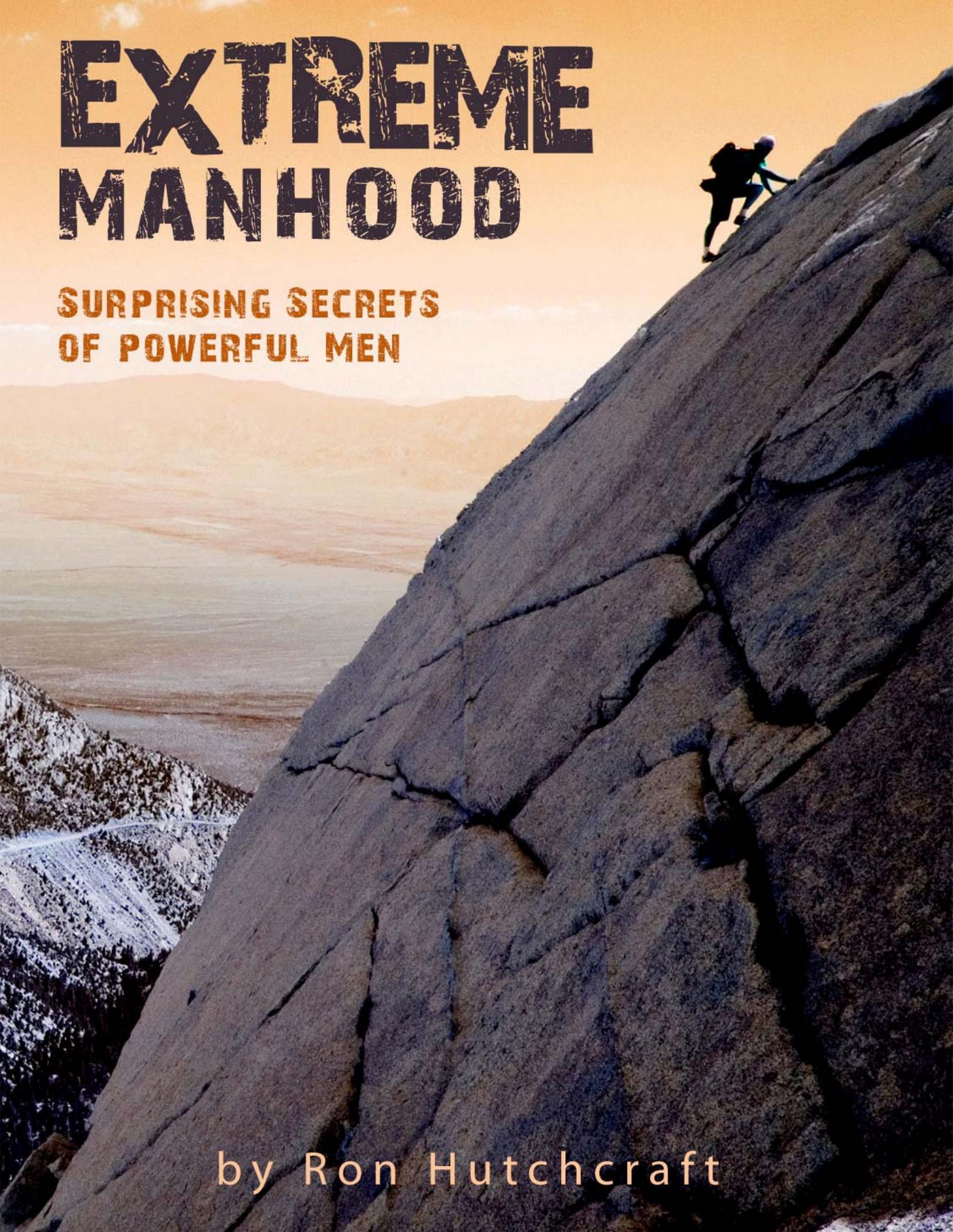


EXTREME MANHOOD



**SURPRISING SECRETS
OF POWERFUL MEN**

by Ron Hutchcraft

Extreme Manhood: Surprising Secrets of Powerful Men

By Ron Hutchcraft

Even Superman Is Breakable

When our 12-year-old son started junior high school, he was very excited because he thought it would be, as he called it, the “happy hunting ground.” After a couple of days, he was pretty shell-shocked. He realized it was going to be tougher than he thought. He said, “I knew that girls were going to be confusing since the fourth grade. Fourth grade is where if they like you, they kick you. I never understood that. Now, I get to junior high and everything is changing. Dad, I have a feeling it's going to be real confusing for a long time.”

