



**GENDER DESIGN  
& REDEMPTION**

grad & career spring '11



**THE WOUNDED MAN**

## ELDREDGE ON WOUNDING

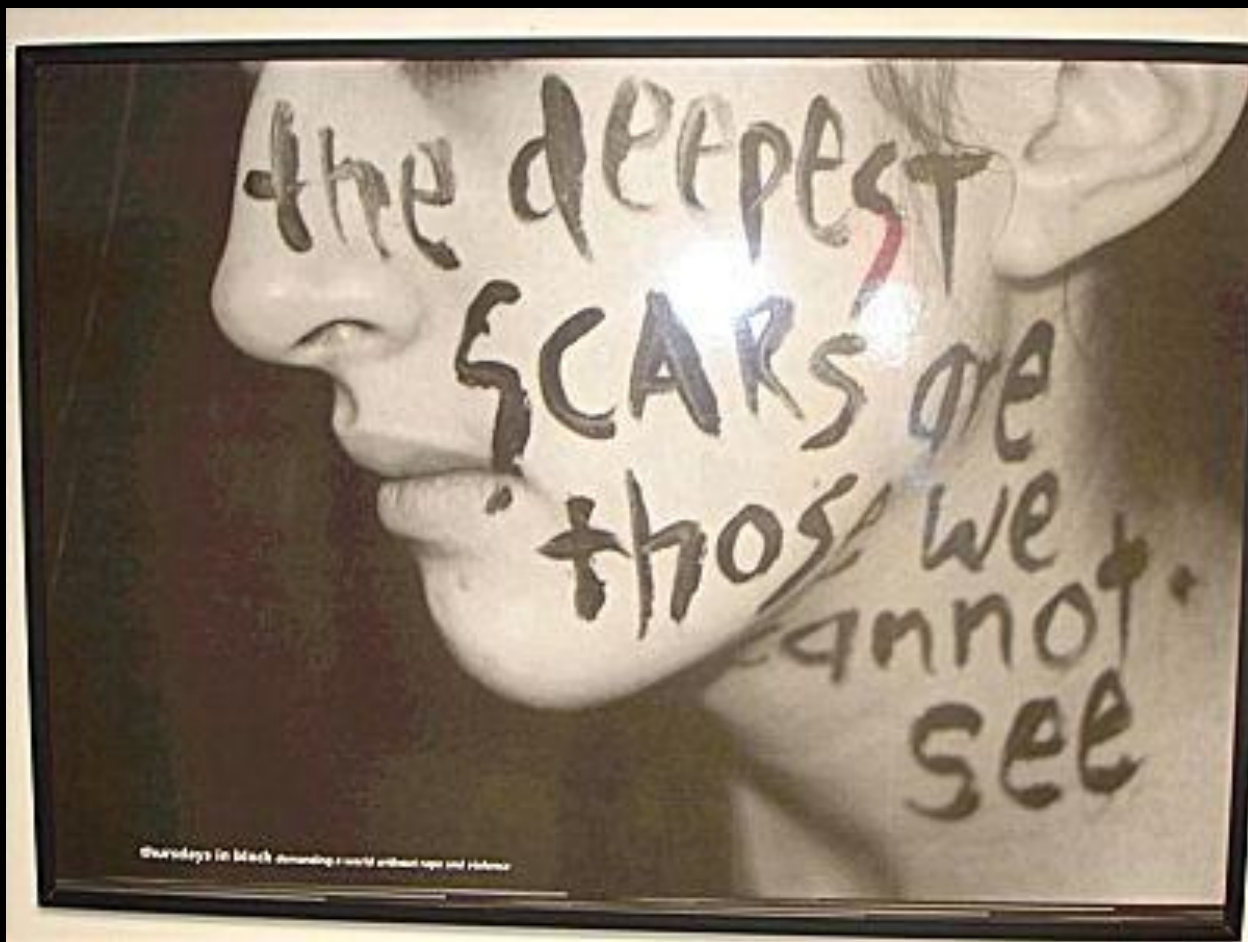
### Focus on Men's Father Wound

- The hurts and sins experienced from our imperfect sinful fathers that shape us
- The masculinity not bestowed upon us by our fathers or other men in our lives
- Our Heavenly Father can redeem us by fathering us where we were not fathered.

