

## CHAPTER 1 – WHY RESPECT IS ESSENTIAL

Aretha Franklin nailed it. “R-E-S-P-E-C-T, find out what it means to me.” But did you know that a *man* wrote that song? Yep, Otis Redding composed the original version in 1964, and Aretha made it a hit in 1967. The song was originally written by a man to emphasize his need to feel respected. Redding’s version is very different from Franklin’s. He first wrote the song as a plea from a desperate man, who will give his woman anything she wants. He doesn’t care if she does him wrong, as long as he gets his due respect when he brings the money home. However, Franklin’s version is about a strong, confident woman, who knows that she has everything her man wants. She never does him wrong, and she therefore demands his respect.

What is it that men truly crave? What *is* man’s most basic need? What must a man receive in order to give his

best and to be true to himself? It is respect, admiration, and honor.

Do you find that surprising? How can I be so emphatic that a man’s greatest need is to be respected and admired by his coworkers, spouse, friends, and family? The answer is quite easy. God chose to create man with a deep desire for respect, admiration, and honor – it’s the RAH Principle. Because all men are created in God’s image, this longing for honor is deep within their core. But is God’s perspective all we have to go on? How can we confirm that men crave respect?

You may be ready to jettison this book because you aren’t particularly religious, or you don’t have much confidence in the Bible being applicable to our world today. That’s okay. I encourage you to hang in there with me, at least for the duration of this first chapter. Then decide whether to continue reading. But rest assured that as a man, your greatest need is to be respected, admired, and honored. Let’s dive in.

Andrew introduces himself to Nathan while working out at the gym. What’s one of the first questions they ask? Exactly. “Where do you work?” Is that because we can’t think of anything else to ask? Heck no. It comes from how much personal identity and self-worth men derive from their work. If a man is in a job that seems less than admirable, he may be less likely to share much about his work, or he may even bend the truth a bit so that his job seems more important. Or the opposite happens. Nathan plays down his job as not being important at all so that he doesn’t feel disrespected because he over-inflated the importance of his work. Men derive a tremendous amount of self-honor from their jobs. Why else are titles so important in the

marketplace? Why do some men feel compelled to add a string of initials behind their name?

### **It's About Love and Respect**

In 2004, Dr. Emerson Eggerichs published a book, *Love and Respect*<sup>1</sup>, that explains how God designed the marriage relationship to work. The bottom-line reality from the Bible is this: a man is instructed to faithfully and selflessly love his wife, without conditions, no strings attached. And a wife is to respect and admire her husband, also unconditionally. That's the formula. It works because this is the core need of men and women, by God's design. A man craves respect and admiration, while a woman longs for love and devotion. He needs to be honored. She needs to be cherished. Dr. Eggerichs' book has sold more than 1.6 million copies and has profoundly impacted tens of thousands of marriages, including mine. Through his counseling and conferences, Dr. Eggerichs has proven this biblical principle over and over again in the lives of countless of couples.

My wife, Tammy, and I discovered the book at a time in our marriage when we were growing apart rather than together. As I learned how to more selflessly love her, and as she learned how to show me greater respect, our marriage dramatically changed. Since living by this biblical principle for more than a dozen years, we are closer than we've ever been, and more in love than we ever dreamed. She really is my best friend. She respects me as a husband, father, and friend. She especially respects me in my work.

Since learning how to consistently apply the RAH (respect, admiration, and honor) Principle in my relationships with other men, I have seen how

powerfully it works in the marketplace, where we spend the majority of our time. If men are respected in their jobs, they will give their best. But if a man is not shown the respect he needs, he will likely withdraw, lose confidence, and not live up to his full potential. As a manager, you will have a profound impact on your direct reports if you show them respect. If you aren't in management, you can still have the same impact as you respect your leaders and your peers.

When was the last time you were disrespected at work? How did it make you feel? When was your honor questioned? Do you still think about it? On the up side, how were you recently admired in your job? What impact did that have on your personal confidence?

