

Gospel Lighthouse Church
Saturday, August 15, 2026
Excavation Manhood-Identity—Genesis 2:23

Session 7 Manhood: “The Ability to Recognize Dignity and Quality in Another”

Focused Scripture: “And Adam said: “*This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.*”—Genesis 2:23 NKJV.

Introduction: Throughout *Excavation Manhood–Identity*, each session has uncovered another dimension of authentic manhood according to God's design. The progression has been intentional and developmental:

Creativity → Productivity → Responsibility → Supervision → Intelligent Choices → Trusting God → Recognizing Dignity and Quality in Another.

Creativity gave man vision. Productivity taught him how to produce. Responsibility trained him to manage what was entrusted to him. Supervision aligned and sustained his growth under divine order. Intelligent choices revealed the necessity of wisdom, discernment, and obedience in shaping destiny. Trusting God taught that surrender positions a man to experience God's work beyond his own ability.

Now Genesis 2 reaches another defining moment. After Adam trusted God and rested while God worked, God brought the woman to him. Adam's first recorded words after seeing her were not words of possession, domination, or self-interest. Instead, they were words of recognition, honor, and affirmation: “*This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.*”

A mature man is distinguished not merely by what he builds or accomplishes but by his ability to recognize the value, dignity, identity, and God-given quality in another person. Adam discerned God's workmanship before he exercised his authority. His recognition preceded his naming. True manhood possesses the spiritual maturity to celebrate what God has placed in others rather than diminish, exploit, or overlook it.

Recognition is evidence of spiritual perception. A man who cannot recognize dignity will struggle to honor people, cultivate healthy relationships, or lead effectively. But a man whose identity is secure can celebrate God's image and gifts in others without insecurity or competition.

A. Identity Progression

Creativity → Productivity → Responsibility → Supervision → Intelligent Choices → Trusting God → Recognizing Dignity and Quality in Another

1. **Session 1: Creativity gives vision:** God created man with the capacity to imagine, build, and reflect divine purpose.
2. **Session 2: Productivity produces results:** Man was designed to cultivate, develop, and bring forth increase.
3. **Session 3: Responsibility manages:** True manhood accepts stewardship and faithfully manages what God entrusts.
4. **Session 4: Supervision aligns and sustains:** Spiritual alignment and accountability preserve growth and direction.
5. **Session 5: Intelligent choices determine direction and destiny.**
6. **Session 6: Trusting God releases control and invites divine activity:** Mature manhood rests confidently in God's wisdom, allowing Him to accomplish what human effort alone cannot.
7. **Session 7: Recognizing dignity and quality in another affirms God's workmanship:** Mature manhood discerns, honors, and values the image of God in others, building relationships through affirmation, respect, and godly recognition rather than insecurity or selfish ambition.

B. Identity Application: Like Adam receiving our created identity we:

- 1. Affirm the shared image of God in others:** *"Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh."*
 - a. Intentionally recognize the common dignity, humanity, and value every person possesses as one created by God.
 - b. Speak words that affirm people's worth before focusing on their performance or abilities.
- 2. Honor God's intentional uniqueness in each person:** *"She shall be called Woman."*
 - a. Recognize and celebrate the distinct gifts, calling, personality, and role God has given each individual.
 - b. Avoid comparison and instead encourage people according to their unique God-given identity.
- 3. Acknowledge God's work in the lives of others:** *"Because she was taken out of Man."*
 - a. Recognize that God is actively shaping every person's life and story.
 - b. Celebrate God's grace and craftsmanship in others rather than becoming envious or critical.
- 4. Use words to build rather than diminish.**
 - a. Adam's first recorded words to Eve were words of honor.
 - b. Make it a practice to speak life, encouragement, and blessing in marriages, families, churches, and workplaces.
- 5. Lead from security rather than insecurity.**
 - a. Adam's affirmation flowed from confidence in God's provision, not from fear of losing significance.
 - b. Secure people can celebrate the success, gifts, and calling of others because their own identity rests in God.

C. Identity Assignment: Review the five application statements in section B. Intentionally speak these truths over yourself and to others throughout the week. Give specific attention to:

- 1. Number 2:** Review and embrace the truth that God has intentionally created you with uniqueness and identity.
- 2. Number 4:** Speak words that build rather than tear down. Practice speaking life-giving words to yourself and intentionally encourage others through your speech.

Conclusion: Although life's experiences can influence us both positively and negatively, they do not define us. As we excavate and embrace our God-given identity, Christ redeems what has been distorted and progressively restores us to function according to our created design.

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