10 inmates in jail are men.
- 9 of 10 on death row hate their father.
- 9 of 10 inmates in juvenile detention are boys.
- All school shootings were carried out by young men.
- More than 5 of 10 boys will graduate high school without their father at home.

How can we teach our sons what it means to be a real man? Not the iconic “Marlboro Man,” that rugged individualist, portrayed in the cigarette ads when I was a kid. Not the image of violence in Arnold Schwarzenegger movies that many of our sons were led to believe was the image of a “real” man. Not the “metro-sexual” wimpy man. Not the “working man” that is too tired to be involved enough in his family to really know them. We need to model Father-God to our kids, not the distortion fed by our culture or exhibited by our wounding.

I ask you again to consider the question that I asked last week: Are you a true Kingdom Warrior that is prepared to “lay down your life” for your wife and kids? You don’t lay down your life by being the “well-equipped” macho guy, by proving yourself in bed, this world, on the job, or even by being a great provider and success in the world system. Real men don’t need to demand to be respected and “in command.” The real man experiences Father-God enough to discover who they really are and live out of that sacrificially by “dying” to pride and control, laying down their lives for their wives and families! Now that’s a man!

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**Get the Right “Equipment” Here--EQUIP**

You can get some of the right equipment by attending the Equip training meetings held at 6:30 on the first Monday of each month. You'll be equipped with tools to help you understand the heart of the Father and tools for reaching out to others. Plan to attend the next session on January 2, 2012.