### **Experience Confirms It**

Another author came at the respect principle from a more sociological approach. Shaunti Feldhahn wanted to confirm experientially whether or not men really do have a deep desire to be respected and honored. She therefore solicited the aid of experts in the field of scientific polling to conduct a professional survey (the survey had a 95 percent confidence level,  $\pm 3.5$ ). The survey team at Decision Analyst along with Chuck Cowan, of Analytic Focus and the former chief of survey design at the US Census Bureau, collaborated with her to anonymously survey more than 1,600 men. The men ranged in age from twenty-one to seventy-five, and they answered dozens of questions that dealt with their inner thoughts. The findings confirmed what the Bible declares: men are hard-wired to need respect. Feldhahn also confirmed her findings by conducting multiple informal surveys that yielded the exact same results. Men would rather feel

unloved than disrespected. She wrote, “Finally the light bulb came on: *A man equates the two. If he feels disrespected, he is going to feel unloved.*”<sup>2</sup>

*For Women Only* is one of a series of books on marital relationships that have sold more than 2 million copies. Like Dr. Eggerichs, thousands of emails have continued to confirm the power of a husband’s love and a wife’s respect. Should we really be surprised that what God says actually works? To enrich your marriage, I highly recommend *Love and Respect* and *For Women Only*, as well as Feldhahn’s companion book for husbands, *For Men Only*.

There is no need to duplicate the wonderful work of these two authors. Therefore, this book explores the power of the respect principle in the marketplace. We’ll do a deep dive into how a man’s craving for respect and admiration plays out at work. As stated previously, I’ve dubbed this the RAH Principle – Respect, Admiration, and Honor. These three work hand-in-hand.

As you begin to own this truth, you will grow stronger internally as you recognize what makes your flip flop and how you can better handle those times when you feel disrespected. You will be able to identify why you get frustrated in your job, or in certain tasks your job requires, or with certain coworkers, and you’ll learn what to do about it. You will discover how to connect with and encourage other men, those you work with and work for, on a much more powerful level.

When the RAH Principle is applied across a company or organization, the results will be dramatic. Men will want to be more engaged because they will feel more fulfilled. When a man is honored for his

contributions to his company, in ways that connect with him personally, everybody wins, and the sky’s the limit. We will therefore explore the different ways men feel respect, depending on their personal internal wiring.

At this point you may be wondering, “But what about women? Women want to be honored too.” That’s why Aretha recorded her version of *Respect*. However, the honor that a man craves and the honor that a woman desires and deserves are vastly different. We will focus primarily on the respect men crave, while also giving occasional insights into how to help women feel fully valued in the marketplace. But the bottom line is this: when men are respected they *feel* valued (or loved) and when women are valued (or loved) they *feel* respected.

## **Back to the Beginning**

I’ve been an ardent follower of Jesus, and a diligent student of the Bible, since 1982. My studies in theology have given me an insatiable appetite to study the Bible, the Word of God, in order to more faithfully live it out. That is my desire for you, to help you understand how God has wired men and how to live that truth out each day. Let’s jump into the Bible for a bit. Again, if you aren’t a Christian, please keep reading and think about how practical these Bible passages are.

In the opening pages of the first chapter in the book of Genesis, we read that God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” Right out of the gate, we are given a hint into God’s existence in the Trinity (Father, Son, and Spirit) since he used the pronouns “us” and “our”. The ancient word for “man” is the generic term for mankind. That becomes crystal clear in the next verse, v27.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

The reason all 7.5 billion-plus people on planet Earth are to be treated with dignity is not because they deserve it, it is because each soul was created by God in his very image. The best way to grasp this reality is to understand that everything good, right, and true about any individual is because they are image-bearers of the Most High God. The evil part of each of us is from our own human heart. Some people hide or reject their image-bearing role more than others, but every person has intrinsic value because they were created in their Creator's likeness.

What then does this have to do with a man's RAH cravings? Let's fast forward to the quintessential passage on marriage, found in the New Testament in Ephesians 5:22-33. The passage is summed up in the last sentence.

