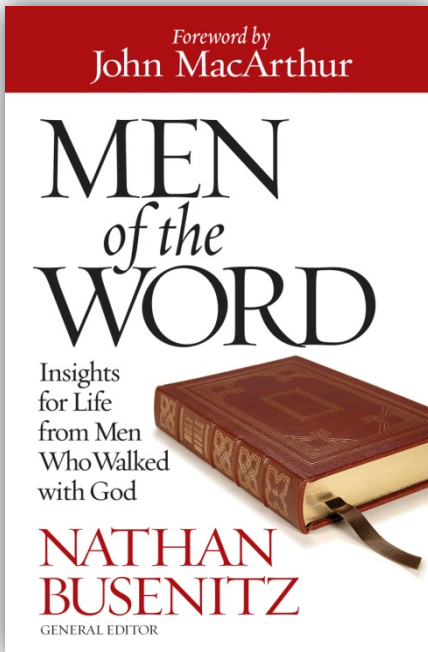


WHAT DOES IT TAKE *to be a 'REAL' MAN?*



It's a question many are asking these days as gender roles continue to be redefined and pop culture sends men mixed messages.

According to seminary professor Nathan Busenitz and his team of writers, men must take their cues from the Bible, not culture, to get at the heart of the masculinity. And as it turns out, being a "real man" has little to do with stereotypical traits like physical strength, independence, material wealth or romantic charm. Instead, the authors of *Men of the Word* identify 15 biblical traits, such as "real men..."

- Live by faith
- Pray with boldness
- Flee temptation
- Repent from sin
- Love their wives
- Work hard

Busenitz, who writes the book's first chapter and serves as its general editor, assembles a team of pastors from John MacArthur's Grace Community Church in Southern California to comb the scriptures for models men can follow, drawing heavily on the lives of biblical characters like Paul, Abraham and David to show the book's 15 masculine traits in action. But the book is not a pie-in-the-sky theological treatise; instead it features practical advice for men and men's ministry leaders.

Each chapter is written by a different pastor and draws on that pastor's expertise, but always brings men back to God's definition of masculinity, which includes biblical traits like fidelity, perseverance and consistency in prayer and worship.

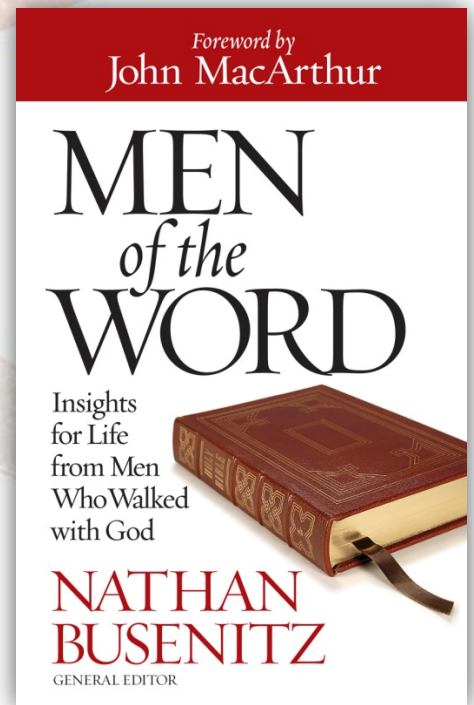
In the introduction, MacArthur writes that the book is a clarion call for Christian men to "embrace all that God intends for them. Unlike so many other books for men, which substitute human wisdom for biblical instruction, *Men of the Word* looks to the Scriptures to see what God says about being a man who honors Him." With so much confusion about masculinity, Christian men finally have a resource that provides real insight and brings them back to the Bible.

Nathan Busenitz serves on the pastoral staff alongside John MacArthur at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California. Busenitz is a professor of theology at The Master's Seminary (founded by MacArthur) and is the managing editor of *Pulpit* magazine. He holds MDiv and ThM degrees from The Master's Seminary and is the author and editor of several books, including associate editor of MacArthur's *Right Thinking in a World Gone Wrong*, and editor of MacArthur's latest book, *Slave*.



INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why is a book like this necessary? Are there stories from your ministry experience that convinced you to undertake this kind of project?
2. Statistics show that women are much more likely than men to attend church. How do you explain this, and does your book address this issue?
3. What sorts of societal pressures are making it more difficult than ever for men to be “Men of the Word”?
4. While your list clearly isn’t exhaustive, why didn’t you include “men help the poor” given that Jesus addresses this issue so often?
5. A couple of the chapters talk about temptation and repentance. What are some of the keys for fighting against temptation? And how should Christian men respond when they fail?
6. How did you choose the 15 characteristics that define “Real Men”?
7. *Men of the Word* begins by looking at Abraham’s faith. Why did you choose this as the first topic in a book about Christian manhood?
8. Who is this book’s intended audience? Men of all Christian denominations and levels of maturity, or a more specific group of people?
9. What, if nothing else, do you hope your readers remember and apply?
10. Each chapter presents a biblical character as a model for men to follow. Why is it so important for Christian men to have godly models to emulate?
11. The second chapter addresses society’s unending quest for satisfaction and meaning in life. What is particularly “un-Christian” about this?



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