The fact is, we've all grown up and it's still confusing. In some ways, the whole business of maleness and femaleness is more confusing than ever.

When I was a kid, I used to watch the TV show, “Superman.” I loved to watch Superman flying around in that little black and white half-hour series. He was “faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.” It really hit me hard when a few years later George Reeves, the

actor who played Superman in that series, died suddenly, presumably from suicide. Then, strangely, Christopher Reeves, the actor who played Superman on the big screen in the '70s and '80s ended up in an awful horseback riding accident that left him paralyzed. Ironically, both men played an invincible man who showed us that in reality even Superman is breakable.

When we see Superman on TV and in the movies, he has it all together. The fact is, we're raised to be like Superman. We think we've got it under control, we can handle it, and we're in charge. The secret is, there's a lot of bleeding going on inside. There are a lot of scared little boys walking around in grown-up men bodies. There's a lot of us that are hurting and there's a lot of stuff for which we don't have answers. Ever since you were a little boy, people would say, “Now, be a man. Be a man.” Fine, but by whose definition?

What is it that makes you a man? Is it biceps? Is it a big bank account? Is it bedroom conquests? Is it being the boss? Is it owning power tools? What is it that really makes you a man? Our

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. The “NIV” and “New International Version” trademarks are registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica. Use of either trademark requires the permission of Biblica.

©2011 Ronald P. Hutchcraft • Distributed by Ron Hutchcraft Ministries, Inc. • www.Hutchcraft.com

“Extreme Manhood: Surprising Secrets of Powerful Men” by Ronald P. Hutchcraft is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License. You are free to share, copy, and distribute this work to others. You may not use this work for commercial purposes. You may not alter, transform, or build upon this work. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/>.

culture has a lot of ideas. Of course, women have not helped us at all. They have always confused the issue, just like my son said in junior high. I remember getting ready to call a girl for a date. I would sit there staring at the phone for 45 minutes trying to figure out a cool way to do it, because you want to be cool. You must have your lines ready. You're going to say in your manliest voice, "Hey Jennifer, would you like to go out with me on Friday night?" Then, after psyching yourself out, you make the call. She answers the phone, "Hello." You go, "Hello?" Then you're a mess.

Women haven't helped us figure out this manhood thing. Today, women are stronger than they have ever been, and they have gotten more and more assertive. They're taking on roles that men used to have exclusively. That's made it pretty confusing.

Then, of course, we have the commercials on TV. Remember those sappy "I love you, man" commercials? Now we have to add sensitivity to our repertoire of things we do. Does that mean we have to wear an apron and carry a diaper bag? It's very confusing, right? You say, "What am I supposed to be: a grizzly bear or a teddy bear? I don't know."

Now, all of a sudden, relationships are more confusing and the expectations of men are more confusing than they've ever been. It's no wonder that Newsweek wrote an article about "the spiritual crisis of the American man." How's a man going to figure it out?

Well, you can follow the cultural drumbeat to find your definition of manhood, but the culture is always changing, so your role will constantly be changing. Our best option is to ask the Designer of Manhood, the Creator—God, what a real man should be like.

Consult the Manual

In most vehicles, there's this little pouch in the glove-box that holds the manual. It was put there by the manufacturer. It's the final word on how the vehicle runs and how it should be maintained to keep it running. I can ignore it if I want, but the car will stop some day. If I do what it says, it's going to operate optimally. Fortunately, the Designer of Manhood gave us a manual. It happens to be the world's bestselling book. You may have one; it's called the Holy Bible.

It is the book that everybody has, but hardly anybody knows what's in it. The fact is, it's helped people for centuries make sense out of life. While our culture has been going all over the place and the definitions of manhood have changed, fortunately, God hasn't changed. We turn to the manual to find out what extreme manhood really is. As it turns out, it really is about conquering, but not the kind of conquering we thought.

God's word in Proverbs 16:32 of the Bible says, "Better a patient man than a warrior. Better a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city." Here's this great military leader who has conquered a city, but God says, "That's

impressive. Let Me tell you what is more impressive—conquering your temper.”

You may be a great warrior in sports, in the military, or in the business world. You may have lots of victories to brag about. "Hey, am I a man or what?" God says, "I don't know. How patient are you?" Being a powerful man is not about conquering the world; it's about conquering you. As a man, how do you conquer yourself? You must learn to be a thermostat.

