



# WEEKLY Summary

## **Week Twenty Summary:**

A few weeks ago, we developed this Biblical Definition of a Woman:

*A Real Woman...*

- *Rejects Worldly Temptations for Significance*
- *Embraces God's Design for Relationships*
- *Nurtures the Next Generation*
- *Expects a Greater Reward...God's Reward*

This definition carries a number of challenges for those of us who are mothers, especially mothers of sons. For one thing, we tend to measure our worth (or significance) based on “how our kids are doing.” We face tremendous pressure to *make sure* our kids do well. We have the idea that this is what it means to “Nurture the Next Generation.” Surely, if we love, nourish, and care for our kids well enough, we can make sure they will turn out well. On the other hand, we’re hearing about the dangers of using our nurturing capacity to control others. For example, if we take care of our boys “too well,” do we teach them to be dependent *on us*? And, “Embracing God’s Design for Relationships” means we want our sons to be courageous leaders, who reject passivity and accept responsibility. Does a mother’s desire and tendency to nurture interfere with her son becoming a Biblical Man? The answer is that it *can*. In our Biblical Manhood class, this issue is called being “overly bonded to Mother.” The danger is even greater in families where the father is absent either physically, or emotionally. Boys who are raised mainly under the supervision of women without positive male influences can develop two different negative patterns of behavior: They may become overly passive in regard to women—dominated by their own emotions and those of the women around them. Or they may become domineering and hostile toward women—resisting strong women in their lives by “pushing back” and becoming defensive or angry.

A number of factors contribute to moms fostering the “overly bonded to Mother” atmosphere.

- Some of us, finding our identity in “being the mom”, have great difficulty letting go of our sons and encouraging their independence from us.
- Some of us, needy and hurting from a bad marriage or lack of a husband, unintentionally recruit our sons as surrogate husbands (not sexually, but emotionally).
- Some of us, sensing our son’s need for masculine influence, try to fill the gap. We attempt to act as both Dad and Mom, but find in the process we can’t do either well.
- None of us would deliberately trip up our sons on their path toward manhood. When we do so, ignorance is a factor.

But ignorance is easily corrected! Once we are aware of the danger, there are a number of choices we can make aimed at raising our sons into the next generation of leaders:

- Be aware of your feminine blind spots and listen to masculine input.
  - Be a woman and expect your son to treat you like one.
  - Expect him to do the right thing, even if it is scary or hard.
  - Expect him to be responsible and let him shoulder his responsibilities.
  - Encourage “man time” between him and his dad or male mentor(s).
  - Commit now to treat his wife with respect in the future.
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