However, let each of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

This is the passage of Scripture on which Dr. Eggerichs based his book. The most basic needs for men and women are expressed in this single mandate for marriage. The reason God gave this command to married couples is because this is precisely how he created us, male and female, in his likeness. A big part of what it means for a woman to be made in the image of God is that she lives with a deep desire to be loved, cherished, and adored. A man's core craving, because he bears the likeness of God, is to be respected, admired, and honored. Mankind's core needs are similar to God's.

## God Has Needs?

Maybe “needs” isn’t the best way to put it, but we know what God desires from all men and women. It is summarized by two very distinct directives. He commands people everywhere to honor and revere him, because he is utterly holy. And he commands people to love him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, because he loves them. That’s it. You can boil the entire Bible down to these two truths: God created people to honor and respect him, and to love and cherish him.

Do you see how this plays out? Men, as image bearers of God, have similar RAH (respect, admiration, and honor – ok, last time I define the acronym) desires. In the same way, women have the desire to be loved and cherished. Think about it. Why have there been so many wars in the history of our planet? Why do countries, led by men, seek to conquer other countries? Where in the world did the ancients get the bravery to sail out into a sea full of danger and mystery? Where did President Kennedy get the desire for an American to be the first to walk on the moon? This sense of adventure comes from a desire to conquer, which is born within a heart that longs to be honored and admired. That’s the only rational explanation. And men continue to demonstrate their RAH desires.

Why do so many of us love to watch modern day gladiators on the football field - knowing they’ll likely struggle with pain, even paralysis, the rest of their lives? We share in their desire to be admired. How do you feel when your team loses, or worse, gets pummeled? How does it feel when a coworker teases you because their team spanked yours? It’s kind of humiliating isn’t it? I’ve lost my temper way too many times due to my team



sucking, I mean performing poorly, especially against an arch rival. Why? It feels like I've lost some respect. My honor as a fan has been dinged. It feels like that since my team sacrificed some respect in the defeat, that I lost some too. Can I get a witness?

## **A Brief Language Lesson**

I'm a language geek so hang in there with me or skip to the next section starting on page 10. I was fascinated when I began to explore the specific words that describe God's and man's needs in the Hebrew (Old Testament language) and Greek (New Testament language). There are several words in both languages that carry the idea of respect, reverence, admiration, and honor. The same Greek word used in the marriage passage for "respect" is also used countless times for our "reverence for" and "fear of" God. Our English word "phobia" comes from this Greek word, "phobos".

There are some amazing Bible study apps that can help you learn more about the original languages. You don't need a seminary degree. Blue Letter Bible is my personal favorite. I've gained a ton of clarity by looking up the New Testament's original Greek words on this free app. That is how I learned the important nuances of this Greek word "phobos". Give it a try. Download the BLB app and look up a favorite verse. You can compare different translations as well as look up the original words and see where else that word was used in the Bible. It will help you better understand God's words.

The entire Bible is clear that man's RAH desires parallel God's because we bear that part of his image and nature. He calls for mankind to give him reverence because of who he is, and men crave for others to give

them respect, also because of who they are. Or is it more because of what they do? What do you think?

If you are married, don't get sideways with this. Your wife is not supposed to worship and revere you like she does God. Although that might be kind of nice every once in a while. She is called to be the one person who most meets your need for respect and admiration. So make it easier on her and be the kind of husband that's easy to respect. Strive to be a noble man!

## **The Big 10**

The 10 Commandments are divided into two parts. The first four deal with man's relationship to God, and the next six address man's relationship with one another. These ten commandments serve as the foundation for how God created all of mankind to live in relationship to him and to each other. The problem is that mankind doesn't do very well keeping any of them.

The first command regarding our interpersonal relationships, which is numerically the fifth, is this: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you..." Side note: when you see Lord in small or all caps, the Hebrew word is actually God's personal name, Yahweh. Most translations are hesitant to use his personal name due to the Jewish tradition. The Jews thought they were showing God reverence by not using his personal name.

The Fifth Commandment, to honor parents, is the absolute bedrock of any society. If there is no respect or honor for parents in the home, then you know what happens in society. God is pretty good with knowing

how societies function best, which is why this is the very first command about our interpersonal relationships.

