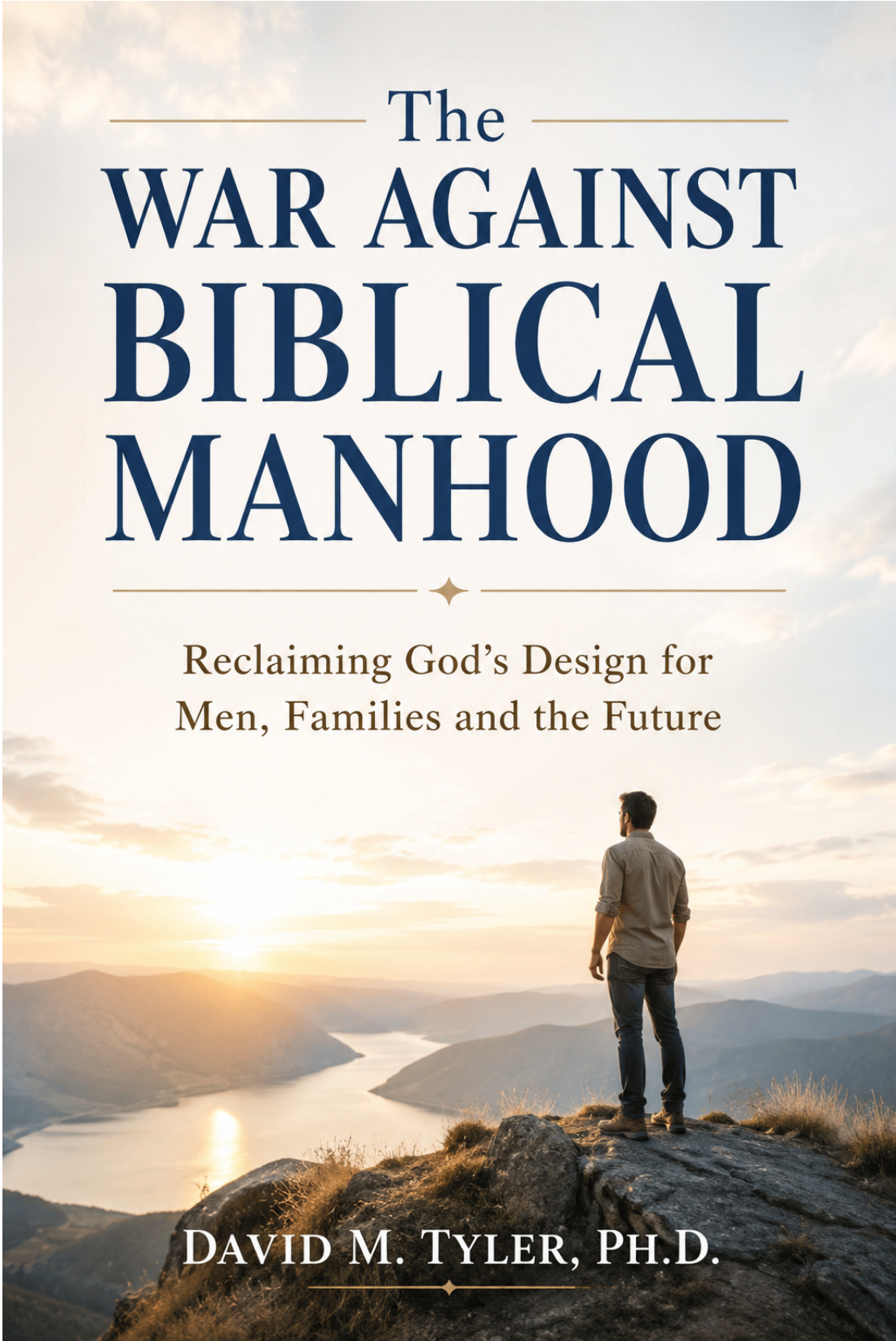


The background of the entire cover is a photograph of a man standing on a rocky cliff, looking out over a large lake at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The man is seen from behind, wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The overall mood is contemplative and majestic.

The WAR AGAINST BIBLICAL MANHOOD

Reclaiming God's Design for
Men, Families and the Future

DAVID M. TYLER, PH.D.

The War Against Biblical Manhood

Reclaiming God's Design for Men, Families and the Future

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Scripture quotations are taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB), unless otherwise noted.

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The War Against Biblical Manhood

David M. Tyler, Ph.D.

Introduction

Why Are So Many Men Missing?

Something is wrong with modern manhood. The evidence is difficult to ignore. Millions of children are growing up without fathers. Marriage rates have declined. Many husbands have withdrawn from

meaningful leadership within their homes. Large numbers of young men struggle to find purpose, direction, and responsibility. At the same time, society sends increasingly contradictory messages about what it means to be a man.

Men are told they should be strong, yet strength is often viewed with suspicion. They are encouraged to lead, yet leadership is frequently portrayed as dangerous. They are expected to accept responsibility, yet traditional masculinity is regularly described as oppressive, outdated, or toxic. The result is confusion.

