

The Challenge of Masculinity

Growing up From Boys to Men

The Mystery of Male & Female

- Our sexuality penetrates to the deepest metaphysical ground of our personality. As a result, the physical differences between the man and the woman are a parable of the psychical and spiritual differences of a more ultimate nature.

Emil Brunner

Gender Development

- Fact: Universally, across cultures, women become pregnant are largely responsible for early child care.
- Fact: The interpersonal dynamics of gender identity formation are different for boys and girls.

Males

Mothers View as Opposite

Separate Mother from Self

Separate Early

Play Outdoors

Females

Mothers View as Same

Connect Mother + Self

Connect Longer

Play Indoors

Gender Development

Males

Play Competitive Games

Rules Govern Games

Indirect Relationships

Less Empathy

More: Me, I, Mine

Sees World thru Self

Justice, Fairness, Rights

Females

Play Cooperative Games

Relationship Focus

Direct Relationships

More Empathy

More: We, Us, Others

Sees World thru Others

Morality= Care / Others

Help! I Can't "Connect!"

- For boys and men, separation and individuation are *critically tied to gender identity* since separation from the mother is essential for the development of masculinity.
- For girls and women, issues of femininity or feminine identity *do not depend* on the achievement of separation from the mother or on the progress of individuation.

“I’m Afraid I Will be Gobbled Up!”

- **Since masculinity is defined through separation while femininity is defined through attachment, male gender identity is *threatened by intimacy* while female gender identity is *threatened by separation*.**
 - **Thus males tend to have difficulty with *relationships*, while females tend to have problems with *individuation*.**

In A Different Voice

- Carol Gilligan Study

The Redemptive Goal

Males

Separation



Connection

Females

Connection



Separation

Gender Identity

While for men, identity precedes intimacy in the optimal cycle of human separation and attachment, for women these tasks seem instead to be fused. Intimacy goes along with identity, as the female comes to know herself as she is known, through her relationships with others.

(Leaving Every Woman Vulnerable to “Co-Dependency”)

Carol Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*

Life After Sin Enters The World

To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth; In pain you shall bring forth children; yet your desire shall be for your husband, but he will rule over you.”

Gen 3:16

Life After Sin Enters The World

Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.

Gen 3:17

The Foundation for “Lust!”

- Non-Personal, Indirect Relationships
- Inability to Feel and Put Words to Emotions (Alexithymia)
- Increased Anxiety in Relationships with Women. Exotic becomes Erotic
- Competition and Success Driven
- Isolation – Physical and Emotional

Add To This:

- Personal Hurt, Disappointment, Failure
- Personal Rejection, Inadequacy
- Lack of Respect
- Early Exposure to Erotic Material

Non-Relational Sex

- Pornography – A Passive, Powerful, Disconnected, Masculine “Quick Hit.”
- Strip-Clubs and Internet Sites – An Altered Reality
- Sex: A Way to *Feel* Close without *Being* Close
- Women Become Sexual Objects for a Man’s Arousal
 - Both Physically and Emotionally
- The Exclusive Goal of Sexual Arousal becomes Orgasm
- Performance Anxiety

From Disconnection to Connection

- Encourage them to “Find the Value”
- Anchor all Personal Change to the Identified Value
- Understand “Resistance” and “Hesitancy”
- Present Options
- Be Aware of Every Man’s “Two-Choice Dilemma”
- Encourage Men to Connect with Self and With Other Men First! (Women Second)

From Disconnection to Connection

- Begin with Anger and then Move to Other Emotions
- Understand Anger and Frustration as “Blocked Goals
- Identify Performance Anxiety/Stress
- Teach Men to Listen for Understanding versus Listening to “Cross-Examine the Witness” or to “Solve a Problem.”
- Identify Sources of Anxiety in a Man’s Life