

THE SILENCE OF ADAM

MEN OF GOD, WHERE ARE YOU ?



Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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THE SILENCE OF ADAM

MEN OF GOD, WHERE ARE YOU?

INTRODUCTION

After many years of counselling, my heart began to cry out: "Father, how should I pray for the solution to so much pain and suffering in the lives of so many of Your children?"

Father's answer:

"The men are not subject to me. They have become passive about taking up their responsibilities. Pray that the men will give themselves totally to me so that they can receive my heart to be able to care for the women according to My will. Bind the spirit of passivity over the men, so that they will be able to take up their responsibility and walk in it."

Front page and Television news: Abortion, pornography, violence, sex.

The reason: there is a huge wound in the male soul which is largely ignored in many churches?! The jails house these men, but cannot heal them.

Where did it all begin?

Gen. 2: 8-17

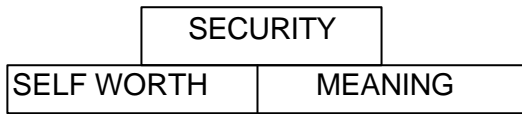
There is an **irreversible order** in the creation of mankind - Adam was created first and then Eve. God ordained that Adam should be the leader in the relationship that was formed. (*Gen. 2:20*)

He gave him the opportunity to spend time **alone** with God, before he assumed the role of serving his wife.

Another reason that Adam was created first, was that his identity should be well established out of a relationship with God rather than out of a relationship with his wife. He was completely secure in his unmarried state.



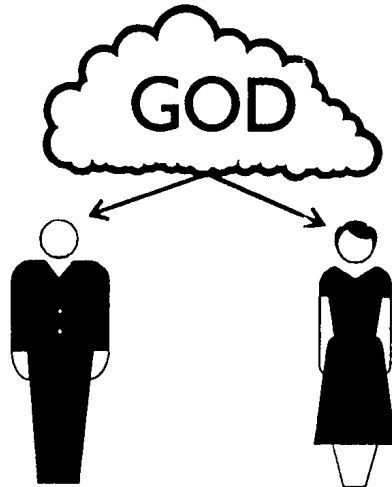
The richer and fuller a man's relationship with God, the richer and fuller his relationship will be with his wife / fellow man.



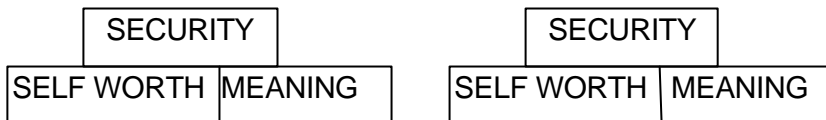
You don't know **who** you are until you know **Whose** you are!

Gen. 2: 18-23

It was not good for Adam to be alone - he needed someone like himself with whom to build a relationship - and then Eve was created.



NB. The image of God as a rational being was not complete until the woman was created.



After the Fall, their intimate relationship with God crumbled and there was an emptiness in their innermost being. The ministry (service) towards each other changed into manipulation - "*what can I get out of you*" and not "*what can I give you*". [Only Agape love is centred on others]

Cut off from God, they clung to each other to try to get what they had originally received from God - security, self worth, meaning.

What happened to Adam?

His role as loving leader was corrupted. He was appointed as the initiator / leader - but he failed the leadership test.

Gen 3:16 The silence of Adam

We will never comprehend the depth of the Fall until we understand the silence of Adam. Adam was created to lead and to take the initiative, but the moment that he was challenged he silently withdrew.

Adam's failure actually started when he abdicated from the role for which God created him. He should have spoken creatively into the situation as God allowed him to do when he named the animals - authority was given to him to rule. He failed Eve as her advocate.

Since Adam failed, all men have struggled to function according to the original plan of God.

The true nature of manhood is take the lead / to get into action / to move towards the woman. As a result of the Fall, men fail their wives regularly - they want to be in control - they want to operate according to rules. Now they base their manliness on gifts and talents and not on their character.

Before the Fall, Adam's authority was supplementary, but after the Fall it changed to being **competitive**. This is very obvious in the way that a man continually struggles with his **sense of sufficiency / competence** and the woman struggles continually with her **sense of security**.

Eve distrusts her husband's decisions - that they are not in her best interests and that she has to fight for her rights. She feels threatened by Adam's criticism and his failure in leadership.

Adam feels threatened by Eve's criticism and her attempts to control him and he imposes his authority by fault finding. And so the age old universal problem of mutual manipulation began.

