

## Man Up Core Values - Cultural Tenants

### Identity

**Son** – I know who I am because I know Who I belong to. I carry His name. I am loved no matter what I do. As a son of the Most High, all the assets, treasuries and authority of heaven rests on me. I have access to it all, because Jesus gave me the access. I am not a just a servant. Servants have no vested interest in the outcome or in the gain of the House. I am a son, so the house in part, belongs to me. Because I have responsibility for the kingdom of God as His son, I am a representative of it. An Ambassador. A Steward of it. I work His house, His kingdom, because He expects a gain, and His gain is my gain. His kingdom is my inheritance.

**Brother** – I live in brotherhood with others. A brother is born for adversity. It is my privilege to carry myself and others forward with me. I am my brother's keeper. I live engaged in life with others and realize the purpose of my gifts, victories and blessings is more than just for me, it is for the benefits of my brothers and sisters.

**Manhood** – True and authentic manhood is intended to be imparted to me as a man, by my father. It is a deep and foundational element of my identity. If my father doesn't pass it on to me, I will look for it in other ways. Conquest. Performance. Work. Women. Fame. Riches, are all ways that I will measure my worth when I don't know my manhood or my identity. I need my father to bless me. If he can't or doesn't, then I need other Godly men to do it for him and for me. It can't come any other way. Women can't give it to me. Accomplishment can't give it to me. Without a good father to give it to me, God the Father will, through Godly men here on earth who take the time to know me and then bless me.

### Mission and Destiny

Each of us have a calling, a purpose for which we are made. The One who created us, is the One who knows that purpose. Nobody else can define it for me, although Godly men and parents can help me find it. Anyone else who does try to define it, is an imposter. God has called me to a destiny, a destination that He has defined for me. But He doesn't always tell me how to get there. More often than not, how I get there is up to me to define, as I submit to His purpose and destiny. That's why "plans belong to man, but the steps are ordered by the Lord".

**Define who I am** - What I hold most dear. What is worth dying for in my life and what I am unwilling to compromise. Core Values are not aspirations, or statements of who I want to become. They are statements about who I am and what I stand for. They can change as I become more like Christ, but they are what I value and what I am unwilling to give away.

**Destiny** – is where I am supposed to land and end up in life. My life is ordered by God, it is not random, or driven by fate, or chance. It is specific. Intentional. Defined. My destiny is where I say "I have arrived". It is where the Father says "well done, son". I often pray that God and I make my paths straight, not because I want it to be easy, but because I want to see the end from the beginning and I can see further down a path when it is straight. I can see more of what my destiny looks like. My destiny has purpose and drives me forward. If my Core Values

are what's worth dying for, then my destiny is what's worth living for. It decides how well I have done.

**Mission** – If my Core Values define who I am, and my destiny defines where I am headed, then my Mission defines how I get there. It is the path that connects where I am, to where I am headed. It connects the now, to my future. God does not always hand me my mission, although He does call me to it. Rather, He sets my course in life, my destination, and I develop the plan to get there as I submit to Him. He calls me from my destiny forward, from where I am to where He is and asks me to develop a plan to get to Him there. “Use your gifts to close the gap, son.” “Build your character so you stay on course.” Just because it is hard, doesn't make it wrong. My mission is full of opportunities to bring His kingdom into the lives of others that my path intersects with. If I live out my mission well, I will take others with me to my destiny. Along the way, they will find healing and reconciliation. There they will find hope and rest.

### **Resist Passivity**

Today's culture is attempting to remove any sense of manhood from the male gender. We are taught that aggressiveness, accomplishment, conquest is not allowed. We are told to be passive, be quiet, stand alone. We will not accept this. God's intention is that authority is restored to His sons. We will not sit idle. We will not wait for things to come to us. I will believe God's promise and then take ownership. I will not shy away from spiritual conflict but will realize that the very reason conflict exists may be so I can restore the authority lost in a person's life and the enemy of our souls can lose. Freedom is God's intention. I will resist passivity and stand for His authority and freedom here on earth.

### **Live in a squad**

improve your game - we have committed ourselves to a life with other men. Not just in friendships, but intentional connections that can improve my life and the expectations of success. My squad is a group of 3 to 4 other men, who each have been willing to take on one thing in their lives, so I can gain in four areas in my life. Together we agree to elevate our game as it relates to Mission, Relationships, The Word, and Prayer and Worship.

### **Every man has a fight**

Your fight is my fight – We are all called to be heroes. To vanquish the enemy. To release hostages. Every man has a fight, to bring the Kingdom of God here on earth. These fights are not conflicts with people, but over people, to establish what God says about a situation in their lives and ours. We each need to be able to engage the enemy where we stand, regardless of the odds; but, we also need to know my brothers are with me. Engaged with me. Bringing their faith alongside mine, and when my faith isn't strong enough to stand for “what God says about the situation”. I am able to take their faith and successes until I see my own. I intentionally choose to give you my faith, my successes, my victories and my gifts, until you see your own victory. Your fight is my fight. My fight is yours.

## **Live multi-generational**

God doesn't intend for me to start from the beginning. He intends me to pick up where previous generations have left off. God's heart is for Godly parents to create a heritage and legacy that Godly children move forward: each in their own purposes and destiny. When I share my faith with those younger than me, I restore strength in my life. When those older than me share their faith with me, it gives me courage. This faith exchange, combined with Godly legacy, elevates every son to a place of joy and authority.