



 **LifeGroups**
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David's Fatherly Advice to Solomon

Follow the Lord

- If you courageously follow the Lord, you will have true success.
- 1 Kings 2:1–4 and Deuteronomy 31:7–8; Joshua 1:7–8 and 2 Samuel 7:12–16
- These are David's final words to Solomon before he passed away.
- Solomon was not only his son but also his successor to the throne.
- His advice was not only general life advice, it was advice about how to be successful as the king of God's people.

Follow the Lord

- David's words sound very similar to what Moses said to Joshua when he passed the mantle of leadership on to him and spoke of God's law regarding kings.
- God said a king of Israel shall meditate on the law night and day so he will fear the Lord by keeping it (Deuteronomy 17:19).
- David charged Solomon with the same thing – to walk in God's ways and keep His law. This is how he would have success.

Follow the Lord

- God's words to Joshua were similar.
- The way to have success wherever he went was to be careful to follow the law in every way (Joshua 1:7).
- This was repeating what God told Moses (Deuteronomy 29:9).
- David used language similar to the words both God and Moses spoke to Joshua (Deuteronomy 31:7–8; Joshua 1:6–8).
- Moses told Joshua to be strong and courageous and follow God.

Follow the Lord

- David told Solomon to be strong and “show yourself a man” (1 Kings 2:2) or more literally, “become” a man.
- Solomon was inexperienced when he became king (3:7).
- David was telling him that, since this huge responsibility now lay at his feet, it was time to grow up. But he didn’t just say, “Grow up, son!”
- He told him how to become a man, that the way to maturity is to follow the Lord with strength and courage.

Follow the Lord

- The word for “be strong” here can mean “strong” or “firm,” the same directive Paul gave when he talked about putting on the armor of God to fight against the forces of wickedness in the world: “stand firm” (Ephesians 6:14).
- Following the Lord is a daily battle. The Enemy desperately tries to pull us away from God.
- It takes strength and resolve to stay on the narrow path and not turn aside to the right or the left (Joshua 1:7).

Follow the Lord

- As king, Solomon would face incredible temptation to turn away from the Lord. David knew this from experience.
- But he also knew from experience that the only path to success was to follow the Lord. This wasn't just some platitude for David.
- He experienced this as truth in his life. When he followed God and trusted in Him, things went well for him and for Israel.
- When he didn't follow God and trust in Him, things fell apart.

Follow the Lord

- When we compare David's words here about the covenant God made with him to the actual words of God's covenant in 2 Samuel 7, they seem to conflict until we consider the dual meaning of God's covenant, that it refers both to the immediate reign of Solomon as well as the eternal reign of Jesus.
- Here David told Solomon that his dynasty would continue on the throne only if his sons paid close attention to walking with God in faithfulness with all their heart and soul (1 Kings 2:4).

Follow the Lord

- But in Samuel, the promise seems unconditional – “your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever” (2 Samuel 7:16).
- Those things seem to conflict, but as we read the rest of the story of Scripture, we see that both are true at the same time.
- David’s dynasty continued forever through Jesus, but in the book of Kings, his sons would lose the throne because of their lack of faithfulness.

Follow the Lord

- In the rest of the book of Kings, starting with Solomon himself, the sons of David did not pay close attention to walking with God.
- As a result, the kingdom was eventually taken from them, and they were sent into exile.
- Each of these kings was evaluated by whether they followed Yahweh fully, with their whole hearts, like their father, David (1 Kings 11:6; 14:8; 15:3, 11).

Follow the Lord

- David's words to Solomon thus foreshadowed what would happen in the rest of Kings.
- But the failure of the sons of David to follow the Lord with their whole hearts only points ahead to the need for Jesus, a son of David who would follow God completely, even more than David – perfectly.
- Following Jesus is the key to maturity, the key to success.
- Maybe not the kind of “success” the world pushes, but true success in the Lord's eyes.

Justice

- A godly leader executes justice, both reward and punishment.
- 1 Kings 2:5–9 and Psalm 109
- This section may be difficult for us to read as part of David's parting words, and it may seem inconsistent with the character of the man who said over and over that he was leaving vengeance to the Lord.
- It also seems strange that David would tell Solomon to exact vengeance on the people who had wronged him instead of doing it himself during his own reign.

Justice

- Add to all that the words of “imprecatory psalms” such as Psalm 109.
- This is where the author prayed for curse, destruction, and God’s judgment and wrath on his enemies. How could this all be in the same Bible where Jesus told us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us?
- The imprecatory psalms are the psalmist’s asking the Lord to exact punishment on our enemies. It still feels hard to reconcile with Jesus’ commands to pray for our enemies, but it was David leaving vengeance to the Lord rather than exacting it himself.

