

# INTRO // THE NINE ATTRIBUTES



## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:**

- Introduce yourself and get to know each other.
- How does the world define manhood?
- How is manhood different from womanhood?
- How is manhood different from childhood?
- In your opinion, what would be a short list of defining attributes of manhood?

## **NOTES:**



## THE ATTRIBUTES OF A MAN

Rank how well you currently live each one of these out in your life:

### ONE | A MAN SUBMITS TO AUTHORITY

Submission is an attitude that results from a mindset. The man who excels at this understands that he cannot self-govern and needs to be governed. Therefore, he gives up his will to a greater authority that is objective to his own. While many men will run from authority, the only winners are the ones who give in to the authority of Jesus Christ. To effectively build this attitude we need a changed mindset. One that denies self, embraces missional suffering, and is subordinate in identity.



### TWO | WILLING TO MAKE HARD SACRIFICES

While it is natural to be a taker, God’s man is a giver. He understands that God is a generous giver who gave the ultimate sacrifice for all men. He believes that Christ’s sacrifice is the means of his salvation, but sacrifice is also the method of his sanctification. This attribute requires self-evaluation, radical priority, renewed positioning, an attitude that is willing, and a mindset that loses everything to win that of real value.



### THREE | RADICALLY OBEDIENT

A man invites obedience to God’s moral code because he understands that morality exists outside of himself. He can obey God even when he is uncomfortable and cannot see the whole picture, because he knows that his obedience is a living act of faith and trust in God. Obedience and disobedience will reveal a man’s true character.



### FOUR | STRATEGIZES SELF-DISCIPLINE

He will use self-discipline as a means of accomplishing God’s purposes in his life, understanding that the flesh prefers indifference over discipline. The goal is to keep the prize in sight while becoming more obedient to the Spirit and less obedient to our flesh. The end goal is always to fulfill the purposes of God. In the private place of a man’s life he exhibits this in prayer, study, reflection, confession, service, worship, and fasting as the chief disciplines.



### FIVE | RECEPTIVE TO TRUTH

Corruption in this world is evidence that we struggle to live in and know the truth. Truth for man is only found in God, and His words. God’s Word, the Bible, is our truest guide and one resource we should reach for in every decision, challenge, and temptation. A man should receive this truth before his own intuitions, emotions, and opinions. In addition, he is willing to admit when he is wrong when confronted by truth. He does this by being sensitive to the Spirit.



## SIX | LIVES PURPOSEFULLY

As a man is desperate to discover his purpose, he knows that God is the single provider of purpose and that Christ's call to "follow me" was the primary means of discovering purpose. Because of this he rightly prioritizes his identity in Christ before all other things including his possessions and his profession. He understands that his unique spiritual gifts are a means to discovering purpose, and that living these out in community reveals purpose and mission.



## SEVEN | DELIBERATELY PRODUCES GROWTH

He will never selfishly devour resources, but rather understands that resources flow from Christ through him. Therefore, he perceives himself to be a conduit of resources and does everything he can to remain connected to these resources through obedience, that is pure in motivation while holding to his identity in Christ. He will welcome the activities of pruning and connecting as central growth activities that benefit him and the kingdom.



## EIGHT | INTEGRITY OF MOTIVE

He is aware that his motives are easily swayed by internal and external, positive and negative forces, that attempt to satisfy his desires. Therefore, he must be cognizant of the battle by directing his desire toward God. Yet it is easy for a Christian man to pretend, and appear purely motivated, while living with a selfish motive. This is where the authentic man should give attention to his motive, and align it with God's desires, until the moment that he becomes so cognizant of God that his actions are only a response, to God's glory and nothing more.



## NINE | DEVOTED TO BROTHERHOOD

A man is devoted to brotherhood because he understands that supernatural things happen in community. While we want to live autonomous lives, a man understand that iron sharpens iron. This is the grinding and daily task of putting ourselves in touch with other men to avoid catastrophes in our life that will unravel our manhood. He understands that manhood is not a cowboy quest of self-reliance; it is one that fights self-reliance with the realization that we don't always know what is best for ourselves. We cannot go life alone as a man, but rather need men with whom we can be transparency and thus become authentic.



### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- What are your **concerns** on your "before" rankings?
- What are the **causes** of your "before" rankings?
- Are there any major learnings from these **concerns** and **causes**?
- Are there any goals you would like to set for yourself?