Thermometer vs. Thermostat

It is important to know the difference between a thermostat and a thermometer. A thermometer reflects the temperature around it, but a thermostat sets the temperature and regulates it. Most people are thermometers. "If you're hot, I'm hot. If you're cool, I'm cool." Real manhood, according to the Designer of Manhood, is to be a thermostat. You have to conquer the monsters inside to the point that you can be a thermostat. You set the temperature, and it's a good temperature. It's a temperature people around you enjoy and appreciate at work and at home. When you walk in, good things happen because the thermostat is there.

A powerful man has the ability to be a thermostat instead of a thermometer, but it involves conquering six key areas of your life.

Conquering Your Mouth

The first key to being a thermostat man is conquering your mouth. God has a lot to say

about this in the Bible. Proverbs 18:21 says, "The tongue has the power of life and death." Think about that. Isn't it true? The words you say have the ability to make people feel more alive or more dead inside. The Bible says in Proverbs 12:18, "Reckless words (those things I don't think about until after I've said them) pierce like a sword." Guys, I don't think we understand the awesome power of our words.

So many wives and children have been the victims of a man's verbal chainsaw. They have scars left by a man's words—words I'm sure they don't even remember saying, but they are carried around by the people in their lives. A powerful man is one who understands the importance of his words and controls his temper. The Bible says in Ephesians 4:26, "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry."

Reckless words can also be critical words or "trash talk." A few years ago, I was contacted by the daughter of an acquaintance of mine; I knew how critical his words could be. You could never do anything that was good enough for him. He always found a way to criticize us. We all know somebody like this. The tragedy is, as I talked to his daughter, she detailed how she had lived a life of promiscuity with two divorces by age nineteen and is now a lesbian. This man's only son died from an apparent suicide. In this case, no one was ever good enough for dad. I just want to urge you to go out of the demolition business. That's not a real man; that's a man out of control. A real man is in the construction business. Build

people up so that they feel valued, special, and important. That is extreme manhood.

Here's a wonderful prayer by King David from Psalm 141:3: "Set a guard over my mouth, oh Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips." I hope you will make it your prayer. Control your mouth.

Conquering Your Passions

When I was growing up, I often heard how the way you proved you were a man was by conquering women. To be a man, you had to have sex with a woman—you know, the whole cave man thing. "Me hunt woman. Me man now." Beat chest. That does not prove you are a man. A powerful man keeps his passions in check. He does not try to prove his manhood by flirting or messing around with a woman who is not his wife. You don't prove you are a man by conquering women, but by conquering yourself.

A powerful man chooses to focus his passion on his wife. The Bible in Proverbs 5:15-19 has this to say to married men: "Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well... Rejoice in the wife of your youth... may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love." Do you think that's a little racy for God? You shouldn't. He invented the male and female bodies and He invented sexual intercourse. The inventor knows best. God says to focus all your passion on your wife and then go for it. God says her body should satisfy you at all times. It is a choice.

Remember that science experiment in school where you take a magnifying glass and a piece of paper out in the sun? Then you magnify the sunlight onto the paper and it almost starts a fire because of the intense heat. God is saying, "If you want sexual fulfillment as I designed it, then focus all that passion—that heat you have—on one person." Make the choice that she is everything, because if you divide your attention and your affection, then you lose. Let her be enough, because as a powerful man, you have determined to conquer your passions.

Conquering Coldness

Do the people around you feel loved by you? There's an interesting book titled, "The Friendless American Male." The premise of the book is that we men know a lot about power, but very little about love. We may be conquerors in the business world, but we don't know much about being close, intimate, or caring in our relationships.

Simon and Garfunkel had a song years ago that said, "I am a rock: I am an island, nothing can penetrate. I touch no one and no one touches me." Hello, lonely man! God said to the first man, Adam, in Genesis 2:18, "It is not good for the man to be alone." Some of us were raised in homes where feelings were not expressed and feelings were not shown. Now we're passing the hurt of that to another generation and to the people close to us. Some of us need to find in God's grace the ability to conquer our coldness.

Several years ago I had a growth on my vocal cords and the doctor prescribed three weeks of total voice rest. Can you imagine? I got this little kiddie chalkboard to communicate with, but I couldn't write as fast as people talk. My wife had to communicate for me. I had been silent for two weeks when I was lying in bed one night and my wife was beside me with her eyes already closed. I turned to her and said, "I love you." After my long silence, she finally heard me say those important words. There are people around you who have been waiting to hear those words from you. Maybe you need to demonstrate love to the people in your life by serving them, helping them out, talking to them, or just being there when it's important.

