

Being a believer in the modern world

Part 4

“Toxic Masculinity” and Feminist Men vs Biblical Masculinity



In our modern times, the very idea of what it is to be a man, and masculinity, is being attacked as much as true femininity. The idea of gender and sex has become an extremely controversial topic lately and it is important to understand, as believers, what the biblical definitions of our gender is rather than relying on popular opinion or beliefs.

Since we've already looked at what the Bible says about femininity and womanhood, it's time to tackle the topic of masculinity – what the world says about men compared to what the Word of YAHUAH says about men and who men should be.

“patriarchy

noun

plural patriarchies

1 : social organization marked by the supremacy of the father in the clan or family, the legal dependence of wives and children, and the reckoning of descent and inheritance in the male line

broadly : control by men of a disproportionately large share of power

2 : a society or institution organized according to the principles or practices of patriarchy

For 20 years the country was ruled as a patriarchy.”

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/patriarchy>

A popular belief these days is that the world is run by some invisible patriarchy, we hear the feminists complaining and screaming about the patriarchy all the time. Now, to be honest, I don't disagree with this overall, but the patriarchy they mean and the one I know of is very different. But we won't get into that right now.

The idea of the “patriarchy” supported by feminists is some group of men who intend to oppress “minorities” such as women, people of colour and the LGBTxyz people. These invisible oppressors use evils such as racism, homophobia, transphobia, religion and, gasp, fossil fuels to oppress people.

The so-called patriarchy is dominated by toxic masculinity, a trait that is pure evil to our 4th wave feminists and other social justice warriors today. Let's take a look at what that means:

“Toxic masculinity is a set of certain male behaviors associated with harm to society and men themselves. Stereotypical aspects of traditional masculinity, such as social dominance, misogyny, and homophobia, can be considered "toxic" due in part to their promotion of violence, including sexual assault and domestic violence. Socialization of boys often normalizes violence, such as in the saying "boys will be boys" about bullying and aggression.

Self-reliance and emotional repression are correlated with increased psychological problems in men such as depression, increased stress, and substance use disorders. Toxic masculine traits are characteristic of the unspoken code of behavior among men in prisons, where they exist in part as a response to the harsh conditions of prison life.

Other traditionally masculine traits such as devotion to work, pride in excelling at sports, and providing for one's family, are not considered to be "toxic". The concept was originally used by authors associated with the mythopoetic men's movement, such as Shepherd Bliss. These authors contrasted stereotypical notions of masculinity with a "real" or "deep" masculinity, which they said men had lost touch with in modern society. Critics of the term toxic masculinity argue that it incorrectly implies that gender-related issues are caused by inherent male traits.

The concept of toxic masculinity, or certain formulations of it, has been criticized by some conservatives as an undue condemnation of traditional masculinity, and by some feminists as an essentialist concept that ignores the role of choice and context in causing harmful behaviors and attitudes related to masculinity.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toxic_masculinity

The liberal world is obsessed with so-called “toxic masculinity”! Everything that they think is wrong in the world can supposedly be blamed on the “patriarchy” and the evils of men; particularly white men, but race is a topic for another day. The awful sexist and racist men are at fault these days for the oppression of women, homosexuals, transvestites and people of colour and those “living in larger bodies”. All I can say is, what a joke!

While I’m in no way denying that there are bad men in the world, there is also no way a single sex can be blamed for everything that is wrong in modern society. This is called “looking for a scapegoat”.

I have seen countless videos of feminists railing against men and masculinity, calling them toxic for wanting to protect women, provide for them, even for wanting to open the door for a woman. I’ve seen many angry women chanting “Kill all men”, and saying that men are unnecessary and oppressors.

In turn, many men have become feminists themselves, and even worse, they have become more and more effeminate in order to fit the image of man that liberal women are more comfortable with.

And the next illogical step was obviously for the effeminate and often homosexual men to, quite literally, try to actually become women!

Men who are traditional, strong, believe in God, providers and protectors; those who have good morals and values; who want to have their families at home – these are the “toxic” men that society hates today. Why? Because these are the men who will stand up and fight for the Truth and for what is right, rather than bend the knee to the latest fad (Covid, va((ines, Ukraine, climate change,

etc.). These men are dangerous to the establishment and what it stands for, and so these men are being changed, feminized and eradicated!

The attack on masculinity has been worsening for generations. We need to arm ourselves with what Scripture says about masculinity in order to defend ourselves against hasatan's lies and attacks in men.