GOAL FOR THE WEEKEND:

God's complete deliverance and healing for the men through Jesus Christ.

1. THE LION SPEAKS

Amos 3:8

"The lion roared, who will not fear? The LORD has spoken, who will not prophesy"

Dream: A cruel lion chasing a man.

Interpretation: Courage and strength.

True manliness is not something that men need to seek or strive for - it is a **gift** given by God the Father.

The world's image of a **man** is one in which he seeks identity in many ways, e.g. advertisements of alcohol, cigarettes, cars with a bikini clad model, etc. which hints on the insecurity of man. The world fears the man who experiences security in his manliness - cannot be manipulated.

True manliness is truly scary - are men afraid of the courage and strength that it will demand?

Courage has no meaning where there is no danger.

Power / strength have no meaning where there is no weakness.

The giving of courage and strength imply the responsibility of exercising them. Are men prepared for this? True manliness can only be approached in a relationship with God the Father to fulfil the purpose for which he was created. Manliness is thus not **sought**, but it is **revealed**.

God's ways threaten our self-centredness - so men fear true manliness and cling to their own plans and desires.

God challenges the men to a **conflict** between His will and man's own will.

Self defence - must be able to prove that **you** can do it.

Do you know the combined power when men of God stand together in **unity** - or do you feel threatened? The chief component of this power that God entrusts to men is simply the Word of Truth.

"The power to honour the truth - to speak it and be it - is at the heart of true masculinity."

Heb. 4:12-13

Integrity, strong character. The truth about ourselves will set us free - it spells out: that self may die! And so we flee from the lion!

Everything that is based on fleshly manliness must be done away with: your wife, your job, honouring people, etc.

Men, are you going to dare, when God calls you, to become **HIS** men? Are you going to allow Him to take your pride and your own plans and nail them to the Cross, so that you can at last receive His Spirit to build and establish His Kingdom on earth?

2. OUT OF THE WOMB

Gen. 3: 20

"And the man called his wife Eve, because she became the mother of all that lived"

The first nine months of your life - in your mother's womb - part of your mother's body - eating what she ate - feeling what she felt. Her life determined your life. In her was life - as long as she lived, you lived; if she should die, you would also die.

The first woman that a man loves, is his mother, and this love relationship is based on the most elementary physical dependence. This biological dependence has deeply rooted consequences for the male child in his subsequent relationships with other women.

The man has to learn that the woman is not his source of life - that is idolatry. God the Father is the only source of life. *John 3:3-6*

Question: When danger threatens the family, who reacts first?
(The greatest danger is not physical, but emotional)

It is usually the woman who looks for help first. Women call out to the Lord to deliver them from a fear controlled desire to control others. They long to rest in the Lord. To be the primary source of life force for others is exhausting and can destroy others and yourself.

Men fear when women take the initiative, because it reminds them of their short comings. Men have to be released from the mother/wife as the source of life and give themselves unconditionally to Jesus.

During childhood boys should be released from their mothers - the father's role should become more important. He should lead the boy in taking the initiative and becoming a productive member of society.

Schools do not fulfil this role as most of the teachers are women. Sunday School is the same. ("More slingshots and frogs in Sunday School - a lot more men in church later.")

The father's role is critical during puberty. If a boy is not released from his mother at this stage, he becomes bound to his mother in such a way that he is unable to give himself to his wife later on as God has ordained that he should.

The powerful mystery of male sexuality is reflected in the physical act of sexual intercourse. Do you allow your wife to totally possess and control you as far as sex is concerned?

What is masculinity? (Manliness)

Masculinity has a strong penetrating quality which runs parallel with the sexual design. The energy of the male soul or spirit has a specific form which is designed to be powerful and to penetrate the female world with liberty (not aggression).

Femininity (still following the sexual design) is recognisable as a warm, welcoming reception, with a need to nourish, to comfort and to enjoy. The female soul is aroused in an atmosphere of relationship.

3. COME FORTH, SON OF OUR PEOPLE

Example of an African tribe.

What does our Western culture demand as genuine masculinity?

A driver's license at eighteen, the right to leave school at sixteen, an opportunity to join the army, permission to buy cigarettes and beer, admission to a pub and movies with age restrictions, pornographic books and films, etc.

The message is clear: to be a **man** means being able to control a powerful machine, to kill others, to masturbate, to destroy your lungs and to get drunk and to have as much sex as possible.

How lost the male gender is - so far from what God intended !!

