

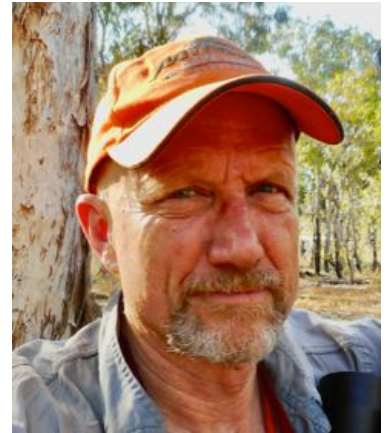
Al Stewart

1. The male brand is in decline

Kathleen Park, author of *Save The Males*, to ask: "What message are [children] absorbing today when nearly every TV father is either absent or absurd? Or when children are always smarter and wiser than the old man?the message is that men are not only bad, they're stupid and unreliable."

We're in a culture that is devaluing Manhood, either as unnecessary or toxic - there's great damage being done...

"And if you think tough men are dangerous, wait until you see what weak men are capable of." — Jordan B. Peterson, *12 Rules for Life*



2. What is the difference between Masculinity and being Male?

"There are only 2 types of Gametes: small ones called sperm that are produced by males, larger ones called Eggs produced by females. There are no intermediate types of gametes between Egg and sperms cells. Sex is therefore binary. It is not a spectrum." Quote Debra Soh [The End of Gender](#).

Sex is not assigned at birth, assigned at conception – in chromosomes.

Masculinity and femininity are not binary.... Alan Medinger – there are masculine character traits and feminine character traits, and people are on a continuum....

Outer-directed vs inner-directed
Initiation vs response
Leadership vs cohesion
Truth vs mercy

3. So what is healthy masculinity?

"You are in this world to nurture and protect life. That is what men are for". David Mowaljalai

The Bible understands men in relationship to others:
We are Sons, brothers, friends, husbands, fathers, and in different stages of life, young men, old men.

On each occasion it assumes a man has power and addresses how men should use that power in relation to someone else...

"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers." 1Peter 3:7

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord". Ephesians 6:4

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"Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled." Titus 2:6

What does it mean to act like a man?

"Be alert, stand firm in the faith, act like a man, be strong. Your every action must be done with love." 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Healthy Masculinity is a willingness to take responsibility and use the power you have to care for and nurture those around you.

"Men should hold it as a privilege to protect and provide with their strength. Our physical power enables us to care for those we love. But with that comes the responsibility to resist the corruptible influence of power."¹ Phil Barker, *The Revolution Of Man*. p.225.

Jesus the great example of this: care for the weak, marginalised, standing up for the truth, ultimately giving his life.

For our reflection

What am I doing to care for and make life better for the people around me?

What do you make of Jordan Peterson's claim?

"Life is hard, so get your act together, pick up the heaviest burden you can, and make life better for the people around you."

¹ Barker, P., 2019. *The Revolution Of Man*. Sydney: Allen and Unwin, p.225.