

Building Boys

Part 2 - The First Boys

I. Cain's _____

II. Abel's _____

III. Seth's _____

IV. What We Can Learn

Titus Fellowships

Building Boys Part 2

So much to learn from the first boys and the first woman's role in their lives. We saw a lot of men "behaving badly" today, after sin entered the world – polygamy, misuse of power, bragging about sin, and on and on.

God is not surprised by this – but neither does He give up on His men and His plans. God restores, redeems.

Today, we hear the phrase "toxic masculinity" thrown around. Originally, it was used to deal with our culture's seemingly bad attitude toward manhood. It was to confront the terrible pressure put on men today. However, it has been spun to an attack on maleness in general.

Boys have suffered from this attack. Boys are naturally competitive, noisy, daring – all qualities that our culture undervalues today. Those qualities are not bad – and rather than criticizing them or being annoyed by them, our job is to encourage the positive direction these traits can and should go.

Sin turns anything good into bad. Manhood, left to its own way, can be terribly bad just as womanhood, left to its own way can be terribly bad. However, when God restores both manhood and womanhood, it is so beautiful and such a blessing in our world.

When we understand the biblical model of masculinity, we can clearly see that it leads men to really respect, love, and appreciate women.

In light of what we've learned today, discuss these questions:

- 1. Think about boys you know. Have you ever been annoyed by their boyishness? Annoyed because they were loud and rambunctious – did you mistake their boyishness for bad behavior?*

- 2. Think about the boys you know and their general countenances. What can you learn and how can you help influence for good? Have you, in any way, contributed to squelching a boy's God-given male traits and in the process, frustrated him?*

- 3. Think about the male traits of the perfect man, Jesus.*
 - Did He show His emotions? John 11:35; John 2:13-16*
 - Did He care for the needs of others? John 6:5-13*
 - Did He demonstrate compassion? Mark 1:40-41*
 - How about sensitivity? Luke 10:38-42*
 - Self-control? Matthew 4:1-11*
 - Forgiveness? Luke 7:44-50*
 - Courage/bravery? Mark 11:15-18; Luke 22:39-46; John 6:35-59; John 8*
 - Willing to confront? Matthew 23:13-36; John 8:1-11*
 - Humility? John 13:1-16*
 - Loudness? John 7:37*
 - Sportive, spirited? John 1:47-48*

Pray for boys you know. And pray for yourself – that you will be a woman who loves and appreciates their masculinity. May we be women who encourage them to be real biblical men.