

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT A MAN IS BUT IT'S PROBABLY BAD

Our culture is confused by what it means to be a man and is befuddled by the concept of gender.

Facebook has ____ different gender options.

Camille Paglia: The cold biological truth is that sex changes are impossible. Every single cell of the human body remains coded with one's birth gender for life. It is certainly ironic how liberals who posture as defenders of science when it comes to global warming ... flee all reference to biology when it comes to gender.

As confounded as it may be about gender, our culture is pretty sure that manhood is _____: the traditional understanding of manhood is a straitjacket for men and dangerous to women.

The problem is not that the world has too many men.

The problem is we have too many men who are still sixteen years old inside, never having grown up emotionally or spiritually.

1 Corinthians 13.11: When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

What's the difference between a boy and a man?

It's how they use their _____.

A boy who uses his strength for purposes that are noble and life-giving can be a man at a relatively young age.

A man who uses his strength for purposes that are base and low will be a boy as long as he lives.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND BOYS

1. MEN ACCEPT _____ FOR THEIR LIVES.

Jules Feiffer: It is not size or age that separates children from adults. It is responsibility.

When do we say "boys will be boys"?

When they do something _____.

A. We make amends for our _____ behavior.

If we are responsible for our lives, we are responsible for the things we have done in the past.

And we try to make the wrongs we have committed right.

Making amends means acknowledging to ourselves and to another person what we did. In some cases, it may be as simple as an apology.

It may mean paying a _____.

It may mean living a different way.

Matthew 5.32-24: Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to him; then come and offer your gift.

B. We take responsibility for our _____.

When their lives aren't going anywhere, boys blame their past, their circumstances, or other people for where they are.

Men take responsibility for where they're going.

A man decides "this is what I want to do with my life" and "this is the kind of man I intend to be."

He makes a _____ to get there and he uses his God-given male strength to move forward.

Men are not given strength to be _____.

We were created to take responsibility for ourselves, to act, and to move forward.

C. We act to fulfill our _____.

Men throughout history have been defined by their ability to provide for and to protect those for whom they are responsible.

When the main threats to human existence were starvation and marauders,

"protector" meant guarding the perimeter and

"provider" meant hunting and bringing home food.

What was valued most was physical strength.

Today what is most required to protect and provide for our families is strength of _____.

2. MEN ARE SELF-_____.

Boys are self-centered; men are self-sacrificing.

There is a view of manhood that believes being able to get what you want makes you a man: your plans and your pleasure are what matter and the ability to fulfill them is what makes you a man.

YOLO: You Only Live Once.

For boys, YOLO means "get what you want, do what you want, smoke what you want, drink what you want, have sex with who you want."

Why? Because you only live once, and life is about you and your _____.

For men, YOLO means “I get once chance to be a man, a husband, a father, and to make a difference in the world. Living well is worth every sacrifice I need to make to live a life I can be proud of.”

Pat Tillman: Sometimes my need to love hurts ... Is there a cure? Of course. But I refuse. Refuse to stop loving, to stop caring. To avoid those tears, that pain... To err on the side of passion is human and right and the only way I'll live.

Why fight for a cause that matters, risk all you possess and be willing to sacrifice your life?

Because you _____ someone or something more than yourself.

3. MEN CONTROL THEIR _____.

Controlling our emotions does not mean refusing to express our emotions. Our feelings are a big part of being human and we do not become more manly by becoming less human.

But neither do we become manly by being unable to control our emotions.

Boys are _____ by their emotions.

Men use their emotions to live a good and passionate life.

Emotion fuels our commitments and expresses what's in the depths of our hearts. A man who cannot express his emotions is not healthy or whole.

Controlling our emotions doesn't mean not feeling anything.

It means feeling what is appropriate, even if it's fear or sadness, and using our feelings to live a healthy life.

Feel what's in your heart; express what's in your heart, even if it comes out in tears. That doesn't make you weak; it makes you human.

Being strong is not acting like something doesn't bother you.

Being strong is being _____ about how much you love someone who's suffering, and admitting how much you're hurting.

And then stepping up to do what's necessary to help and support those who are struggling.