It is a fact that the earthly father is the key to the boy's crossing the male threshold. What can those do who have not had an earthly father, or whose fathers have not lead them.

The Christian man has to realise that masculinity is not rooted in their father, but in God the Father, who created all men and Who will lead them to true manliness through Jesus Christ.

Men, recognise your own needs to be established as true men; admit your own longings from your boyhood. Be honest !

4. SEXUALITY AND SPIRITUALITY

We should recognise the spiritual dimension of sexuality. Where does such a powerful, irrepressible force of attraction for the opposite sex come from?

This force is greater than any individual and has its origin outside of our human will. (Canaanites saw sex as a religion and appointed temple prostitutes as a part of their worship.)

Gen. 2:24

Uniting of man and woman. God created man in His own image - man and woman. The attraction between the opposite sexes is at the root of man's whole being - an age old cry for becoming one / union.

It is therefore essential to leave one's father and mother to achieve this union. Sexuality is greater than we thought - it implies a meeting with the Living God. To experience the fullness of God's power means being stripped of the security of your own human power.

The fear of each other as men and women is the greatest hindrance to the communion with each other that we long for.

What are our fears? Fear of rejection, not good enough, etc.

The world's definition of an acceptable relationship demands that each partner should get as much as possible out of the relationship as they can.

The Christian's standard has Jesus as it's model - each partner gives what God wants them to give - honour to Jesus - then we are free to be submitted to each other without fear.

Prayer:

"Lord, I surrender myself. I am tired of wasting energy with the woman that I love by having to protect my pride; afraid of losing against her, tired of trying to play the "man".

I surrender myself, Lord, firstly to You - not to her; make me the man that you want me to be.

We can easily fall prey to our self centred fleshly lusts without this lesson regarding the spiritual nature of our sexual attractions.

How does a man cope with the overwhelming sexual attraction to a woman ?

5. ROUNDING UP THE STALLIONS

Jer. 5: 7-9

"How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me and sworn by those that are not gods. When I had fed them to the full, then they committed adultery and assembled themselves by troops in the prostitutes' houses.

They were like well-fed lusty stallions; everyone neighed after his neighbour's wife.

Shall I not punish them for these things?" says the LORD. "And shall I not avenge myself on such a nation as this?"

Men, do you know in your hearts that it is not your wife that you need to dominate, but actually the male force within yourself. When this force is unbridled it can lead to self-destruction as well as the destruction of others, as in wars and divorce.

Men, do you know that it is impossible to subdue or control this force within yourselves by your own human power.

As you surrender this force to Jesus, you will be freed from the fear of this force and you will be able to focus on His creative and restorative goals.

The man who insists on dominating and controlling his wife, is one who refuses to allow Jesus to dominate him.

The "*Playboy*" philosophy focuses on the seduction of men. Manliness is ascribed to the reader by the woman who arouses him sexually by her provocative postures. In reality, the man has surrendered his male initiative to the woman and her desires.

He has surrendered his male spirit to the goddess, and so he has lost it.

To surrender yourself to God the Father, the One who bestows manliness, results in you keeping your male spirit - now you are in control.

Men have to be weaned from the idea that it is the woman who gives man his manliness. The woman's admiration and desire should be the result of the man's true manliness, not the source of it.

When a woman discovers that she can manipulate a man through sexual attraction, will lose her respect for him and will eventually destroy his manliness - like the black widow spider. (Russian spy)

Without an earthly father to call the boy to true manliness, he grows up - searching for a true male identity in women - their voices call him to manliness through sexual conquests. But this is deception, which has to be confessed. Manliness does not come from conquering a woman, it comes from conquering a man - not another man as in a war - but by conquering himself.

We must learn that sexual unity is something that God Himself has **ordained**, not something that human desire prescribes. The man who surrenders himself to God the Father can trust God to keep him from falling. This step of faith helps him to keep control of his sexual desires and makes him less vulnerable to temptation. Every man's surrender to God is important, but men of God can mutually support and carry one another, e.g. David, Bathsheba, Uriah.

We learn from the Word that sexual faithfulness is firstly towards God and not to the woman. If the man is chiefly faithful to the woman, he will easily find sufficient reason for unfaithfulness when there is tension and anger between them.

On the other hand, if his first faithfulness is towards God, he will not be tempted to sin as a result of his wife's behaviour, no matter how painful it is.

E.g.: Joseph
Story of the stallion.