Studies show that teenage girls become sexually active because they are looking for their father's love. She's not going out looking for a sexual relationship, but she is trying to fill a void in her life. It's a father deficit because she doesn't know he loves her. I wonder if there are frustrated women and children who are desperate to know where they stand in your life and in your heart. Would you tell them? Would you show them? Would you touch them? You say, "It's risky for me." It's a whole lot riskier not to.

Don't Be So Hard

Another area that you might need to conquer is hardness. I'm talking about the person who is never wrong. Maybe you grew up with one of these men. Did you respect him because he was never wrong? I doubt you did. They were wrong

sometimes; you knew it and they knew it. They just couldn't say it. Some of us can never get it out. We can never say, "I was wrong."

The Bible says in James 5:16, "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." The words, "I was wrong," are three of the most powerful healing words in the world, but men have a horrible time saying them. There will be times when you need to apologize to a child, sister, mom, daughter, or co-worker. You say, "I don't want to lose my authority." Let me tell you, a healthy human being doesn't care about who is right; they care about what is right. It won't always be you with the right viewpoint. You may have alienated and hurt people, because you could not bring yourself to say those three words and you need to conquer your hardness. You will be respected more for that.

One night Sarah was in the emergency room where she was having her stomach pumped from an overdose of pills. The doctors and nurses were trying to save the teenager's life. Her dad was there, crying in a corner. When she was finally stabilized, her dad went over to her and said, "Sarah, I'm so sorry. I've never been able to tell you I was wrong. I am repeating the very mistakes my father made with me. I've been so tough and hard. Would you please forgive me?" It was the birth of a new relationship.

Go to your loved ones and tell them there are things you wish you had done differently and ask for their forgiveness. You will elevate yourself in

their eyes. Please don't wait for the emergency room.

Don't Feed Them Leftovers

You know when the kids come home from school or you get home from work and you ask, "What's for dinner?" Everyone's least favorite answer is "leftovers." I've never known anyone who said, "Yes! Leftovers! I was hoping you'd say that!" Nobody likes leftovers, including your family.

As guys, our lives can be so full and busy that our families get emotional leftovers from us. A powerful man conquers his neglect. He sets boundaries with work and friends; his family is more important. I know it's easier to work because it can be hard at home, but don't be a hero at work and a zero at home.

I once visited a game park on a trip to South Africa and we saw a herd of young elephants who had recently been moved from another park. A few months later, we read where the teenage male elephants were terrorizing the park, even killing a few tourists. The problem arose because the young elephants did not have a role model. The bull elephants—the fathers—were not brought from the other game park. There was a whole generation of young male elephants who didn't know how to act like an adult male elephant. They didn't have a father.

Sometimes human families don't have a father. Emotionally, dad is not there much. Daughters especially will define their male relationships for the rest of their lives based on their relationship

with their dad, for better or for worse. Sons need their dads to be positive role models. No one else can fill that role for your children. Someone else can be the vice-president or the director.

Someone else can do your job. You're the only husband your wife has, and the only father your children have. As real men, we must conquer neglect.

Say No To Selfishness

Extreme manhood means that you conquer your selfishness. When Coach Pat Riley took over the struggling New York Knicks and started the process of turning the team around, he said, "The Knicks have a disease. They have the disease of 'me.'" Hello, who doesn't?! Many men have the "me" disease. It's pretty much all about me—my work, my job, my agenda, my needs, my comfort, my issues, my way. A real man tackles that monster and says, "I cannot live this selfish life anymore."

Have you ever gone to Disney World and gone through "It's a Small, Small World"? You ride in these little boats through different parts of the "world" where hundreds of costumed dolls sing the same song over and over again. By the time you get off that ride, you don't ever want to hear "It's a Small, Small World" again. Guys, a world that is all about you is a world too small to live in. You should be sick and tired of your small world.

When Vince Lombardi, the great coach of the Green Bay Packers, was in the hospital dying, he

was visited by his former all-pro defensive end, Willie Davis. Davis had flown across the country to say goodbye to his former coach. When reporters questioned him why he came, Davis simply said, “Because that man made me feel important.” Will that be your epitaph?

When people are with you, do they feel important, or do they feel like you're trying to show them how important you are? A powerful man has that wonderful ability to make the person they're with feel like the most important person on planet earth. They look you in the eye. They want you to talk about you; they don't talk about themselves. You never forget people like that because there are so few of them. People who really listen to you are very rare. They are valuable.

