

**Date:** 13 October 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps Lam Zhengxin | **Topic:** Biblical Manhood  
**Scripture:** Ephesians 5:22-25, Matthew 3:16-4:10

## SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Desire to become godly men whose purpose and identity is found in Christ, and who lead and love their family
2. Commit to practical steps to lead and love their families, and live their lives not to serve themselves but to serve God.

## SERMON SUMMARY

Many of the ideals that our culture has of manhood (hard work, success in careers, staying fit etc.) are worth pursuing, but are also mixed with wrong motivations of self-promotion, self-achievement, and being self-made. In the first of a mini-series on Family Life, Ps Zhengxin discussed biblical manhood, particularly our roles in our families and our purpose and identity in God.

## SERMON RECAP

### 1. A Godly man leads and loves his family.

- In **Ephesians 5:22-23**, we are told that men are to lead their wives. Specifically, in **Ephesians 5:25**, husbands are instructed to lead them out of their love for them: “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”
- *The leadership of our families and our wives must be undergirded by our love for them.*
- The premise for “wives submit to your husbands”, must be “husbands love your wives.” Husbands are to love your wives. And wives are to submit to their husband’s leadership. The more husbands love their wives, the easier it becomes for wives to submit to their husbands. The more the wives submit to their husbands, the easier it becomes for the husbands to love their wives. This is meant to be a virtuous cycle.
- When husbands treat their wives forgivingly, lovingly and tenderly, they will generally receive a more forgiving, loving and tender wives.
- *This is the practical meaning of love: To love not out of convenience. But to love out of sacrifice.*
- **1 Peter: 3:7** – The submission of wives to a husband’s leadership, must be found in the safety of the husband’s love for them.
- Biblical leadership is others-serving, not self-serving. We are to love our wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. This means that men are to love their wives sacrificially. Just as how Christ sacrificed for His bride, husbands are to be sacrificial towards their wives.
- There are practical things women can do to help their husbands lead and serve them better – by encouraging and affirming the good works they see in their brothers in Christ. Affirmation and encouragement are very important to men. Women’s words of affirmation can bring life and encouragement to men.

### 2. A Godly man knows their purpose and identity in God.

- Identity and purpose are so important because they set the foundation for our life direction. Identity and purpose determine a man’s life direction.
- Men are to find their identity and purpose in Christ, not in the world.
- **Matthew 3:16-4:10** describes the narrative of Jesus’s baptism and temptation. In the baptism of Jesus, His identity was affirmed. In the testing of Jesus, His purpose was revealed. Jesus knew what His purpose on earth was. He knew it wasn’t about the riches of this world. And even though He would eventually be given the kingdom of this world, He did not shortcut His way towards it.

- Jesus was clear about His purpose – He knew that His purpose was the salvation of man through His death on the cross.
- Do we know our purpose here on earth? If we are not clear about this ourselves, then the world will define it for us. Are we serving God or are we serving ourselves?
- A godly man leads his life with a God-shaped purpose. A godly man knows his purpose in God.
- If we have resolved to serve God, whether that is in our workplace, in our family, or in society, then it is from Him that we discern what our purpose is.
- God has a call and a purpose for each of us and we all have to discern what that is. If we are unsure of what our purpose is, look at the ABCs of your life. These are clues to what the purpose of your life could be.
  - **A**bility – what are you good at that others are not?
  - **B**urden – What are you burdened or passionate about, that is more than the average person?
  - **C**ircumstances – What opportunities or open doors have God placed you in?
- Purpose will guide our leadership and produce passion.
- Identity precedes purpose – Therefore, before we set out to discover what our purpose is, we need to be secure in what our identity is. We find our identity first and foremost in the love of God – if this is not established, we will find our identity in other things.
- As men, we all want to project an image of strength and stability. However, deep down inside, we all desire to be valued and loved. At the core of who we are, there is a cry of sonship.
- We all desire to be affirmed and valued for who we are, without it being attached to our performance. We all desire to hear from our own fathers, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” We all desire to be affirmed and valued. A father’s words confer identity to their sons.
- While we may not all have good earthly fathers who affirmed us, our Heavenly Father sees us, loves us and is well pleased with us.
- In closing, Ps Lam encouraged all fathers to speak blessings and affirmation over their sons.

# Discussion Questions

## 1. Where does a man build and base his self-worth and identity in?

### Leader's Notes

Ps Zhengxin shared that a Godly man knows his identity and purpose in God. Jesus was clear about His identity and purpose on earth. While this is important for men, this question relates not just to manhood/men, but to all disciples of Jesus.

In today's world, men often find their identity in money, power, and achievements. Have we allowed the world to shape and determine our identity and purpose in life? Leaders can invite members to reflect on their lives and share where they are building and basing their identity and self-worth.

### Transition

We are to find our identity and purpose in Christ, not in the world. May we all lead our lives with a God-shaped purpose.