Let's take a look at what the Word tells us about men, how men should live and act, and then draw some conclusions after looking at both sides of the big picture.

And Elohim said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the livestock, and over all the earth and over all the creeping creatures that creep on the ground." And Elohim created the man in His image, in the image of Elohim He created him – male and female He created them. And Elohim blessed them, and Elohim said to them, "Be fruitful and increase, and fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over all creeping creatures on the earth." Genesis 1:26-28

Mankind, as well as womankind, was made in the image of the Most High! Trying to attack the sexes on any intrinsic bases is an attack on YAHUAH! Every human being deserves godly love based on this alone – we are all His children. Men and women are equally deserving of love, and equally created in the image of Elohim, but we are not equal. We are meant to complement each other's strengths and weaknesses, and each other's abilities.

And Elohim saw all that He had made, and see, it was very good. And there came to be evening and there came to be morning, the sixth day. Genesis 1:31

Elohim saw that the two sexes man and woman, were "very good", along with the rest of His creation.

And YAHUAH Elohim said, "It is not good for the man to be alone, I am going to make a helper for him, as his counterpart." Genesis 2:18

YAHUAH didn't want man to be alone, He wasn't after all. He saw fit to create the perfect matching partner for the first man. A complementary helper, who would come from Adam's side, to stand beside him and help and respect him, while Adam loved her in return:

And the rib which YAHUAH Elohim had taken from the man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one is called 'woman,' because she was taken out of man." For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:22-24

The god-given role for man and woman – to grow and leave their families and join together. The marriage as designed by YAHUAH, only to be corrupted by man.

To the woman He said, “I greatly increase your sorrow and your conception – bring forth children in pain. And your desire is for your husband, and he does rule over you.” And to the man He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘Do not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground because of you, in toil you are to eat of it all the days of your life, and the ground shall bring forth thorns and thistles for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you are to eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are, and to dust you return. Genesis 3:16-19

When sin entered the earth, the serpent and both men and women were cursed. Making a living would become difficult for men, they would need to work hard and battle against the odds just to survive and be providers.

And do not lie with a male as with a woman, it is an abomination. Leviticus 18:22

The Torah, or Law of the Most High, describes homosexuality as an abomination! It was one of the worst sins as it defies the natural order created by the Most High.

“abomination

noun

1 : something regarded with disgust or hatred : something abominable

‘considered war an abomination’

2 : extreme disgust and hatred : LOATHING

‘a crime regarded with abomination’ - From Merriam-Webster

And a man who lies with a male as he lies with a woman: both of them have done an abomination, they shall certainly be put to death, their blood is upon them. Leviticus 20:13

Homosexuality is a crime punishable by death according to YAHUAH’s Law. As much as the world portrays homosexuality and transgenderism as normal and healthy – even some churches support it – it is a transgression of the law an unnatural.

A woman does not wear that which pertains to a man, nor does a man put on a woman's garment, for whoever does this is an abomination to YAHUAH your Elohim. Deuteronomy 22:5

Even cross-dressing is an abomination to the Father! Men are not supposed to dress like women, much less undergo medical treatment and surgeries to try to be a woman!

Mighty is the wise in strength, and a man of knowledge strengthens power; for by wise guidance you wage your own battle, and delivery is by a great counsellor. Proverbs 24:5-6

Proverbs tells us that wisdom and knowledge increases the strength of men, and that rings so true today! Men who live biblical and righteous lives, wise in the ways of Yah, are always stronger in all ways than men who follow the ways of the world.

And the days of Dawid drew near to die, and he commanded Shelomoh his son, saying, "I am going the way of all the earth. And you shall be strong, and be a man. And guard the Charge of YAHUAH your Elohim: to walk in His ways, to guard His laws, His commands, His right-rulings, and His witnesses, as it is written in the Torah of Mosheh, so that you do wisely all that you do and wherever you turn; so that YAHUAH does establish His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons guard their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their being,' saying, 'there is not to cease a man of yours on the throne of Yisra'el.'" 1 Kings 2:1-4

King David gave his son some wise words before his, David's, death. Most of this advice can stand for every man today! Keeping the Torah and following Scripture is the way to live a good life, even in modern times!