Parents, you know exactly how it feels to be dishonored. Children do this naturally, obviously some more than others. Children must be taught how to honor their parents. And the other commandments are similarly linked to the RAH Principle. Don't murder, commit adultery, steal, lie, or covet someone else's stuff are ways people are to show honor and respect to one another. Isn't it interesting that the last five are all negatives? That's because we are prone to do them.

Honoring parents is not only first, it is the only commandment stated in the positive sense because of its importance to a healthy society. The core building block of any culture is the family – a father, a mother, and their child(ren). The place where a child learns how to respect authority is in the home. If the home is void of respect and honor, the child will not respect authority. This is why so many school teachers have to endure rampant disrespect in the classroom. This commandment speaks to the honor that both parents are to be shown.

This Hebrew word “honor” is literally translated “heavy”. It can carry a positive or negative implication. When this same Hebrew word is used with reference to God, it is translated “glory”, depicting the weightiness of the Almighty. I cannot over stress the importance of children learning how to honor both of their parents. Society depends on this most fundamental building block. Lose this, and society will lose its moral compass. How void is American culture of True North?

## How a King Handled Disrespect

There's an awesome story in the life of King David that helps us understand the RAH Principle. A neighboring king died, and David decided to send his condolences. He said, "I will deal loyally with Hanun, the son of Nahash, as his father dealt loyally with me." (2 Samuel 10:2) The word for loyal can also be translated "kind". This neighboring king, unlike all the kings of the surrounding nations, was pretty kind to David, so he wanted to honor him in his death. Therefore, David sent some of his servants with a gift to the deceased king's son. "Do you think, because David has sent comforters to you, that he is *honoring* your father. Has not David sent his servants to you to search the city and to spy it out and to overthrow it?", warned one of the son's advisors. Instead of receiving David's gift, they humiliated his servants by shaving off half their beards, and they "cut off their garments in the middle, at their hips, and sent them away."

Get the picture? They showed the ultimate disrespect to David by shaving off one side of each man's beard and exposing their, well, you know, manhood. In that culture, a beard was the sign of masculinity. Every man wore a beard, and the thicker the better. The most humiliating thing that a man could experience was the exposure of his...masculinity. When David heard what had happened, he ordered his servants to stay where they were and not return home until their beards grew back out. They no doubt stitched up their garments very quickly but growing a new beard would take time. David did not want them to come home because "the men were greatly ashamed", with half a beard. I would be too. Couldn't they simply have shaved the other side? Nope,

not and keep their dignity. To be a man of honor, a beard was vital.

Because his servants were shamed, completely dishonored, King David was dishonored too. It never went very well for opposing kings that dishonored the mighty King David. The Bible records that this nation became “a stench to David” so he rallied his troops together and kicked butt, taking no prisoners and killing more 40,000 enemy soldiers.

Disrespect can carry some heavy consequences. We see that in the Bible, and you’ve witnessed it or experienced it yourself, probably too many times. Remember the movie, *The Godfather*? Marlin Brando’s character, Vito, was kind to those who showed him respect but ruthless towards those who dishonored him. One man who disrespected Vito most definitely learned how to get a head. (I couldn’t resist)

### **A Primary Cause of Adultery**

In the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament), God continually compared his people, Israel, to an adulterous wife. Because they refused to honor him through their faithfulness and obedience, he equated them to an unfaithful wife. Again, this is a vivid reminder of the reverence and honor God requires from his people. The Jews’ continual disobedience demonstrated how difficult it is for people to remain faithful to the Almighty.

This scenario gets played out every day in the marketplace. A husband works long hours to provide for his family. It’s in his DNA. God put it there. He wants to be successful so that he is respected at work and at home. He takes advantage of overtime projects that will

yield more distinction and/or extra pay. He is trying to show his faithfulness to his wife *through* his hard work and devotion to his job. He wants to provide for his family's every need, as well as their budget-challenging wants. But she gets tired of him coming home late and traveling so much. It doesn't *feel* like love to her, and she fails to show any respect for how faithful he is to his company and clients. She doesn't feel love, so she definitely isn't giving respect. How can she admire a husband who is rarely home? About that time a coworker begins to notice. A female account executive begins to tell this over-worked husband how much she admires his tenacity, his ability to adapt, how he selflessly serves his customers, and his dedication to the company. Boom! The affair begins. His coworker is giving him the respect he craves, and his wife is not. The more the other woman pours it on, the more he sees how valuable she is to the company. He begins to adore her, she continues to show respect to him, and the rest is history. And it happens every day.