ROBERT HICKS  
*THE MASCULINE JOURNEY*

“If men find significant male meaning in being the warrior and being phallic, then anything that defeats us in these areas brings about *a profound sense of loss*. We reason in our minds: ‘If my reason for being is to be a warrior, and warriors are no longer in vogue or the warrior in me has become wounded, then I no longer quite know who I am.’”





## 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

<sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.



**STRENGTH GONE WRONG**

JOHN ELDREDGE  
*THE JOURNEY OF DESIRE*

“God thwarts men where it hurts most – in the field. He strikes a blow in the arena of our labor, our strength. This is our most vulnerable spot. We draw our sense of worth from it. I am not minimizing the importance of intimacy to a man; not at all. But when men get together, they don’t talk about how everyone’s relationship is doing. “Did you hear about Sally and Bill? I wonder if everyone is okay. Maybe we should give them a call.” No, they talk about their achievements (typically with a little embellishment). “I bagged the Zonax account today. Yep. Won’t be long now before I’m running Sales.” A man’s impostors are most often born out of this place in his heart. *Either they offer a false sense of strength, or they relieve a man from having to be strong.* Pornography, for example, does both. The woman says, “I will make you feel like a man by giving myself to you, and you don’t have to do anything at all. You can have the pleasure of a woman without having to *live* with her.” *A man’s deepest desire always relate to his strength*, one way or another, and so the curse for a man strikes him at the core.”

**STRENGTH GONE WRONG  
SPECTRUM**

**ANGRY**

**PASSIVE**



Abuse of strength

*independent – “I don’t need you!”*

nickname: “machoman”

Abstain from strength

*dependent – “I desperately need you!”*

nickname: “nice guy”

**PICTURE OF AN ANGRY MAN:  
ABRAHAM IN GENESIS 12**

12:10 - At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner. <sup>11</sup> As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, “Look, you are a very beautiful woman. <sup>12</sup> When the Egyptians see you, they will say, “This is his wife. Let’s kill him; then we can have her!” <sup>13</sup> So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you.”

<sup>14</sup> And sure enough, when Abram arrived in Egypt, everyone spoke of Sarai’s beauty. <sup>15</sup> When the palace officials saw her, they sang her praises to Pharaoh, their king, and Sarai was taken into his palace. <sup>16</sup> Then Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

<sup>17</sup> But the Lord sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. <sup>18</sup> So Pharaoh summoned Abram and accused him sharply. “What have you done to me?” he demanded. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife? <sup>19</sup> Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ and allow me to take her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and get out of here!” <sup>20</sup> Pharaoh ordered some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions

**PICTURE OF A PASSIVE MAN:  
KING SAUL IN 1 SAMUEL 15**

<sup>12</sup> Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”

<sup>14</sup> But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

<sup>15</sup> Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.” .....

<sup>17</sup> Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel?”

**PICTURE OF A PASSIVE MAN:  
KING SAUL (1 SAMUEL 15)**

<sup>20</sup> “But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. <sup>21</sup> The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.” .....

<sup>24</sup> Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the LORD’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them. <sup>25</sup> Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD.”

<sup>27</sup> As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore.

<sup>30</sup> Saul replied, “I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God.”

## STRENGTH GONE WRONG SPECTRUM

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JESUS IN MATTHEW 16:25

“If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”



**GENDER REDEMPTION  
COMES THROUGH CHRIST**

LARRY CRABB  
*THE SILENCE OF ADAM*

“Men who learn to be fascinated more with Christ than with themselves will become authentic men of our day. Men of this generation must learn to count the cost of following Christ (the cost is easily calculated: everything we have); we must feel the emptiness of our souls until no cost seems too high if it brings us into contact with him; we must resist the influence of a “Christian culture that values self-discovery and self-fulfillment above abandoning ourselves to God. To put it simply, we must be more concerned with knowing Christ than with finding ourselves.”

## PAUL IN 1 CORINTHIANS 1

<sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup> *It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.* <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”



**REDEEMING STRENGTH:**  
*GOING FORTH &  
MAKING AN IMPACT*

## DISCUSSION QUESTION

As you look back on your whole life from childhood till now, what desires, big or small, seem to be generally more common to males?

KEN WATANABE  
*THE LAST SAMURAI*



## HELPFUL BOOKS ON MASCULINITY

- *The Masculine Journey* – Robert Hicks
- *The Silence of Adam* – Larry Crabb
- *Wild at Heart* – John Eldredge

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What *stirs* you as a man?
- What are you *passionate* about?
- What makes your heart *come alive*?
- How do you connect those answers to your vocation, relationships, personal life, & faith