The greatest gift you could give people is to let them know you are listening to them. If you are a married man, your wife needs this gift most of all. You pledged to that woman, “You are the most important voice on earth—not my boss, not my buddies, but you.” Are you really listening to her? I know she goes into more detail than you do and she talks more than you do, but she needs to know that you've heard her heart. That's how you speak her love language. You may say, “All my wife does is nag, nag, nag.” Well, I have a theory that if women don't feel they are being heard by their husbands, they just talk louder and longer. If she is a nag, you need to look in the mirror. She may not feel you've heard her heart. You owe her that. You promised her that. I hope

the woman in your life gets the royal treatment from you. I hope that every woman in your life—your mom, wife, sister, daughter, or granddaughter—feels like a princess. There's nothing more beautiful than a woman who feels safe, valued, and heard. There's nothing more manly than a man who makes her feel that way.

There Is a Rescuer

We all have areas of our lives that need to be conquered. It could be your mouth, lust, coldness, hardness, selfishness or neglect. The fact is that every man has monsters inside that need to be conquered. It's almost like there's an animal inside that we've never been able to tame. I don't know what animal is inside of you. Maybe it's pride, loneliness, or depression. Maybe it's bitterness or baggage from the past.

This is what Paul said in Romans 7:15 and 24: “What I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do . . . What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me?” The good news is we have a rescuer and His name is Jesus Christ. Jesus issues this personal invitation to men: “Follow Me.” He invited Levi, who had a great government job. He invited Simon, a successful fisherman. He invited twelve men to be His disciples. To each of them He said, “Drop what you're doing and follow Me. I'm your destiny. Let's go.”

Jesus Christ issues the same invitation to you today. When the disciples accepted Christ, they were never the same. The same can be true for you. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “If

anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Finally, you have God's power inside you to conquer the monsters that have always conquered you and hurt the people around you. At last you have found love that is not based on performance. It is love without condition.

The men who are able to conquer themselves are the men who have been conquered by Jesus Christ, conquered by the greatest love any man could ever experience on earth. Finally, you have found the One you were made by and the One you were made for. The Bible says in Colossians 1:16, "All things were created by Him for Him." The Bible says you were created by Jesus, so you're going to have this incurable hole in your heart until you have Him. There's never been a woman who could fill it. No accomplishment or financial success has ever been able to fill it. Only God can fill it.

Maybe you say, "I want to live for me—my way. I like it better on my own." At one time or another, all of us have said, "God, You run the universe. I'll run me." The Bible says in Isaiah 53:6, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way." Men, the reason our relationships aren't working and peace has eluded us is because we have gotten out of the

orbit we were designed for. Like the earth revolving around the sun, we were created to revolve around the Creator.

If you have never begun a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, then I encourage you to make this your prayer: "Lord, I've been running my life. I resign. I was made by You. I was made for You. I've been living for me and I know that's wrong. I know Your book says there is a death penalty eternally for that. Lord, I believe You love me so much that when You were dying on the cross, some of those sins You were dying for were mine. I did the sinning. You did the dying. Lord, I want to belong to You. I'm putting my total trust in You, Jesus, like a drowning man in need of a rescuer. You are my only hope of having my sins forgiven, of having the wall down between me and God, of going to heaven when I die, of being the man I've always wanted to be, of having that hole in my heart finally filled. Jesus, beginning today, I'm yours."

Those around you will begin to see a change in you once you are living for Jesus. Only He can help you conquer the monsters inside so that you can discover what a real man should be like. Then you will find that your relationships will begin to make more sense and you will discover extreme manhood.

About Ron Hutchcraft

Ron Hutchcraft is committed to communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost in their language and to motivating and equipping believers to communicate Christ to the lost in their world. In all he does, he seeks to reach the lost and the young with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

A veteran of over 43 years of youth and family work, Mr. Hutchcraft has presented the Gospel across North America and around the world. Ron presents Christ to various people groups through parenting seminars, singles' events, youth outreaches, and business/professional dinners. Mr. Hutchcraft is also involved in ongoing ministry outreach to and with Native Americans, and is founder of the "On Eagles' Wings" Native ministry. He has also spoken at NFL and Major League Baseball chapels.

To contact Ron Hutchcraft Ministries, visit www.Hutchcraft.com or call (870) 741-3300.

To find out how you can begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, please visit www.YoursForLife.net or call 1-888-966-7325.

Online Resources

We invite you to browse through our online store at <http://www.Hutchcraft.com/store> where you will find resources to encourage you in your personal relationship with Jesus Christ, as well as resources to help you encourage others who do not know Him. You will find books, audio CDs, DVDs, downloadable resources, and other resources that provide answers to today's real life issues.

Download this free e-book at: <http://www.hutchcraft.com/store/free-e-books>