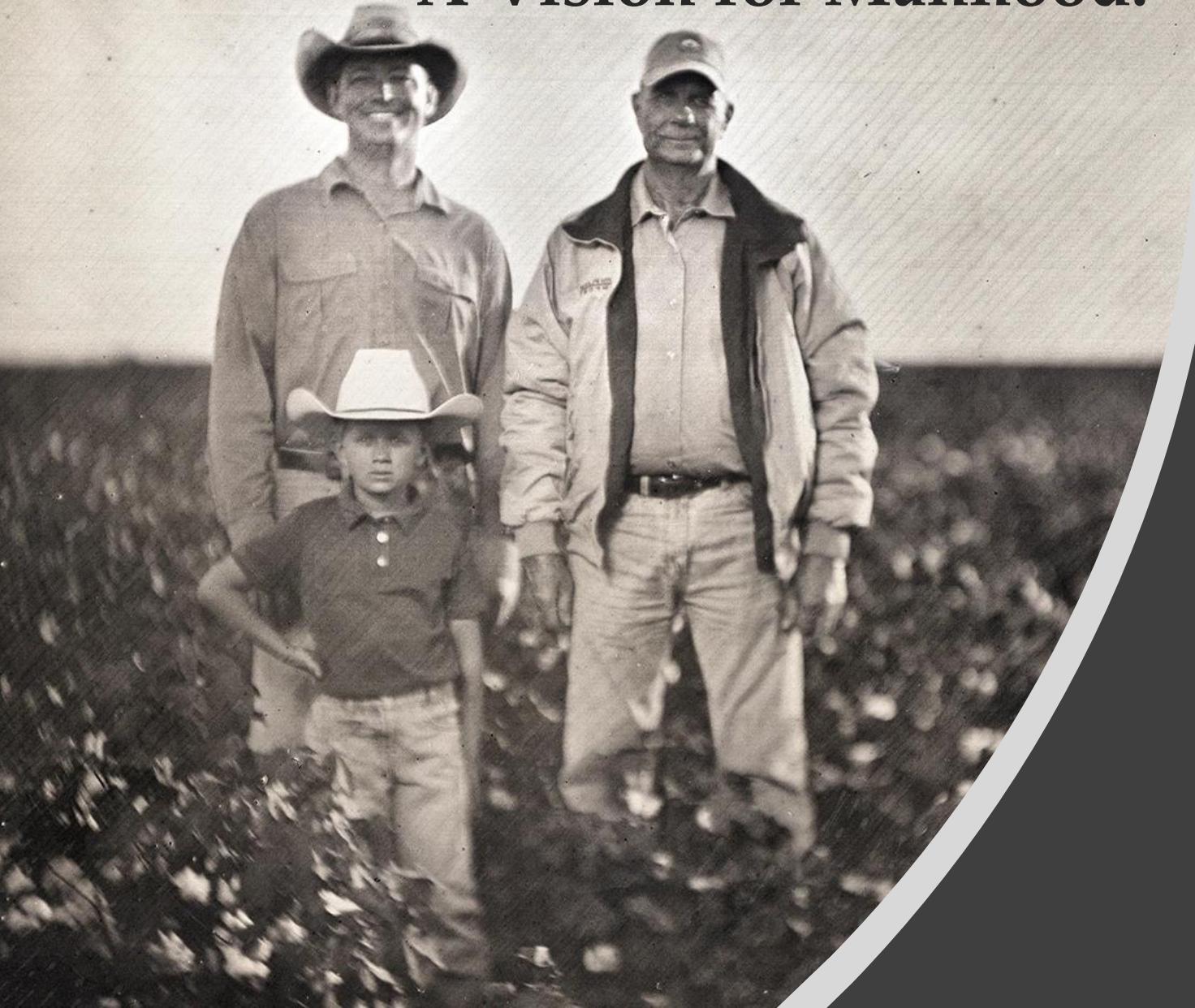


THE POWER OF A FATHER

# The Power of a Father: A Vision for Manhood.



## The Power of a Father!

As men, in a culture under attack, we need an understanding of mature masculinity—a vision and direction we can pursue with our sons! We need tools, methods, and ideas to help us become Godly men and from which to equip our sons and our daughters. We need to grow up!