There is another path to adultery in the workplace. It happens when a man is in the wrong place, or when he isn't fulfilling his vocational obligations properly. This is exactly what happened to King David. He was not fulfilling his kingly responsibilities and obligations. Like kings of that era did, when springtime came he was supposed to lead his troops into battle rather than selfishly enjoy the pleasures of his prosperity. Check out the text.

It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman

bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. 2 *Samuel* 11:2

As soon as he laid eyes on his neighbor's beautiful wife, David was smitten (that's why you can only look once, the second look leads to lusting). If only he had been *doing* what he was supposed to be doing. If only he was *where* he was supposed to be. We don't know why David chose to stay home and enjoy the spoils of his power, but his poor choice cost him dearly. It's especially telling to realize that David could have had any single woman he wanted in all of Israel. Instead, he chose to steal the wife of one of his most faithful soldiers.

Men, you know what it feels like to be disrespected. You've felt it from your wife, your boss, your captain, your coworkers, your clients, your kids, and your family, even from your good friends. It stings. It's sometimes very hard to forget. Disrespect can be debilitating. And the pain doesn't go away quickly because respect, admiration, and honor are so important to you. Making a terrible choice like David did can bring an avalanche of dishonor down on you. You have the potential, hopefully not the experience, of ruining your entire reputation with one horribly, dishonoring choice.

This sad reality perpetuates itself in television and politics. Prominent newscasters, producers, actors, and politicians have ruined long-standing, very respected careers because they didn't resist dishonorable temptations.

### **Why Moses Missed Out**

Moses was *the* man. He was the consummate leader who overcame enormous obstacles to become the most

important historic figure to the people of Israel, their hero. The entire religious system has always been called “The Law of Moses”. But did you know that God punished him severely due to his disrespect?

At one point during the Israelites long journey through the desert, they ran out of water. They complained so much, which was definitely their *modus operandi*, that Moses lost his temper. Instead of speaking to the rock as God had commanded him, he swung for the fence, not once but twice. Water flowed freely when Moses smacked the rock with his staff, but his disobedience would have grave consequences. The problem wasn't that Moses merely disobeyed God. He showed deliberate disrespect for God in front of the entire Hebrew nation. Moses not only lost his temper, he made it look as if it was by his own power this miracle occurred. He publicly dishonored God. He left God no choice but to punish him severely. A holy God could never allow a mere mortal to usurp his honor and authority with no consequence.

Before calling him home, God took Moses to a mountaintop where he was able look out over the land, and then he died. Does this punishment seem too harsh? If it does, it is only because we have yet to comprehend how holy Yahweh truly is. When we realize that Moses rebelled, and effectively put himself on God's level, it's easier to see God's judgment was both justified and gracious. As we begin to contemplate how much God deserves our utmost reverence, we will begin to better understand why men were created with RAH desires.

How did you feel the last time your child, your spouse, a friend, or a coworker belittled you in public? Public dishonor can leave lasting scars, or at least, bad



memories that are tough to shake. I can vividly recall a time in high school when my “friend” absolutely disgraced me in front of a bunch of guys. Do you have a similar memory? Even worse for me, I was powerless to retaliate. As much as I wanted one, there was no good comeback. As I type this, I feel humiliated all over again, and this public shaming happened way back in 1975! Why do these memories stick like glue? Public disrespect is ultimate disgrace.