To conclude the first part of this article, I'd like to say that nothing in the Word supports society's idea of the "preferred male"! The Old Testament is full of bad examples of men, and even examples of the bad things that good men have done. But the good examples point to men who are strong, who fight for what they believe in and what is right. They are masculine and not effeminate, they are courageous, they are providers and protectors. They are exactly what the world hates!

"But I say to you that whoever is wroth with his brother without a cause shall be liable to judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raka!' shall be liable to the Sanhedrin. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to fire of GēHinnom."
Matthew 5:22

Insulting others can cause us to be judged! Wow! How often do we, both men and women, insult others without a second thought?

“Be well-minded with your opponent, promptly, while you are on the way with him, lest your opponent deliver you to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Truly, I say to you, you shall by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. You heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone looking at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. And if your right eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you. For it is better for you that one of your members perish, than for your entire body to be thrown into GēHinnom. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away from you. For it is better for you that one of your members perish, than for your entire body to be thrown into GēHinnom.” Matthew 5:25-30

Yahusha gives some hard advice here. That we should be considerate with those we have problems with, that we should be careful of our thought lives, our thoughts are as serious as our actions. And that we should remove any part of us, whether spiritual, mental or physical, rather than die in our sins!

And He answering, said to them, “Did you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So that they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what Elohim has joined together, let man not separate. They said to Him, “Why then did Mosheh command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” He said to them, “Because of the hardness of your hearts, Mosheh allowed you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever puts away his wife, except on the ground of whoring, and marries another, commits adultery. And whoever marries her who has been put away commits adultery.” Matthew 19:4-9

Yahusha explains the concept of marriage that we’ve already looked at in Genesis. He also explains why Moses allowed divorce – for adultery. Today marriage isn’t seen as a sacred covenant these days, it is seen as a contract to be broken at a whim. Marriage is also being abused by the LGBTxyz community, allowed by many governments, and defiling the perfect design of marriage instituted by Elohim at the beginning of the world.

“A renewed command I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all know that you are My taught ones, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35

Yahusha’s instructions are for all of us to love one another! We can look to Scripture for further instructions on how we can love each other. To be a righteous person, we need to follow these instructions!

“No one has greater love than this: that one should lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

Yahusha showed His love for all of us in His sacrifice of His life for us! How can we “lay down our lives” for each other on a daily basis? This doesn’t necessarily have to be dying for those we love, but sacrificing our own wants and selfishness in order to be there for others. Biblical masculinity involves a lot of self-sacrifice! Men are providers and often have to sacrifice things they want, and their free time, in order to provide for their families!

And having removed him, He raised up for them Dawid as sovereign, to whom also He gave witness and said, ‘I have found Dawid the son of Yishai, a man after My own heart, who shall do all My desires.’ ” Acts 13:22

Being “a man after the Father’s heart” is something every man should aim to be! David, while not perfect, is a very good example to imitate in most cases. He went through many very human issues and praised YAHUAH through it all.

So then, my beloved brothers, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, for the wrath of man does not work the righteousness of Elohim. Therefore put away all filthiness and overflow of evil, and receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your lives. And become doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. Because if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror, for he looks at himself, and goes away, and immediately forgets what he was like. But he that looked into the perfect Torah, that of freedom, and continues in it, not becoming a hearer that forgets, but a doer of work, this one shall be blessed in his doing of the Torah. If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is worthless. Clean and undefiled religion before the Elohim and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. James 1:19-27

The book of James is full of wise instructions, and I feel that this passage in particular is important for the topic of biblical masculinity. In our time, with so many men that are effeminate or weak, women – even those who say men should be weaker and feminists – look to the more masculine men for leadership and dominance. Unfortunately though, with so few righteous men around these days, the *actually* toxic men end up in the spotlight. These men are often crude, and use women rather than showing them love. They are popular because they stand up for what they believe in and are sure of themselves, even though they generally believe in the wrong things – money, fame, etc. – and actually idolize themselves instead of just being confident. These men are not good examples of healthy masculinity, yet have a huge following because masculinity is necessary in the world.

We need men who listen, are slow to get angry, who are good and righteous, who keep the Torah of the Most High in spirit and in their actions, who are selfless and have self-control. This is the example the world needs!

