

Subject: Men's Fellowship Conference Call – October 25, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Introduction: During our last conference call, we began laying the foundation for our 2025–2026 theme: **Excavation of Manhood and Identity**. The following is a refined outline of the key ideas shared, designed to guide us as we continue this transformative journey.

Theme: Excavation of Manhood and Identity (2025–2026)

1. Excavation and rediscovery

- The story of Nehemiah's rebuilding serves as a powerful metaphor: clearing away falsehoods to uncover God's original design for manhood.
- Our identity is restored through intentional spiritual excavation.

2. Personal reflection and honest acknowledgment

- Like Paul in *Philippians 3*, we must confront and confess how our past, shaped by influences apart from God, has impacted our identity.
- Honest self-reflection is the essential first step toward lasting transformation.

3. Transformation and new birth

- Jesus calls us to be born again (*John 3*), and Paul reminds us to put away childish ways.
- True manhood involves growth, renewal, and spiritual maturity.

4. Community and brotherhood

- Each man is uniquely gifted; we are called to walk in unity amid our diversity.
- Brotherhood grows when we honor and value one another's differences.

5. Influence and discernment

- Cultural models of manhood must be critically examined.
- We must hold on only to what aligns with God's truth, discarding what does not.

6. Christ as the pattern

- Jesus' life shows us that identity is shaped in defining—often painful—moments.
- His focus was never on appearance, but on character, conviction, and compassion.

Core Truths to reclaim

- We are defined by **how we live**, not how we look.
- We are called to reflect **Christ**, not culture.
- Our identity is a **divine calling**, not a social copy.

Next phase: practical application: As we move forward, our goal is to equip one another to excavate our God-given identity amidst the noise and expectations of the world. This is a call to **rediscover**, **rebuild**, and **reflect Christ** in our identity as men.

Action points:

- **Create safe spaces** for honest dialogue, where men can speak openly about past and present struggles, and false identities that have been embraced.
- Form **small groups or "dig teams"**—spaces for mutual trust, accountability, and vulnerability on this journey.
- Follow **Nehemiah's model**: assess the rubble—false beliefs, cultural expectations, and wounds and discern what is worth rebuilding.
- Let's be joined and prepared to engage deeply on these themes during our upcoming call. Together, let's pursue God's vision for manhood—one layer at a time.