Jacob – the patriarch of Israel – the father of a nation—is a troubling character in the Old Testament. He is a so much like us -- with very human strengths and weaknesses, but a man with a striving for spiritual things. From this imperfect man we learn important lessons of faith. Especially, we learn about God's grace. Time to engage—enjoy the Adventure!

# The Power of a Father – BECOMING GOD’S MAN – Genesis 25:19, 20.

1. **DANGER in IDEALIZING A PARENT** → As Rebekah grew older something happened to this beautiful, sensitive, unselfish, and submissive woman. Why did she become deceitful and manipulative? What did she encourage Jacob to lie to her husband, Isaac? Why did she take matters into her own hands?
2. Live in REALITY:
  1. **Embrace the “Sow & Reap” Principle** → A good home background that provides us with a sense of security, good role models, and an environment for spiritual and emotional growth does not guarantee that we will never depart from doing the will of God.
  2. **Hold to Your Values & Beliefs** → No matter how commendable our home environment and its positive impact on our lives, a new and different environment can cause us to change our values into the opposite of what we've seen modeled and taught.
  3. **Discernment is Required** → All Christians must be aware of and on guard against bad examples and false teaching.

# The Power of a Father – A Vision for Manhood – Proverbs 29:18.

1. **GIVE THE BEST** → Men are suffering because fathers have failed to give their sons what they need. Sons of even good, emotionally involved fathers drift in adulthood because we have forgotten to give them *the best things!* A father's presence is not all that's required to cure a son's drift. Something more is needed than a father's "interest" and "involvement."
2. A healthy, masculine identity—a Vision for Manhood involves 3 resources:
  1. **Community** → Communities of men provide ceremonies to mark a boy's passage from adolescence to manhood. With no community vision for manhood, boys are left to grapple with a nebulous identity.
  2. **Family** → Sons need a father that offers a deep sense of validation. He fills the son's heart with affirmation and vision, not destruction of his soul by distance and aloofness.
  3. **Church** → Fathers need a church that offer images and concepts of authentic manhood. Sadly, under the assault of modern culture and feminist ideology, bold images of manhood—of masculine responsibilities and manly roles—have been silenced or reinterpreted.

# The Power of a Father – A Vision for Manhood – Proverbs 29:18.

3. What is a man? The answer can be found in the contrast between Adam and Jesus—the second Adam. By comparing and contrasting these two Bible characters, we can arrive at a rock-solid definition.
  1. A Real Man Rejects Passivity → God gave Adam, the first man, a *will* to obey (“don’t eat the fruit”), a *work* to do (“cultivate the garden”), and a *woman* to love (Eve). But confronted with social and spiritual responsibilities, Adam becomes, of all things, *passive* (Gen. 3:6). Jesus is a man of action (Phil. 2:5-8).
  2. A Real Man Accepts Responsibility → Adam rejected God’s will, said NO to God’s work, and refused to love God’s woman. Jesus accepted His responsibilities, and He did so with JOY (John 4:34)! Quote by Stephen Clark.
  3. A Real Man Leads Courageously → Adam passively yielded to the feelings and emotions of the moment instead of aggressively leading with God’s truth. Men were created to lead (I Cor. 11:3). Leadership demands that men have the courage to master their passions and bridle themselves with the principle of truth. Jesus demonstrated leadership during His temptation in the wilderness (Matt. 4:9, 10). “Begone” is a commanding cry of manly leadership (Deut. 6:13).
  4. A Real Man Expects the Greater Reward → Adam interpreted his responsibilities as work only: another burden to carry, devoid of joy and satisfaction. Biblical manhood was never designed by God to be burdensome. Instead, real manhood was designed by God to be liberating and a means of great reward (Hebrews 12:1, 2). Jesus was motivated and carried to the cross by the anticipation of JOY! Great Reward! Moses was energized by the same (Hebrews 11:24-26).

## ACTION: Journal This!

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Every son deserves a dad who fills his life with love, affirmation, and blessing. Every son needs from his father vision, direction, and solid answers to questions such as:

1. What is a man?
2. What are a man's greatest responsibilities?
3. What does a man believe?
4. How does a man behave?
5. What should a man try to achieve?