Justice

- The imprecatory psalms, when prayed with the right heart, are not about getting vengeance for the ways we were wronged.
- They are pleas for God's justice, for God to make things right.
- It would be like pleading with the Lord for the person who attacked a loved one to be sent to prison, so your loved one would receive justice through their attacker's receiving a just punishment.
- Reference: John Day, "The Imprecatory Psalms and Christian Ethics," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, April-June 2002.

Justice

- And yet, Jesus would tell us to also pray for that person's repentance, salvation and healing change.
- God's goal in discipline is to lead us to repentance.
- This is the difference between discipline and punishment.
- Punishment is about retribution.
- Discipline seeks to enact change (Proverbs 3:11–12; Hebrews 12:7–11).

Justice

- When we look at how David talked about this, we see that the reason David left it to Solomon rather than doing it himself was the same – to leave it to the Lord, to be sure it was not about personal retribution but about executing justice.
- David told Solomon not to let Joab or Shimei go down to Sheol in peace, but he also kept saying that Solomon should act according to his wisdom, which was a supernatural wisdom from the Lord (1 Kings 3:12).

Justice

- At the same time, David commanded Solomon to show kindness to the sons of Barzillai.
- These two things, in the context of the charge to walk in God's ways, highlight God as both a God of justice and of lovingkindness.
- The text even places the kindness to the Barzillai's sons between the justice to Joab and the justice to Shimei, reminding us that although God must address sin, He is also a God of mercy.
- Justice and mercy are not contradictory but are two sides of the same coin.

Justice

- As believers, we pray for justice, but we also pray for mercy, grace, and forgiveness.
- Of course we want to see victims receive justice, but we also have to have a heart for the oppressor, to want to see them saved and changed.
- Just as Christ died for us while we were still His enemies (Romans 5:10).
- This is radical Christlike love.

Justice

- The life of David points us to Jesus
- 1 Kings 1:10–12 and Acts 13:26–41
- In Scripture, 40 years is considered a generation. The exodus generation wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until that whole first generation died out (Numbers 14:20–30).
- Saul, David and Solomon reigned for 40 years, one generation each (1 Kings 11:42; Acts 13:21). The number 40 appears almost a hundred times in Scripture; here are just a few.

Justice

- Moses, Elijah and Jesus each fasted in the wilderness for 40 days (Deuteronomy 9:9; 1 Kings 19:8; Matthew 4:2).
- It rained for 40 days and nights while Noah was in the ark (Genesis 7:4). The spies went to the promised land for 40 days (Numbers 13:25). Ezekiel laid on his side for 40 days to represent the 40 years Judah dishonored God (Ezekiel 4:6). God gave Nineveh 40 days to repent (Jonah 3:4). Goliath mocked Israel for 40 days before David stepped forward to fight him (1 Samuel 17:16).
- Moses's life was split into three 40-year periods: in Egypt, in Midian, in the exodus.

Justice

- David reigned for 40 years, just as Saul.
- He was a man after God's own heart, and his reign was different than Saul's, but in the end, he died and was buried, just as Saul.
- He served God's purpose in his generation but then went "the way of all the earth" (1 Kings 2:2). He died, just as every human being before him and everyone after him, with a few exceptions. He was human, flawed and mortal, just as all of us.
- But the One his life points ahead to overcame death (Acts 13:37).