Do not grumble against each other, brothers, lest you be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the door! My brothers, as an example of suffering and patience, take the prophets, who spoke in the Name of YAHUAH. See, we call those blessed who endure. You have heard of the endurance of Iyob (Job) and saw the purpose of YAHUAH, that He is very sympathetic and compassionate. But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by the heaven or by the earth or with any other oath. But let your Yes be Yes, and your No, No, lest you fall into judgment. Is any of you suffering evil? Let him pray. Is anyone in good spirits? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the assembly, and let them pray over him, having anointed him with oil in the Name of the Master. And the prayer of the belief shall save the sick, and the Master shall raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he shall be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, so that you are healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous one accomplishes much. James 5:9-16

Patience and being long-suffering is a trait of biblical masculinity. Complaints and grumbling, swearing oaths that are not kept, these are of the world. In this passage, James has some more excellent instructions for those seeking to live a righteous life!

Everyone doing sin also does lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. 1 John 3:4

This verse is so simple and yet so many find it difficult to understand! If you live contrary to the instructions in the Torah, you are living in sin. Keeping Torah is the way to live a righteous life. And as I pointed out earlier, it would be following the example of good men like David and the other biblical figures that had faith and kept the Law.

In the same way, husbands, live understandingly together, giving respect to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the favour of life, so that your prayers are not hindered. To sum up, let all of you be like-minded, sympathetic, loving as brothers, tenderhearted, humble-minded, not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, in order to inherit a blessing. For "He who wishes to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit, let him turn away from evil and do good, let him seek peace and pursue it. Because the eyes of YAHUAH are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers, but the face of YAHUAH is against those who do evil." And who is the one doing evil to you, if you become imitators of the good? But even if you suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not fear their threats, neither be troubled." But set apart YAHUAH Elohim in your hearts, and always

be ready to give an answer to everyone asking you a reason concerning the expectation that is in you, with meekness and fear, having a good conscience, so that when they speak against you as doers of evil, those who falsely accuse your good behaviour in Messiah, shall be ashamed. For to this you were called, because Messiah also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps, who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth,” who, being reviled, did not revile in return; suffering, did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His body on the timber, so that we, having died to sins, might live unto righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your beings. 1 Peter 2:7-25

This is a set of instructions for husbands and men in general. To be respectful and loving, honest and righteous. To be courageous and fearless, meek rather than proud, putting YAHUAH above all else.

For it is better, if it is the desire of Elohim, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:7-17

We should rather be persecuted by the world for doing good, for being righteous and staying away from evil, than to fall into the ways of the world, in other words sin, and receive the punishment for it. Messiah told us that we would be hated by the world if we follow Him, that He would suffer for being set-apart and so would we.

Shepherd the flock of Elohim which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but voluntarily, not out of greed for filthy gain, but eagerly, neither as being masters over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:2-3

Men are meant to be eager leaders of those under their care. They are the providers and protectors of the ones entrusted to them – their wives and children, and depending on their path in life, also the leaders of others. Peter tells us that men should not lead out of greed or being forced into it, but out of love for their charges.

You, then, beloved ones, being forewarned, watch, lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the delusion of the lawless, but grow in the favour and knowledge of our Master and Saviour Yahusha Messiah. To Him be the esteem both now and to a day that abides. Amēn. 2 Peter 3:17-18

We are all to be careful about how we live our daily lives. Small indiscrepancies each day can snowball into lawlessness quickly if we are not careful. Peter warns us that we should be steadfast in the Truth of the Word, so that the lawless world does not lead us astray.

Now, as controversial as Sha'ul (Paul) can be, he has written some wise words that follow the spirit of the Torah – instructions for men to live righteous lives in the service of the Most High. Let's have a look at what he thought about masculinity and the role of men in the world:

*Sha'ul, a servant of Yahusha Messiah, a called emissary, separated to the Good News of Elohim, which He promised before through His prophets in the Set-apart Scriptures, concerning His Son, who came of the seed of Dawid according to the flesh, who was designated Son of Elohim with power, according to the Set-apart Spirit, by the resurrection from the dead: Yahusha Messiah, the Master of us, through whom we have received favour and office of the emissary for belief-obedience among all the nations on behalf of His Name, among whom you also are the called ones of Yahusha Messiah. To all who are in Rome, beloved of Elohim, called, set-apart ones: Favour to you and peace from Elohim our Father and the Master Yahusha Messiah. First, I truly thank my Elohim through Yahusha Messiah for you all, that your belief is spoken of in all the world. For Elohim is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the Good News of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you, always asking in my prayers, if at all possible, I shall be blessed by the desire of Elohim, to come to you. For I long to see you, so as to impart some spiritual gift to you, for you to be established, and that is, to be encouraged together among you, each by the other's belief – both yours and mine. And I do not wish you to be unaware, brothers, that I often purposed to come to you, but was hindered until now, in order to have some fruit among you, as also among the other nations. I am a debtor both to Greeks and to foreigners, both to wise and to foolish. That is why I am so eager to bring the Good News also to you who are in Rome. For **I am not ashamed of the Good News of Messiah**, for it is the power of Elohim for deliverance to everyone who believes, to the Yehudi first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of Elohim is revealed from belief to belief, as it has been written, "**But the righteous shall live by belief.**" **For the wrath of Elohim is revealed from heaven against all wickedness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, because that which is known of Elohim is manifest among them, for Elohim has manifested it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible qualities have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, both His everlasting power and Mightiness, **for them to be without excuse, because, although they knew Elohim, they did not esteem Him as Elohim, nor gave thanks, but became vain in their reasonings, and their undiscerning heart was darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and changed the esteem of the incorruptible Elohim into the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds and of four-footed beasts and of reptiles. Therefore Elohim gave them up to uncleanness in the lust of their hearts, to disrespect their bodies among themselves, who changed the truth of Elohim into***

the falsehood, and worshipped and served what was created rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amēn. Because of this Elohim gave them over to degrading passions. For even their women exchanged natural relations for what is against nature, and likewise, the men also, having left natural relations with woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing indecency, and receiving back the reward which was due for their straying. And even as they did not think it worthwhile to possess the knowledge of Elohim, Elohim gave them over to a worthless mind, to do what is improper, having been filled with all unrighteousness, whoring, wickedness, greed, evil; filled with envy, murder, fighting, deceit, evil habits; whisperers, slanderers, haters of Elohim, insolent, proud, boasters, devisers of evils, disobedient to parents, without discernment, covenant breakers, unloving, unforgiving, ruthless; who, though they know the righteousness of Elohim, that those who practise such deserve death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practise them. Romans 1:1-32

This passage explains that many people have given themselves over to unrighteousness, sin and the ways of the world. They no longer worship the Most High but rather false gods and idols, even themselves! And so, because of free will, YAHUAH has given them over to their sins. Sha'ul writes about the sin of homosexuality of both sexes (yes, it's even in the New Testament!). He writes that the people did not want the knowledge of the Word anymore, but rather sought out the knowledge of the world – improper knowledge of all things ungodly and sinful. And not only does he write about those who actually practice these sins, but also against those who approve of these practices!

In other words, believers who condone these sins, or remain quiet about them, are just as guilty as those committing the sins! (See also Ezekiel chapter 3)

We are called to call out the sins we see around us, the seemingly small and the also most obvious that we see. Effeminate men, transvestites, homosexuality, the disgusting “pride” parades, amongst others. YAHUAH expects us to not remain silent in the face of sin!

I call upon you, therefore, brothers, through the compassion of Elohim, to present your bodies a living offering – set-apart, well-pleasing to Elohim – your reasonable worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you prove what is that good and well-pleasing and perfect desire of Elohim. Romans 12:1-2

We are supposed to “audit” our lives on a regular basis so that we keep our lives – our thoughts, will, emotions and bodies – set-apart to YAHUAH. We need to renew our minds constantly and dwell on what is good.

In brotherly love, tenderly loving towards one another, in appreciation, giving preference to each other; not idle in duty, ardent in spirit, serving the Master; rejoicing in the expectancy, enduring under pressure, continuing steadfastly in prayer; imparting to the needs of the set-apart ones, pursuing kindness towards strangers. Bless those who persecute you – bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not be proud in mind, but go along with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Repay no one evil for evil. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, on your part, be at peace with all men. Beloved, do not revenge yourselves, but give place to the wrath, for it has been written, “Vengeance is Mine, I shall repay,” says YAHUAH. Romans 12:10-19

Sha’ul explains that we are to love one another. We are not to be idle and lazy. We should endure the tribulations of this life, and serve one another. We should be kind and serve others graciously. We should only do good and not try to take revenge against anyone who wrongs us. We should approve of and respect those who walk in righteousness and, as far as possible, live in peace with others.

Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in wild parties and drunkenness, not in living together and indecencies, not in fighting and envy, but put on the Master Yahusha Messiah, and make no provision for the lusts of the flesh. Romans 13:13-14

This passage states that we should refrain from anything unbecoming and sinful, following the Spirit rather than our fleshly desires, as did the Messiah.