### **How David Lost His Son**

Back to King David. He’s the Jew’s No. 2 hero in the Old Testament. He was called a “man after God’s own heart”, even though his worst sins had irreversible consequences. You read about his adultery on page 14. The rest of the story helps us understand what happens when we defy God. In the story, Bathsheba’s husband, Uriah, was a faithful soldier in King David’s army. He was on the king’s battlefield while his wife was brought into the king’s bed. When her pregnancy was discovered, David ordered him back to Jerusalem, hoping he would go home and sleep with his wife. Yet, Uriah was more noble than David thought. He was so faithful to his fellow soldiers that he could not bring himself to enjoy such pleasures while they were on the battlefield. The king’s backup plan was to get Uriah hammered hoping that would inspire him to go home, but to no avail. David’s last resort in attempting to cover up his sin was to send Uriah back to the battlefield. Unbeknownst to faithful Uriah, he carried his own death sentence. David ordered his general to put this brave soldier on the front lines where the fighting was the fiercest. And it was there Uriah was killed, by David’s command.

We gain more understanding into the RAH Principle through this faithful soldier’s character. Having been called home by his king, Uriah felt like going home to his wife was dishonoring to his comrades. He had too much respect for his fellow soldiers to enjoy his wife’s intimacy while they were denied. This kind of devotion comes from a man who knows both self-respect and how to honor his peers. What a tragic story that such a noble man was killed for the sake of a sin-filled cover-up.

This story also emphasizes how important the RAH Principle is to God. David was apparently not remorseful for his sins, even though he violated half of the 10 Commandments – he didn’t truly worship God, didn’t honor his parents, committed adultery, murdered a man, and lied about the whole thing. Sometime after the baby was born, the prophet Nathan confronted the king regarding his sins. After David confessed his sins, Nathan gave him this very difficult-to-hear prophecy from God.

“The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die.”

*2 Samuel 12:13-14* NIV

Per the prophecy, David’s son immediately became ill and died. Why did God bring this punishment on David? Read the above passage again. David showed *utter contempt* for Yahweh. The Hebrew word is also translated “scorn”, “no respect”, and “blaspheme”. He scorned God over and over in his attempt to cover up his initial sin of adultery. And God does not take disrespect lightly. He can’t because he is holy –

completely pure, altogether righteous, just, and merciful. The immediate consequence was his young son's very life, but David's sins impacted his family relationships the rest of his life.

This story holds rich truths about the respect and reverence God demands. Please understand this, God completely deserves your absolute reverence. And the story also shows us the power of a man that is living through his image-bearing heart. The young soldier gives us an example of how an honorable man can deny himself out of respect for his peers.

### **Is Respect Your Core Need?**

Let's return to Feldhahn's survey results. How would you answer this question?

“Think about what these two negative experiences would be like: to feel alone and unloved in the world OR to feel inadequate and disrespected by everyone. If you were forced to choose one, which would you prefer? Would you rather feel...? (Choose one.)”

1. Alone and Unloved
2. Inadequate and Disrespected

Which answer did you choose? In her survey, 74 percent of the men chose #2. The overwhelming majority of the men surveyed would rather feel “Alone and Unloved” than “Inadequate and Disrespected”. If you are with the 26 percent who chose “Alone and Unloved”, don't feel like your RAH meter is malfunctioning. It's probably because this type of thinking is fairly new to you. Maybe you've never heard

this kind of teaching. All your life you've been told how we're to love one another, which is true, and the Golden Rule is supreme – to treat others like you want them to treat you. All of this is correct. Maybe you were heavily influenced by the Beatles' song, "All You Need Is Love". Here's the difference for a *guy* between love and respect: the way we *feel* love is through *being* respected and admired. At our core is a RAH craving.

Prove it for yourself. Why do you get angry in traffic? How do you feel when someone cuts you off? I once flipped a guy off for not using his turn signal. The really bad part was that at the time, I was the senior pastor of one of the largest churches in town. (My wife reminded me that I must refrain from flipping off fellow commuters, especially since I was a well-known pastor in the community.) We lose our cool because the other driver is being incredibly disrespectful. They care nothing about your time, your safety, or how they are making you tens of seconds late to your next appointment.

