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America's Prodigal Fathers

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

Absent men are prodigal fathers who make women and children less secure.

Seeing men as inherently oppressive by elites is one contributor to prodigal fathers.

God designed men to worship Him, love and lead their wives, train their children, and leave something of value to their descendants.

I am going to speak to the issues around social disorder and family failing through a parable—one about America's Prodigal Fathers.

The story of the Prodigal Son is one of the most well-known parables in the Bible.

You all know the details—a rich father had two sons. The younger asked his father for his share of the inheritance, left his father's house, wasted his money living recklessly, and became so destitute that he found himself hungry for pig food.

This son eventually humbled himself and returned home. He knew he had sinned and hoped that his father would at least treat him like one of his hired servants.

His father didn't do that. When he saw his son in the distance, he ran to embrace him. The father ordered his servants to bring fresh clothes and shoes and prepare a meal of celebration.

Why? Because his lost son had returned home.

This paper, in its entirety, can be found at www.MarylandFamily.org

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Much like the Parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus used the Parable of the Prodigal Son to teach an important lesson about the grace of God and the mercy He demonstrates to all who turn from their sin and trust in Him.

It is such a powerful story about repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation that the term “prodigal son” is commonly used whenever someone leaves an organization on bad terms and later returns after mending fences.

It warms the heart to see a child reconcile with his parents after straying from values and principles they instilled in him.

But what do we do when the prodigal in question is a *father*?

What happens to a culture when large numbers of men have exited the workforce and spend their days high on drugs and hooked on pornography?

What happens to a country when men reject fidelity, family, and the faith of their forefathers?

What happens to women and children when men push their God-given responsibility to provide for their offspring onto an ever-expanding government that is more than willing to take up residence—and exercise authority—in their home?

We know what happens because we see the results all around us.

At worst, a wasteful son will cause his parents heartache. Proverbs 10:1 says, “A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.” Many of us have seen this in our own lives. We all know men who have made their parents proud. These are good, hard-working, and honorable men. We also know men who have given their parents plenty of gray hairs.

Prodigal *fathers*, on the other hand, leave children and their mothers vulnerable, both to poverty and the predations of other men.

Put simply: absent men make women and children less safe and secure. This is why you see multiple references to God’s care and concern for widows and orphans throughout scripture.

Some people would point to the rise in cohabitation of unmarried couples who have children together and suggest that couples today are providing those loving, stable homes.

Unfortunately, studies show two-thirds of cohabiting parents split before their child turns 12, compared to 25% of married couples. One CDC study on father involvement found that 72% of dads who lived with their children ate with them every day, compared to only 8% of

fathers who lived apart from their young children.

Our prodigal father problem goes far beyond physical abandonment. As was the case in the garden, too many men have stood silent as serpents engage in dialogue with their wives about God's created order.

I have a tremendous amount of respect for the women who run groups like Moms for Liberty and the female athletes pushing back on men invading their spaces, but it should not be up to women and children to man the front lines of the culture war.

If Richard Levine (aka Admiral Rachel Levine) wants to believe he is a woman, that's his right. But when he—and the activists powering the trans lobby—want to make hysterectomies and double mastectomies for confused teens federal policy, there should be an army of fathers willing to stand up to his delusions.

If not, we will have a generation of Franken-kids with mangled bodies and scarred minds who will HATE the adults who allowed this madness to happen.

So..how did we get so many prodigal fathers?

One factor has been the decades-long demonization of men from politicians, academics, activists, and corporations who believe men have an innate desire to oppress women.

These people see fewer men in school and on the job, lower wages, less cultural influence and political power as net benefits for the sisterhood.

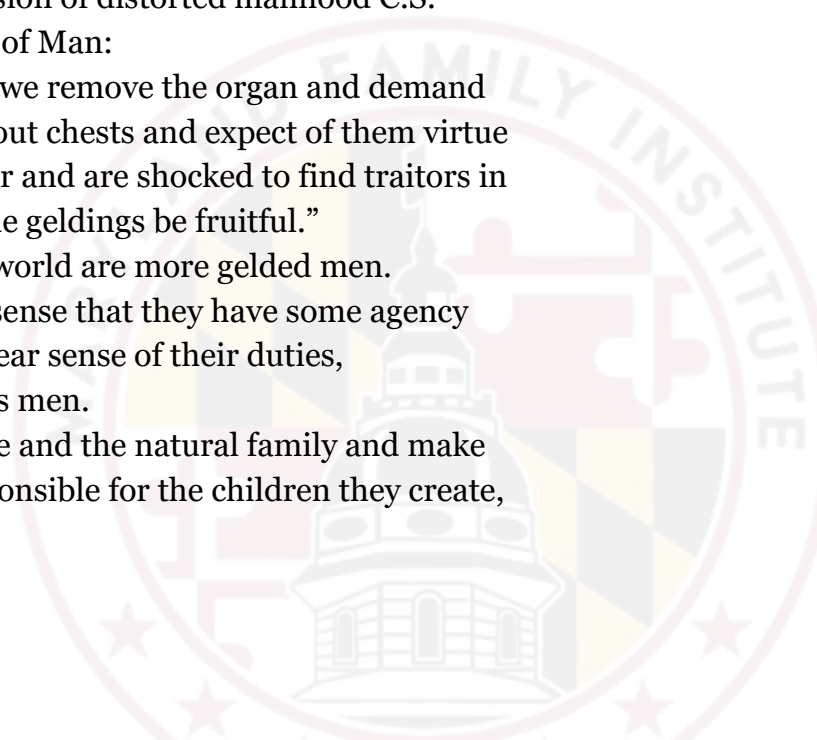
The net effect has been mass demoralization and emasculation of the American male. This is the vision of distorted manhood C.S. Lewis described in *The Abolition of Man*:

“In a sort of ghastly simplicity we remove the organ and demand the function. We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We castrate and bid the geldings be fruitful.”

The last thing we need in this world are more gelded men.

We need to give young men a sense that they have some agency over their future and provide a clear sense of their duties, responsibilities and obligations as men.

We need to reconnect marriage and the natural family and make it crystal clear that MEN are responsible for the children they create, not the federal government.



This needs to be our guiding principle moving forward—reiterated and reinforced at every turn in our politics and culture through the pen, the purse, and the pulpit.

All of these things need to be grounded in an acknowledgement that men and women were created by God—equal in dignity in worth but different in form and function. God's design for male and female is a blessing of divine providence. Our bodies literally fit together like a hand in glove to propagate the human species.

God designed men to worship Him, love and lead their wives, raise and train their children, and leave something of value to their descendants.

The Overton Window has been moved right in front of our children's bedrooms, and when the forces of evil try to climb up their ladder, fathers need to be there to kick it down. Men of past generations fought wars for the sake of civilizations. The least men can do today is fight for the future of their families.

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