Should any of you, holding a matter against another, go to be judged before the unrighteous, and not before the set-apart ones? Do you not know that the set-apart ones shall judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge messengers? How much more, matters of this life? If then you truly have judgments of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are least esteemed by the assembly? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise one among you, not even one, who shall be able to judge between his brothers? But brother against brother goes to be judged and that before unbelievers! Already, then, there is a failure with you, that you have lawsuits among you. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? But you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and that to your brothers! Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the reign of Elohim? Do not be deceived. Neither those who whore, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor greedy of gain, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers shall inherit the reign of Elohim. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were set apart, but you were declared right in the Name of the Master Yahusha and by

the Spirit of our Elohim. All is permitted me, but not all do profit. All is permitted me, but I shall not be under authority of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods – but Elohim shall destroy both it and them. And the body is not for whoring but for the Master, and the Master for the body. And Elohim, who raised up the Master, shall also raise us up through His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Messiah? Shall I then take the members of Messiah and make them members of a whore? Let it not be! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a whore is one body? For He says, “The two shall become one flesh.” And he who is joined to the Master is one spirit. Flee whoring. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits whoring sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the Dwelling Place of the Set-apart Spirit who is in you, which you have from Elohim, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price, therefore esteem Elohim in your body and in your spirit, which are of Elohim. 1 Corinthians 6:1-20

Those of us who are believers, and set-apart to the Most High, are to judge each other and the unrighteous according to the Word of YAHUAH. We are not to let ourselves be judged by the unrighteous, the worldly people around us. It is very important to remember this fact in the times we live in! Those around us who are unbelievers, who are liberal and “woke”, will judge us because of our beliefs and because we follow the Most High, but it is not up to them to judge us and belittle us. We are only to be judged by fellow believers and the Messiah Himself!

Also, we believers should set our bodies and minds apart for Messiah, fleeing from lawlessness in body and soul.

And I wish you to know that the head of every man is the Messiah, and the head of woman is the man, and the head of Messiah is Elohim. 1 Corinthians 11:3

This is the proper hierarchy made by the Most High, Yahusha at the head, the husband next, who oversees his wife and children. The world hates this model! They call it oppressive and backward. Yet, if they are correct, then why is the world falling apart the way it is? No! The structure that YAHUAH laid out is perfect, but once the worldly ideas of removing women and children from their homes and out from under the protection of good men, and putting them into schools and workplaces – under the influence of others for a large part of their days – came to be largely accepted, that’s when more and more souls were lost.

When we change the natural order of the Father, things go wrong.

If I speak with the tongues of men and of messengers, but do not have love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophecy, and know all secrets and all knowledge, and if I have all belief, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am none at all. And if I give out all my

possessions to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but do not have love, I am not profited at all. Love is patient, is kind, love does not envy, love does not boast, is not puffed up, does not behave indecently, does not seek its own, is not provoked, reckons not the evil, does not rejoice over the unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth, it covers all, believes all, expects all, endures all. Love never fails. And whether there be prophecies, they shall be inactive; or tongues, they shall cease; or knowledge, it shall be inactive. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part shall be inactive. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I thought as a child, I reasoned as a child. But when I became a man, I did away with childish matters. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know, as I also have been known. And now belief, expectation, and love remain - these three. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

We all know this passage, but that does not subtract from the truth and value it puts forth. We should do all things in love, from loving YAHUAH to loving those around us. What this can mean is that we should discipline in love, we should reprimand in love – our families as well as those we see living in sin. We should never reprimand or discipline out of anger or wrath. Nothing we achieve, do or believe in this life is worth anything if not done first in love!

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking, but in evil be babes, and in your thinking be perfect. 1 Corinthians 14:20

We should always strive to be correct in our thinking – by seeking wisdom and knowledge from the Most High rather than from the world.

As we see every day and all around us, people these days do not strive for Truth or perfection in their thinking, but often grasp on to the “latest best thing” to fight for or believe in, without questioning how true the narrative they’re following is. This is not how we should live.

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Master, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Master. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Sha’ul’s advice here is that we should stand strong in the knowledge that we have in the Truth that YAHUAH has given us. No matter how we struggle or are persecuted in this life, it is not for nothing, but we do it all for Messiah and our heavenly Father.

