

Real Men Pray Naked

My parents used to tell me stories of how they began married life in the 1930's. When they sat down for dinner the first night after they were married, mom asked her new husband if he'd like to say a blessing, and dad, being the "strong/silent" type man, declined and suggested that she could say the prayer. Mom informed him that her dad had always prayed before and after every meal and he had taught her that it was one of the responsibilities of the husband. Dad reluctantly agreed to give it a try and I don't believe that he ever missed saying a blessing before each meal, and thanking God after each meal, for the next 60 years. He also led the family in a short devotional and time of teaching and discussion each evening after dinner. My parents were blessed with a Godly marriage, and I was blessed to be raised in a Godly home—full of love and trust!

Often it's the women in our lives that "call us out" to become what God created us to be. I can sometimes take offense when a woman challenges me, but I've come to see that God has created and gifted them to call men out in that way. There is truth in the adage, "Behind every good man is a good woman."

Perhaps the two most telling areas for men are the areas of purity and prayer. If you want to insert a conversation stopper into a group of men, mention one of these two topics. This observation is not a knock or criticism of us men; but we tend to be "prayer challenged!" When I say "prayer challenged," I'm not talking about prayers before meals or in response to a personal or family crisis. I'm talking about a true lifestyle of prayer. A Godly family is led by a Godly man who is living his faith out loud and in everything he does in life. This starts with a Godly marriage which starts with prayer and that means praying for and with your wife.

Now you've read this far looking for the "naked" part, right? Well, the point being that effective prayer requires that we are transparent, revealing our deepest feelings and insecurities. While that makes us feel vulnerable, it builds intimacy with God and with our wives too! Try it, *and* after the initial discomfort, *I'm betting* you'll like the results!

Accept the challenge. Take the first step today. Surprise your wife and suggest that you and your family attend the All Church Prayer Gathering tonight at 5 PM. And then, lead like a man, and get naked!