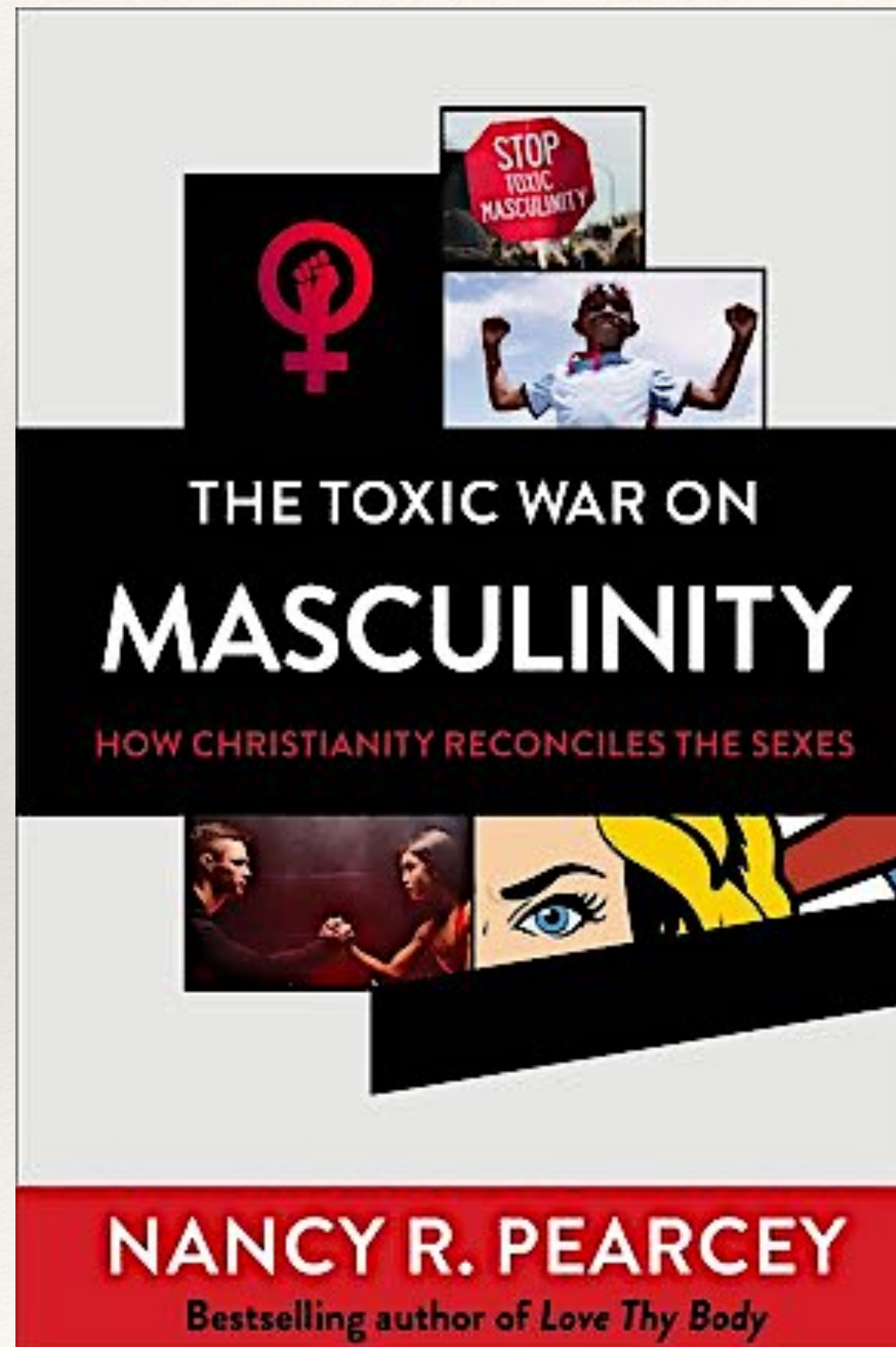
Justice

- David was a shepherd who became a king, and Jesus is our good Shepherd and Eternal King.
- David was a man after God's own heart. But his life also points ahead to our need for Christ. His imperfections point ahead to Christ's perfection.
- His sin, confession, and repentance point ahead to Christ's triumph over sin. His sons' unfaithfulness points ahead to Christ's faithfulness as the son of David.
- His death and burial point ahead to Christ, who would overcome death.

Justice

- The text tells us that when David was buried, Solomon's kingdom was "firmly established."
- This is using the language of God's covenant promise about Christ – "your throne shall be established forever" (2 Samuel 7:16).
- David's life ended with an expectant hope that there is a greater one to come.

Masculinity



- Nancy Pearcey is the author of *Total Truth*, *Saving Leonardo*, *Finding Truth*, and *Love Thy Body*.
- She is a former agnostic who is currently a professor and scholar in residence at Houston Baptist University.
- Her book looks at the charge of “toxic masculinity” and explores the history of masculinity also showing that Christianity provides a better model.

Good News About Christian Men

- The accusations toward Christian men fail to understand that they divide into two groups: religiously devout and nominal Christians.
- Nominal Christian family men fit the negative stereotype, and also have a divorce rate higher than even the secular culture.
- Theologically conservative men test out as the most loving husbands and the best fathers of any major group in America.
- Another study found that churchgoing Dads were the most loving and spent the most time in activities with their children.

Other Chapters

- The following chapters focus on how the secular script turned toxic.
- Some of the toxic influence was philosophical (Darwinism) and much of it was structural (Industrial Revolution).
- Cultural trends (put women on a pedestal) and even reform movements let men off the hook (temperance movement).
- Popular culture and negative stereotypes (why is Dad always the Dimwit?).
- It takes a men to save his marriage.



THE TOXIC WAR ON MASCULINITY

HOW CHRISTIANITY RECONCILES THE SEXES



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