We should not fall this way and that like the social justice warriors we see. Whether it’s some or other p(l)andemic, black lives matter, climate change, or the latest war, we should not be swayed away from what we know is the Truth.

Watch, stand fast in the belief, be men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Men are called to be strong, we watchful, hold on to the Truth in Messiah, and keep love foremost in everything they say and do!

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not fight according to the flesh. For the weapons we fight with are not fleshly but mighty in Elohim for overthrowing strongholds, overthrowing reasonings and every high matter that exalts itself against the knowledge of Elohim, taking captive every thought to make it obedient to the Messiah, and being ready to punish all disobedience, when your obedience is complete. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

We are told not to walk in the flesh, but those of this world, the liberals and social justice warriors most certainly do. Just about every argument they present is based on a fleshly, or worldly, reasoning. Their reasonings, often hidden under a thin veil of concern or care, are sinful and lawless at the core. To be a righteous man, or woman for that matter, we should always fight according to the spirit and according to the Truth of YAHUAH.

We see arguments, for example, for women's rights such as working outside of the home and even abortion, and underneath it all we just see lost souls looking for reasons and permission to live in sin.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustworthiness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no Torah. Galatians 5:22-23

Biblical masculinity fully encompasses the fruits of the Spirit! Men are called to live life bearing the fruits. All believers should be working on themselves to build the strength of each of the fruits in their lives! Some usually come more easily than others, but we should all try to increase each of these fruits in ourselves.

Bear one another's burdens, and so complete the Torah of Messiah. Galatians 6:2

To me, bearing each other's burdens means to use what resources we personally have available to help others that lack or need help. This is one way of loving others.

Become, then, imitators of Elohim as beloved children. And walk in love, as Messiah also has loved us, and gave Himself for us, a gift and an offering to Elohim for a sweet-smelling fragrance. But whoring and all uncleanness, or greed of gain, let it not even be named among you, as is proper among set-apart

ones – neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:1-4

We are to be set-apart like YAHUAH because He is our Father. We are to do everything in love, and put away everything that is not good and righteous. And we are to be thankful for all that we have!

This passage also points out that greed, coarse jokes and foolish talking is not befitting children of the Most High.

Subjecting yourselves to each other in the fear of Elohim. Ephesians 5:21

This verse tells us that we should be subject to one another, which means that we should allow ourselves to be taught and corrected by our brothers and sisters in the faith. “Iron sharpens iron.” We should not be proud and haughty, but humble and teachable.

Because the husband is head of the wife, as also the Messiah is head of the assembly, and He is Saviour of the body. But as the assembly is subject to Messiah, so also let the wives be to their own husbands in every respect. Husbands, love your wives, as Messiah also did love the assembly and gave Himself for it, in order to set it apart and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, in order to present it to Himself a splendid assembly, not having spot or wrinkle or any of this sort, but that it might be set-apart and blameless. In this way husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but feeds and cherishes it, as also the Master does the assembly. Because we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. “For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This secret is great, but I speak concerning Messiah and the assembly. However, you too, everyone, let each one love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she fears her husband. Ephesians 5:23-33

Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Colossians 3:19

The husband, as we read earlier, is the spiritual head of his wife and his household. Husbands are to love their wives with the love of Yahusha and to respect them and treat them well!

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children, but bring them up in the instruction and admonition of the Master. Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Colossians 3:21

This is a wise instruction for fathers (and mothers)! As children, we are taught to respect and honour our parents, but parents should be careful not to give

their children reason to disrespect them! We should bring up our children in the love of the Father, respect them as children of YAHUAH themselves and lead them in the ways of the Most High.

For the rest, my brothers, be strong in the Master and in the mightiness of His strength. Ephesians 6:10

I have strength to do all, through Messiah who empowers me. Philippians 4:13

Men are expected to be strong, and to rely on the strength of Messiah when they are weak.

If, then, there is any encouragement in Messiah, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, having the same love, one in being and of purpose, doing none at all through selfishness or self-conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each one should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:1-4

This is all about loving others, with selflessness and humility. To be a house that stands together for YAHUAH, undivided.

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Master and not to men, Colossians 3:23

This verse has gotten me through many discouraging times! Whenever I have felt unappreciated or unseen in what I do – especially in the mundane daily tasks I do at home – I remind myself of this verse. Everything we do in life, whether it's working, serving others, or even looking after ourselves so that we are able to help others, we should do it in love and gladly. We don't do these things only for others, but we do it for Yahusha and the kingdom as well!