When someone pulls out in front of you, it feels disrespectful. It makes you want to lash out. Road rage is a confirmation that men have RAH cravings. In 2016, the AAA Foundation published their findings. "No surprise to sociologists, the most aggressive and aggrieved drivers are young men ages 19 to 39. Male drivers were three times more likely than females to have gotten out of a car to confront another driver or rammed another vehicle on purpose."<sup>4</sup> We need to dial down men. People are not intentionally being disrespectful, they're simply following the leading of their internal "Me Monster" (I'm borrowing this very appropriate phrase from one of the funniest comedians

I've ever heard, Brian Regan). Let's give each other a lot of grace while driving.

## **RAH Cravings and Work**

Let's move from the roadways to your cubicle. When did you last feel disrespected at work? When did you feel like your boss/captain/coach/client or peers didn't rightly honor the quality of your work, or the value of your expertise, or your depth of experience? How did it make you feel? Are you having trouble shaking those feelings? If so, that's an affirmation that you are like every other man, in need of respect, admiration, and honor.

After publishing my second book in 2017, I took a teaching job with the intention of continuing to write and podcast. My career path has been very diverse, but nothing required as much time and energy as teaching high school. It was so totally time consuming that the only writing and podcasting I did was during the summer break (I discovered summer breaks are so teachers will actually return in August!).

I threw in the towel after two years. But I did not leave teaching school because of the long hours. I had to leave the classroom because I could not endure the non-stop disrespect. It was a health issue for me – spiritually, mentally, and physically. The students talked incessantly, while I was lecturing, and even plundered through my desk drawers when I was out of the room. I don't believe they were intentionally disrespectful. It was evident that most of my students liked me a lot. They had not learned how to respect adults.

My experience confirmed why there aren't many male teachers. Disrespect from students, parents, and

even members of the administration is common. I met a dozen men while I was teaching, who were former teachers but gave it up for reasons similar to mine. It takes a man who is grounded in his own self-respect, and sure of his calling, to endure the disrespect so often found in the classroom. A male teacher can thrive if he knows he is gifted and passionate about teaching school. It's easier for a woman to teach because she naturally has a nurturing heart. I have utmost respect for all school teachers, especially men. They are my new heroes.

Much has been written about the lack of respect in today's classrooms, from elementary to even graduate school. Noted author, columnist, and psychologist John Rosemond says that if there is no respect shown in the classroom, it's because there is no respect shown in the home. Sadly, in too many homes, teaching respect has been replaced with making kids feel entitled. Parents, resist this social pressure, and make sure your children respect you fully. Of course to do that, you need to be honorable parents. Dads, you must become, more and more, the kind of man your children can respect. Don't be their buddy. Be their loving leader. Your son and daughter need to learn what being a man of honor looks like. Your influence in their lives is immense, whether you recognize it or not.

Men, the simple fact is you were created to be respected, admired, and honored. That's how a genuine man thrives. That's how a noble man experiences dignity. The profundity of this reality cannot be over emphasized. You were born with a RAH craving. It is your most basic need. And the most important place for a man to *show* respect, and *be* respected, is in his work. That's right. Being created in God's image also means

you were hard-wired to produce, create, conquer, cultivate, contribute – to work.

In Chapter 2, the reasons work is essential to you being strong and whole spiritually, physically, and mentally will become clear.

I'll end this chapter with an inspiring paragraph from the accomplished author, Stephen Mansfield.

“I also got that manly culture doesn't require much more than one genuine man living a noble life before other men. It reminds me of a story they often tell in Texas. They revere the Texas Rangers there – the lawmen, not the baseball team. In the frontier days, there was a riot in a particular town and the mayor of that town frantically called for the Texas Rangers. One Ranger showed up. The mayor couldn't believe it. “One Ranger? What in the world are you guys thinking? We need help!” The Ranger picked his teeth for a moment and then said, “Yes, one Ranger. There's only one riot isn't there?” Then he ended the riot. Texans walk around to this day reminding each other: ‘One riot. One Ranger.’

“The same is true with men as a whole. All it takes for a contagious manly culture to form is for one genuine man to live out genuine manhood. It creates a model, something for other men to feed upon and pattern themselves after. It also gives other genuine men a vital connection that sustains and extends who they are.”<sup>5</sup>