



Boys will be men. PART TWO

“Be a man”

- Although created to be God’s image-bearer in the creation (Gen. 1:26-27), man has frequently fallen short (Rom. 3:23). The problem does not rest in men themselves, as a class, but in Satan’s power to manipulate and shift definitions.
- Pushed and pulled between “predator”, “aggressor”, “handler”, “beta”, “alpha”, “quitter”, “deadbeat”, “laze-about”, “victim”, “groomer”, “town drunk”, “dictator”, “pawn”, “pusher”, “toxic”, “workaholic”, “drifter”, “drag queen”... it’s no wonder so many struggle (Adam, Cain, Jacob, Esau, Samson, Saul, Goliath, Ahab, Jehu, Judas, you, me...).



A society that has no idea what it means to be a man will inevitably flounder. Men will mutilate themselves. They don't know what to do with their aggression. They don't understand their own bodies or how to "possess themselves in honor" (1 Thessalonians 3:3-8).

So what is a better framework for
defining manliness?

A photograph of two people walking away from the camera through a field of tall, golden-brown grass. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, hazy light filling the sky and the background. The people are silhouetted against the bright light. In the distance, there are rolling hills and some sparse trees. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.



When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.

1 Kings 2:1-3

Things That Stand Out

- **KINGS ARE NO BETTER THAN OTHER MEN**
- **GET TO THE POINT, TIME IS SHORT**
- **WALK BEFORE GOD IN TRUTH**
- **BEING STRONG IS A HALLMARK OF MANHOOD**



contrast:

Philistine manliness

1 SAMUEL 4

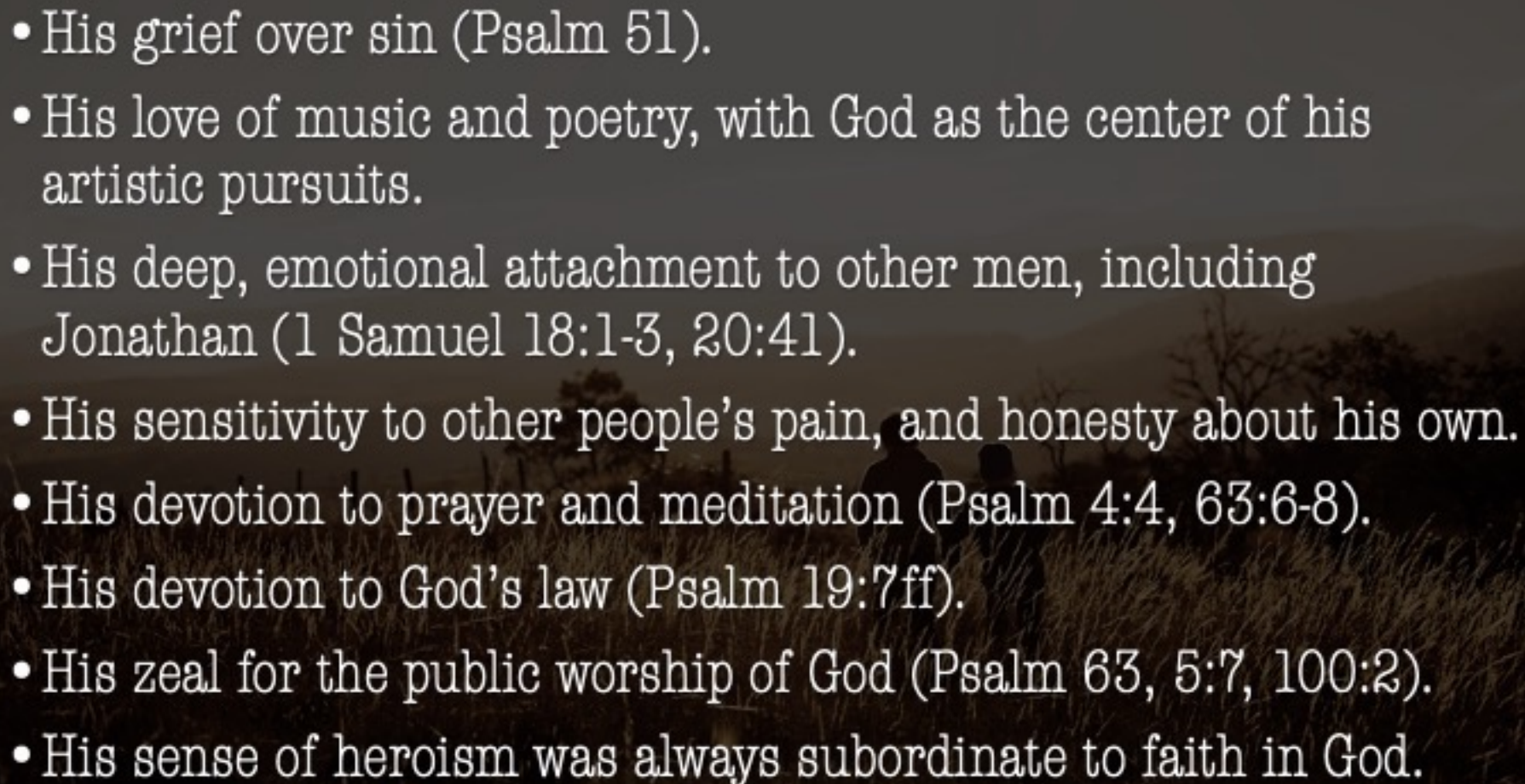
1 SAMUEL 17

Manliness Is Contagious

- Consider the way David drew other men to himself when he was a fugitive. At the cave of Adullam (1 Samuel 22), hundreds of malcontents and debtors found new purpose in David's service.
- He took the rough-hewn men around him and shaped them into legendary heroes (2 Samuel 23).
- True manliness draws out what is best in others. It is dependable and consistent. It is motivating.



**Manliness does
not fit society's
definition.**

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- His grief over sin (Psalm 51).
 - His love of music and poetry, with God as the center of his artistic pursuits.
 - His deep, emotional attachment to other men, including Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1-3, 20:41).
 - His sensitivity to other people's pain, and honesty about his own.
 - His devotion to prayer and meditation (Psalm 4:4, 63:6-8).
 - His devotion to God's law (Psalm 19:7ff).
 - His zeal for the public worship of God (Psalm 63, 5:7, 100:2).
 - His sense of heroism was always subordinate to faith in God.