Men, discover the Power that God has given you by taking up the Sword of Truth against the unbridled stallion in your innermost being. Subject your male sexuality to Jesus, who offers you His yoke. (*Matt. 11:29*) That which is necessary to bridle the stallion to your advantage and the advantage of our nation. (*Jude 24*)

6. LOST BETWEEN THE MEN

We have learnt that the role of the father is of cardinal importance. It is also necessary for the establishment of the boy's male sexual identity.

If a father is physically cold and withdrawn or even totally absent, then the boy's longing is unfulfilled. This can lead to an anxiety in relationships with other men.

In some instances he will suppress the unbearable pain in his subconscious mind - the fact that he has not experienced physical contact and love from his father - and this can later surface in a perverted form: a sexual need for other men.

In some cases the boy has been abused by his father. Whatever the case, the boy that fears his father will also fear manliness and will withdraw from it. The boy that hates his father will also not be able to embrace and celebrate his own manliness.

Remember, God holds us responsible for our willingness to meet Jesus in death at the Cross and there to be born again.

It is thus not a sin to be born to a possessive mother and a withdrawn father or to experience homosexual fantasies.

It is a sin to refuse to give yourself to Jesus so that God can start to form you after His own image as a man.

7. WARRIOR REDEEMED

Manliness requires the warrior. Can he exist without killing and destroying? Can the sword heal? To destroy the image of the warrior is in itself unmanning.

Men need enthusiasm, challenges and risks. They need to be driven to their limits. This happens when they accept the challenge of the warrior, to try to live every moment as a crusader; at work, in marriage, child rearing or leisure.

The truth is that is not necessary to enter a fight to go to war. Life is shot at us like a bullet - you cannot escape it. Every effort to escape - drugs, meaningless travels, media entertainment, empty materialism - each will fail in the long term.

Manliness is not violence. The most easily attained alternative for the warrior and soldiering for a man is competitive team sports, for the development of male qualities.

Characteristics of a soldier and a sportsman:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Bravery / daring | 2. Righteousness |
| 3. Camaraderie | 4. Discipline |
| 5. Determination | 6. Power |
| 7. Action / energy | 8. Glory, honour, approval |
| 9. Righteous anger | 10. Victory over enemy, opponent |

How can the church encourage these values and give the men opportunities to experience them ?

Did Jesus exemplify the characteristics of the ideal warrior?

1. Jesus' **courage** when He returned to Jerusalem.
2. His **righteousness** when satan tempted Him.
3. His **fellowship** with His disciples.
4. His **discipline** in prayer.
5. His **determination** when He was rejected.
6. His **power** when He drove out demons.
7. His **energy** when He raised Lazarus from the dead.
8. His **glory** when He was baptised.
- 9 His **wrath** against the traders in the temple.
10. His **victory** over the enemy at Golgotha.

AND JESUS NEVER KILLED ANYONE OR DESTROYED ANYTHING!!

In reality, Jesus is the true Warrior, through whom God gives us the power to overcome the enemy and to triumph over circumstances. Praise His Name !!

The Armour, the Fruit and the Gifts.

8. WHERE ARE ALL THE MEN? WHY DON'T THEY COME TO CHURCH?

The *macho* image of masculinity is an attempt to compensate for the insecurity that arises when fathers are emotionally separated from their sons.

In the past the church has tried to encourage the men towards female virtues - spending more time with the family, helping with household chores, etc.

But Christ centred ways of seeking and developing male virtues was neglected. It is not sufficient for Christian men to demonstrate weakness and tenderness. Male strength and firmness which comes from God the Father must also be demonstrated.

There must be a demonstration that weakness that is confessed and subjected to God through Jesus Christ ultimately produces what every man desires: **immovability** despite opposition, **determination** despite uncertainties, **saving power** despite danger.

The church that ignores these qualities, and even breaks them down will eventually lose its men and become totally feminine.

The mission of the church is not to effeminate men, but to redeem them - not to make them more like women but to make them true men. This naturally includes tenderness and comforting. A man can embrace these gentler qualities only once he has been firmly grounded in his manliness.

Toughness on its own is not wrong as such, if it is controlled toughness that is subject to Jesus Christ. Jesus showed toughness when he withstood the Pharisees and when he confronted the madman of Gadara, etc.

Toughness is often seen as a sin, and this drives men away from the church because this male characteristic is seen as a sin. *Is the Church for sissies?*

Many men see the church as a female rein on his toughness - no wonder they reject the church !

Matt. 11:29-30 Jesus' yoke.

