

## WEEK 1 – MADE ON PURPOSE: The Identity of a Man

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### Anchor Scripture

#### Genesis 1:26–27 (ESV)

*“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness...’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

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### Opening / Connector (5 min)

Ask the group:

*“What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word ‘man’?”*

Let participants share short answers.

Then ask:

*“Who has defined you as a man — culture, family, peers...or God?”*

This session begins by challenging men to compare **cultural definitions of manhood** with the **divine definition revealed in Genesis**.

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### Teaching Focus

#### Theme:

Your identity as a man isn’t something *you* invented. It is something **you were made to reflect** — the image and character of God.

Men aren’t an *afterthought* of creation; they are a purposeful **image-bearer** of life, rule, strength, and responsibility.

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### Commentary for the Anchor Scripture

Genesis 1:26–27 reveals three eternal truths about men:

#### 1. Man is made in God’s Image

Men carry God’s imprint: intellect, creativity, morality, and leadership. Being in God’s image is not tied to performance but origin — God *made* you for His image. A man without identity in God ends up chasing shadows of manhood in culture.

#### 2. Image Includes Authority and Responsibility

God gave man creative authority — *to steward, to rule, to protect, to build* (Genesis

1:26). This is not dominance but **responsibility under God**. True authority obeys its Source first.

### 3. **Being God's Image-Bearer Shapes Purpose**

Men don't define themselves by society's standards; they *discover* themselves through God's Word and their purpose from God's design. When a man embraces who God says he is, he can live without the insecurity that drives so many men today.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- **Psalms 139:13–16** — God knows you personally, from inside the womb.
- **Jeremiah 1:4–5** — God called you before birth.
- **Ephesians 2:10** — You are God's workmanship, created for good works before time began.

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#### **Keys to Grow (10 min)**

**Key Truth #1:** Your identity is *fixed* in God, not fluctuating with culture.

**Key Truth #2:** Identity precedes destiny — you *must know who you are before you can do what God calls you to do*.\*

**Key Truth #3:** Identity gives you stability in adversity.

#### **Reflection Prompt:**

*Can you remember the moment you began to believe a lie about who you are as a man?*  
Take 2 minutes of quiet to reflect and write.

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#### **Spotlight of a Christian Man**

##### **Greg Laurie — Godly Masculinity in Modern Culture**

In 2025, Pastor Greg Laurie noted that Christian men are rejecting cultural stereotypes of masculinity and are returning to a biblical understanding of being **protectors, leaders, and servants for Christ**. He emphasizes strength under control and sacrificial love — modeled on Jesus Himself.

#### **Takeaway:**

Real manhood does not imitate the world — it imitates Christ.

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#### **News Highlight (Contemporary Article)**

## “New Report Reveals Challenges Facing Christian Fathers — and a Path Forward”

A 2025 assessment of biblical fatherhood uncovered that a majority of Christian fathers struggle with regular prayer, Scripture engagement, and discipleship in the home — pointing to a **gap between identity and lived practice** among men today.

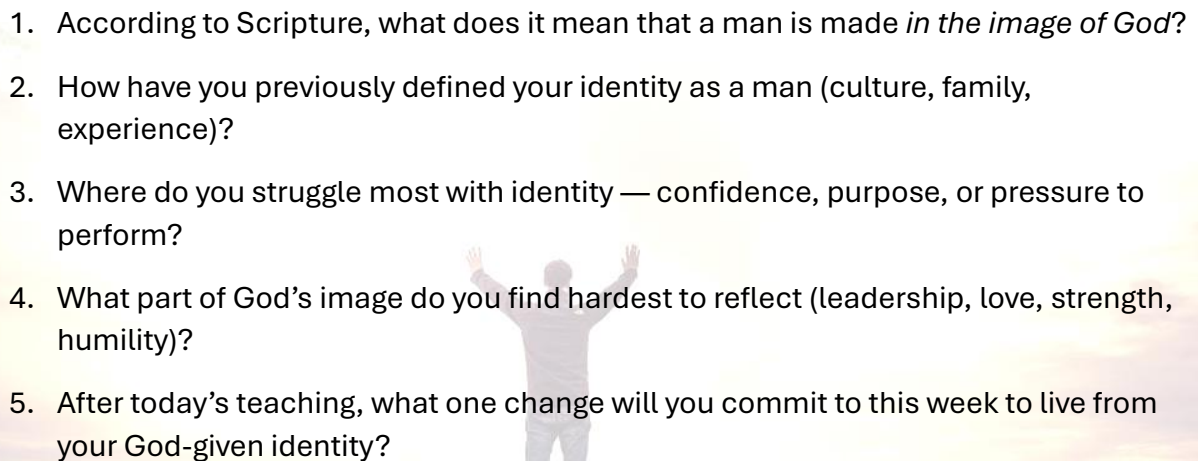
This affirms the need for identity formation before functional ministry.

👉 *Link to article:*

<https://www.christiannewswire.com/new-report-reveals-challenges-facing-christian-fathers-and-a-path-forward-for-the-church>

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### Discussion Questions (with space to write)

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1. According to Scripture, what does it mean that a man is made *in the image of God*?
  2. How have you previously defined your identity as a man (culture, family, experience)?
  3. Where do you struggle most with identity — confidence, purpose, or pressure to perform?
  4. What part of God’s image do you find hardest to reflect (leadership, love, strength, humility)?
  5. After today’s teaching, what one change will you commit to this week to live from your God-given identity?

*(Leave room below each question for writing.)*

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### Preview – Next Week

#### WEEK 2 — “THE WAR AGAINST MEN”

In our next session, we confront the *enemy’s strategy* against masculine identity and explore how spiritual warfare targets the man God made you to be.