And if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the belief and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8

Men are made to be providers, so they should provide for their families. These days, too many men are reliant on their partners to provide for them – I've seen many a tiktok video about men who are "house husbands", allowing their wives to be bread winners and staying home to be housekeepers. SMH.

Now I know there are circumstances in which men can't work, sometimes they lose their jobs due to no fault of their own. But in general, it is biblical for men to be the breadwinners, not women.

For the love of silver is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some, by longing for it, have strayed from the belief, and pierced themselves through with many pains.

But you, O man of Elohim, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, reverence, belief, love, endurance, meekness. 1 Timothy 6:10-11

As men of YAHUAH, the command to follow is Messiah's, saying we should not pursue a love of money, as we cannot serve both the Father and an idol. Money and wealth, in and of itself, is not an idol. But the love of wealth is evil, and following the idol of wealth, many people will fall into sin.

Rather, we should strive for righteous lives, being meek and humble, overcoming trials and enduring hardships, and doing all things in love.

For Elohim has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7

Men of faith have the Ruach to rely on in their lives, for courage and strength, for righteous love, and for the strength to control their flesh. Cowardice and weakness are fleshly traits that would be used by hasatan to control us. Rather than living in the flesh, that is weak and corruptible, we should live in the spirit that is strong.

Do your utmost to present yourself approved to Elohim, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of Truth. But keep away from profane, empty babblings, for they go on to more wickedness, and their word shall eat its way like gangrene. 2 Timothy 2:15-17

We are to do our best to live righteous, uncorrupted lives, free of profanities and distractions from the Truth and purpose of the Father; that He would approve of. The ultimate goal being to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," at the end of our lives.

Likewise urge the young men to be sensible. Show yourself to them an example of good works in all matters. In teaching show uncorruptness, seriousness, soundness of speech beyond reproach, in order that the opponent is put to shame, having no evil word to say about you. Titus 2:6-8

Older men should be mentors to their sons and other young men. Just as older women should be examples to younger women and teach them! They should be living examples of righteous living, being faithful to the Torah and faith in Messiah, in word and actions.

This sort of example is definitely needed in our times! There are so many young men, and women, who grow up without healthy fathers or father-figures in their lives. We grow up without good examples of righteous living in our elders. This single factor is one of the biggest reasons behind crime all over the world – children, especially boys, need their fathers to be examples of godly men in order to grow up that way themselves!

Let your way of life be without the love of silver, and be satisfied with what you have. For He Himself has said, "I shall never leave you nor forsake you," so that we boldly say, "YAHUAH is my helper, I shall not fear what man shall do to me."
Hebrews 13:5-6

One of the biggest tools for a content life for a believer is gratitude. We should all learn to dwell rather on what we have in life and the gifts that the Father has given us, than to dwell on what we don't have, which will breed a spirit of jealousy and greed, and lead to unhappiness. We must be thankful about what we have each day, and be happy and satisfied with what YAHUAH has given to us.

If we put YAHUAH first in our lives, He will always provide what we need, He will help us and strengthen us, He will protect us. The Father will make a way for His will in our lives, no matter the odds stacked against us. He will never leave or forsake us!

Now that we have looked at what Scripture tells us about masculinity and the roles of men in their families and in the world as a whole, we can come to a few conclusions.

Firstly, we do not see anywhere in the Word that men should "embrace their feminine sides" or support feminism. We find no examples of righteous men being effeminate or homosexual. We see no healthy men that stay home to be housekeepers while their wives work. No righteous men stand by and allow their women to go to war for them. "Pride" parades would have their participants stoned by righteous biblical men, and abortions would never be tolerated.

In Scripture, "toxic masculinity" would be the abuse of others, it would mean not walking in love, and walking in lawlessness. "Toxic masculinity" is definitely not a way to describe the biblical masculine man.

Biblical masculinity, to sum it up, comes down to a few basic principles – walking in obedience to the Torah, loving YAHUAH and others, serving others, being humble and teachable, having self-control, and being the provider, protector and leader in his home and family.

Men are expected to be definitively masculine and strong, drawing their strength from their Father in heaven. They are to have courage, and to turn their backs on sin and their fleshly desires.

In every way, the ideals of biblical masculinity are in opposition to the world's idea of what men should be.

It is up to each man to decide if he wants to live up to the world's standards, or to be the man that YAHUAH made him to be.