True Christian manliness therefore is only demonstrated through the man who is yoked with God, who has given himself as a living sacrifice (*Rom. 12:1*) who does not live by his own power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Compare the AA's program with that of the Church - where does the Church fail in attracting men?

9. INDEPENDENT OR BROKEN

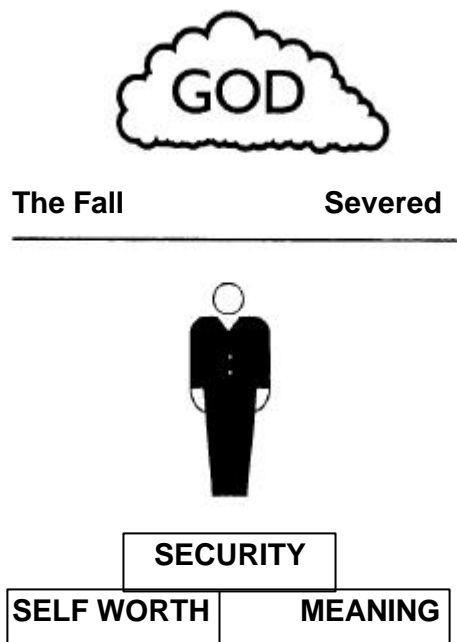
After the fall, men were cut off from God with devastating results. They began to believe that they were made in the image of the world - look at the media.

The macho, the cowboy, the lone ranger - all deeply rooted in isolation - they do not need anyone. "*I did it my way.*"

In our society it is the women who nurture relationships, write letters, phone, etc.

Faith in Christ is based on **relationships**. *Matt. 22:36-40* We learn from the Trinity that relationships are the **essence of reality** and are therefore the **essence of our existence**.

What is it in men that turns them away from spirituality (total dependence on God) and turns them towards human power and independence?



Men are more physical and rational beings. They withdraw from whatever threatens / overshadows their own power - therefore also from supernatural power. Men want to control whatever they fear.

Because they fear relationships, they want to control them - with God and with people. Men are therefore more comfortable with religion (rules and laws) than with spirituality.

The world teaches that for men to be adult, **separation** and **individualisation** are necessary. The church and men move in opposite directions and as a result conversion is much more complex and demanding for men than it is for women.

Can men dare to trust the Holy Spirit to lead them into relationship with God and with people - "*where God calls the shots?!*"

An ancient mother's little boy is called.

Jacob wrestled with the Lord, and received a new name. (*Gen. 32*)

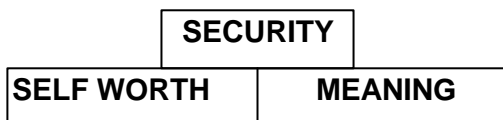
The Father, God of Love, confronts every man in the deep valley of his inner darkness, between his self-centred dishonesty and the truth. When the Father is finished with him, He leaves him maimed in his ego, but searching only for the Truth that can restore him to his full potential in Christ.

10. TO KNOW THE FATHER - RESTORATION !

Jesus came to show and to teach us what God's original plan was before the fall. **Only** through Him is it possible to restore the relationship.



The man has to seek his identity through a relationship with God.
(Milk - the cow or the supermarket ?)



The world says that true male fellowship comes out of a **beer bottle**; beer draws men together and overcomes rejection and loneliness. What a deception !

Our deepest need as human beings is for **love**. Where does love come from? How can I receive more love? How can I give more love?

Answer: 1 John 4:7

No man can fill this need. (Buy milk at the supermarket) People are not the **source** of love but only containers that can become empty.

As long as we believe that people are our source, two things can happen:

1. We give up and withdraw, build walls around ourselves and switch off- and much emotional chaos results.
2. We try to manipulate the person to give us the love that we need; we strive to perform, we threaten, plead, punish, etc.

When you have bought milk at the supermarket for a long time, you forget how to go back to the farm - we do not know how to approach God the Father.

To come closer to God the Father through Jesus Christ, we have to relinquish all hope and expectation of the love which comes from other people. It means offering up all "*idols*" - setting your loved ones free and surrendering your relationships with them to the Father for cleansing and renewal.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for laying down your life for me so that even now I can come to the Father through You.

Father, I confess that I have not known you as my Father. For so long I have felt unloved. I need love, Father, and I know now that only you can give it to me. Forgive me for the times that I have manipulated people, threatened and forced them to give me love - and also for the times that I completely gave up and withdrew, blaming them instead of turning to You.

Jesus, I give myself to You. You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Here I am, Father, your broken son. I need you, Father. Only You. Love me, Father!!