



CROSSWAY

FOX VALLEY

MEN'S MINISTRY

Multiplying humble followers of Christ who strive to grow up, show up, and stand up in our world.



CROSSWAY MEN

Humble followers of Christ who grow up, show up, and stand up in our world.

OUR VISION AND COMMITMENT

God has a clear design for men regardless of personality, gifting, hobbies, or cultural definition. The evil one has been attacking true created manhood from the very beginning and delights to get at it continually and fervently as he heads for his ultimate defeat. He is pleased to distort the image of God through confusion, redefinition, lies, and humanistic orientation. **By God's infinite grace, we will boldly hold the line on what GOD says a man is and what we have the privilege of doing with the life we've been given.**

As Paul started concluding his first letter to Corinth, he had some specific challenging and encouraging words for men that give a clear vision for what our lives are about. In 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 he writes, **"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."**¹⁴ **Let all that you do be done in love.** Obviously, he means for all true believers to embrace these words for life but it's also clear that he intends for men to be at the front edge leading the way. He has Apollos, Stephanas, Furtunatus, Achaicus, and other brothers in mind in this immediate context and then of course, the whole church as the letter ends. Watchfulness, firm faith, strength¹, and all of life expressed in agape love are undeniable marks of a true man. This is the gospel life not exclusively for men but exemplary IN them. So, what does God intend and where did it all start?

WORKERS AND KEEPERS OF THE GARDEN

Men are at their very best when they dependently and faithfully live out their intended purpose. Paul's charge in 1 Corinthians has a ring to it that brings us all the way back to God's very familiar first intentions for man in creation. **Genesis 2:15 says, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."** From the very beginning God's intentions for men were clear. Before he had clothes, before the animals were named, before Eve was with him, and before sin entered the world, God made him to be a "worker" and "keeper."

Just as God had worked to create all that is (Psalm 8:3 – the "work" of his fingers) so Adam was to reflect his image by tending to and serving the good of the garden. Just as God is the ultimate watchman over all he has made, so Adam was to reflect His image by protecting, guarding, and watching over all that was in his care. God's plan for men was for them to be cultivators and caregivers, protectors, and keepers in their spheres of life and influence (their "gardens").

But then, the first Adam failed. He didn't do the job he was given by design. When the serpent deceived Eve into disobeying God, Adam was there "with her" (Genesis 3:6) seemingly witnessing the

¹ "Strong" - used of the young man, Jesus in Luke 1:80 – "...he became strong in spirit..." See also Ro. 4:20, Eph. 3:16, 6:10, Col. 1:11, 2 Tim. 2:1, 1 Jn 2:14, etc. This is "maturity" and perhaps even "substance" – not "strength" in a physical sense.

whole thing, the whole time. He did nothing, joined in the disobedience himself, and then laid the blame on his wife and the God who gave her to him. From that point on, the world began to long for a man who would truly embrace God's created design.

Fast forward several millennia, in the "2nd Adam," Jesus, we CAN do the job. While the 1st Adam (man) abdicated, failed humanity, and left his bride unprotected in the garden, the 2nd Adam was in a different garden embracing his mission, surrendering his will to save humanity, and preparing to redeem his bride for all eternity. This is our Lord! This is the man we follow. This is the man we constantly long to be like. The world is still longing for men who will be who they were created to be. Because of the perfect "Adam," we can be those men! ***We will strive to be humble followers of Jesus who grow up, show up, and stand up in our world.***

We commit to this fight of faith together through fellowship, relationships, and accountability in smaller groups (mostly based out of Crossway's LifeGroups) as well as regular men's gatherings, studies, and growth through time in Scripture.



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