



WEEKLY
Summary

Week Eight Summary:

Last week we saw that, in the words of an old joke, “We have met the enemy, and he is us.” That is to say, our biggest problems come from within our own hearts; they are the result of depravity. It is no good blaming others. We must take responsibility for ourselves. In fact, we are about to spend several weeks examining how we *women* are impacted by depravity—our particularly feminine “battlefields.”

That being said, understanding how depravity affects the men around us is valuable, not so that we blame them or shame them but so that we can live considerately with them. Women have the ability, as we interact with men, to feed and exaggerate their sinful tendencies; however, we also have the ability to encourage the best in them. For that purpose, this week we examine the following “tendencies of masculine depravity”:

- **Men have a tendency to avoid domestic responsibility.** That is to say, they gravitate toward passivity in their relational interactions within the home.
- **Men tend to rule wrongly over women and children.** Rather than provide servant-leadership, they can lean toward using their superior physical and social strength to dominate those they are called to serve and protect.
- **Men tend to get lost in careers and lose sight of the transcendent cause given to them by God.**

Remember, these are tendencies, not rules. Different men will struggle in different areas to differing degrees. And, this is not an exhaustive list of all sin areas that plague all men. Still, keeping these in mind enables us to *help* rather than *hinder* the men in our lives in their struggles. Here are a few suggestions:

- **Respect their strengths and responsibilities and understand their struggles.** Just as women thrive in an atmosphere of love, men thrive in an atmosphere of respect. Recognition of the burden they carry, as well as how God has equipped them for the task, tends to give them courage to face the challenge. Understanding how they struggle can increase our respect for them when they persevere and can give us gracious attitudes toward them when they fall short.
 - **Place responsibility for leadership on their shoulders.** Letting men know that “we are counting on them” calls them to unforeseen heights of self-sacrifice and depth of character.
 - **Let them “figure it out.”** Like us, men are on a journey in understanding and carrying out the responsibilities God has given them. Like us also, they will stumble and trip in that journey. We can help them by resisting the urge to “fix them” and giving them the space and our cooperation to figure it out.
 - **Pray.** Our men are engaged in a spiritual battle against the World, the Enemy and against their own Depravity. We cannot underestimate the power of prayer on their behalf. Rather than give way to fear and attempt to take control, we do better to trust the One who is truly in control—God.
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