Some men respond by abandoning responsibility altogether. Others embrace distorted forms of masculinity that confuse strength with dominance and leadership with control. Still others simply drift through life uncertain of what is expected of them. None of these responses reflects God's design.

Over the years I have observed that many men are not intentionally rejecting responsibility. More often, they have never been taught what biblical manhood looks like. They have heard countless warnings about what men should avoid becoming but very little instruction regarding what men should pursue. This confusion did not emerge overnight.

For generations, Western society generally understood that fathers played a unique role in family life. Husbands were expected to provide, protect, lead, and accept responsibility for those under their care. Men often failed in these responsibilities, but the responsibilities themselves were widely recognized and valued. Today those assumptions are increasingly challenged.

Much of modern culture treats masculinity itself as the problem. Traditional male leadership is often viewed as inherently harmful. Terms such as "toxic masculinity" have become common, frequently used in ways that blur the distinction between sinful behavior and masculinity itself.

To be clear, some forms of male behavior deserve strong condemnation. Abuse is sinful. Cruelty is sinful. Violence is sinful. Domination is sinful. Selfishness is sinful. But these are not masculine traits. They are sinful traits.

The Bible does not identify masculinity as the problem. Scripture identifies the fallen human heart as the problem. That distinction matters.

When society confuses masculinity with sin, the result is not healthier men. Instead, many men retreat from responsibilities God designed them to fulfill. Husbands become passive. Fathers become absent. Young men drift without purpose. Families suffer. Churches suffer. Communities suffer.

In counseling, it is common to encounter wives who are not frustrated because their husbands are domineering. More often, they are discouraged because their husbands have become disengaged. They long for initiative. They long for spiritual leadership. They long for husbands who are willing to accept responsibility rather than avoid it.

At the same time, many husbands have become hesitant to lead because they fear being viewed as controlling, authoritarian, or outdated. Both responses reveal the same problem. Society has largely lost sight of God's design. Scripture presents a radically different vision of manhood. Biblical leadership is not domination. It is sacrificial service. The model is not a tyrant demanding obedience. The model is Jesus Christ, who willingly laid down His life for others.

This reality creates one of the great ironies of modern culture. Christianity is often accused of promoting harmful views of men and women. Yet research repeatedly demonstrates that men who actively practice their Christian faith often become some of the most faithful husbands, involved fathers, and committed family leaders in society.

This book is not primarily an attempt to defend men. Nor is it an attack on feminism, modern culture, or political movements. Its purpose is to examine what has happened to manhood, how society arrived at its current confusion, and why God's design remains both wise and necessary.

We will explore the cultural forces that reshaped public perceptions of masculinity. We will examine the devastating consequences of fatherlessness and male passivity. We will consider what research reveals about Christian husbands and fathers. Most importantly, we will examine Scripture's description of biblical manhood and the hope found in Jesus Christ.

The answer to the crisis facing men is not found in politics, self-help strategies, psychological theories, or cultural trends. The answer is found where it has always been found. Men must return to the God who created them.

When men understand God's design, masculinity no longer appears toxic. Instead, it becomes what God intended from the beginning: loving leadership, humble service, courageous responsibility, faithful stewardship, and a means of bringing glory to God.

The future of families, churches, and communities depends in large measure upon whether men recover that vision. That is the purpose of this book.

Chapter 1

The Long Funeral of God

and the Collapse of Manhood

Modern society did not lose its understanding of manhood overnight. The confusion surrounding masculinity did not suddenly appear in the last few decades. Nor did it emerge because of a single political movement, social theory, or cultural trend. The crisis developed gradually.

To understand why so many men struggle with identity, responsibility, and purpose today, we must first examine a much deeper problem. Long before society lost confidence in manhood, it lost confidence in God. The collapse of manhood followed the collapse of belief. This is the central argument of this chapter.

When a culture rejects the God who created humanity, it inevitably loses its understanding of what human beings were created to be. Men no longer understand manhood. Women no longer understand womanhood. Marriage loses its purpose. Families lose their stability. Society begins searching for answers while rejecting the very source of truth.

The crisis facing men today is ultimately part of a much larger spiritual crisis.

A World Ordered by God's Design

The opening chapters of Genesis present a radically different vision of humanity than the one commonly found in modern culture. Human beings did not create themselves. They did not invent their own purpose. They did not define their own identities. They were created by God and for God.

Scripture teaches that men and women were intentionally designed to reflect God's image and fulfill His purposes in the world. This design included distinctions between men and women, not because one was superior to the other, but because God assigned unique responsibilities to each.

Adam was created first and entrusted with responsibilities that involved leadership, stewardship, work, and accountability. Eve was created as a suitable helper, equal in value and dignity, yet distinct in her role. Together they reflected God's wisdom and design.

The family was not a human invention. Marriage was not a social experiment. Fatherhood was not a cultural construct. These realities originated with God.

As long as people recognized God's authority, they possessed an objective foundation for understanding themselves and their responsibilities. The moment that foundation is removed, confusion inevitably follows.

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