## 2. A Godly man knows his identity and purpose in God. How can we live our lives with a God-shaped purpose?

Ps Zhengxin suggested that we could look at the ABCs – **A**bility, **B**urden, and **C**ircumstances of your life to discern God's unique purpose for each of us (refer to sermon recap). Leaders can ask members to reflect on these 3 areas in their own lives and invite members to share how they might serve God through the way He has made them, and the opportunities God has given them through their circumstances.

### Transition

*"Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last."* – **C.T. Studd**

Let us be intentional about living our lives with a God-shaped purpose, to serve God and not ourselves.

## 3. How can we better love and submit to each other as husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters?

### Leader's Notes

There are areas of growth for us in our marriage and families. As men, we can do better as husbands, fathers, and sons. As women, we can do better to be more encouraging to our husbands, fathers, and sons/daughters.

Encourage members to consider practical ways they can love and submit to each other in their families.

- As men, when was the last time you sacrificed for your wives? How can you exercise Biblical leadership, to lead and love your wives and families sacrificially out of love and not out of convenience? As Fathers, how can we speak blessing and affirmation over our sons and daughters and confer identity over our sons through our words?
- As women, how can you be more encouraging towards your husbands, fathers, sons, and daughters, knowing that affirmation and encouragement are very important to men?

### Closing

May we desire to become more godly men and women and learn to love and serve each other as Christ loves the church.

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

## 1. Sermon Application

- Pray for the men to rise up to lead their families sacrificially, out of love and not out of convenience
- Pray for God to help women to speak words of encouragement and affirmation to the men in their lives
- Pray for Fathers to speak blessings and affirm their sons and daughters

## 2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church, as we navigate through this season of transition. Pray for our leaders (pastors, elders, senior leadership team, etc.) to abide in Christ as they work together as one to move the church forward to fulfil our vision and mission.

## 3. World

- Continue to pray for the various nations that are at war:
  - a. Russia and Ukraine
  - b. Myanmar (Civil War) – Pray for the situation where military service was made compulsory for man and woman between the ages of 18 and 35.
  - c. Israel, Hamas, Hezbollah & Lebanon – For the conflict to end quickly.
- Continue to pray for countries that have an escalated conflict situation:
  - a. Japan, China and the Philippines in the South China Sea
  - b. North & South Korea
- Continue to pray for countries recovering from recent natural disasters:
  - a. Taiwan – Typhoon Krathon
  - b. Indonesia – Landslide at Illegal mine
- Pray for Singapore
  - a. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
- Other Global Issues
  - a. Pray for the resurgence of the mpox virus in Africa.
  - b. Clashes with police in Pakistan

## 4. Opportunities for Outreach

- € Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- € Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

## 1. Loving Families through RiverLife Community Services.

RiverLife Community Services (RCS) is the community arm of RiverLife Church that brings Kingdom transformation to local communities. We rejoice as RCS was awarded the People's Association Community Spirit Award (Merit) in July. RCS empowers low-income families through various ways. From Apr to Sep this year:

Our centre-based programmes in Sengkang

- Empowered 65 children, mentored 26 youths & equipped 47 families
- 5 workshops & outings were organised for families

Our community outreach efforts in various neighbourhoods

- Connected 419 residents through 74 community events
- Witnessed 13 salvations
- Supported by a pool of 180 RiverLifers

Help RCS continue transforming families and communities by reaching their faith goal of \$250,000 from now until 31Dec 2024.

Donate online at [rlc.sg/rcs-oneforone](http://rlc.sg/rcs-oneforone) to have your contribution matched dollar to dollar under a government grant.

All donations are eligible for 250% tax deductions.

## 2. Caleb Ministry (For Seniors Aged 55 & Above). Every 2nd Sat of the month 9am-12.30pm.

*Next Gathering: Sat, 9 Nov | Rail Corridor (North)*

Wellness in the Lord means we take care of our bodies, soul and spirit (1 Cor 3:16-17, 6:19-20). For our gathering in Nov, we invite seniors to join us for a 4.2km walk at Rail Corridor (North).

Register at [rlc.sg/calebwalk](http://rlc.sg/calebwalk) by Tue, 5 Nov.

There is no cost to join the gathering, but food will be at your own expense.

For enquiries, please contact Christine at [christinetan@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:christinetan@riverlife.org.sg).

## 3. Discipleship @ Home (Organised by SuperLife Children's Ministry). For Parents of Primary & Preschool Children.

- Primary
  - a. Sun, 3 Nov, 9am-11am. Grace Chapel.
  - b. Cultivating Godly Habits As A Family
  - c. Speaker: Dr Morgan Zhou (Vice Principal of ACS Primary and Chairperson, TRAC Board of Children Ministry, Methodist Church in Singapore)
- Preschool
  - a. Sun, 17 Nov, 9am-11am. Faith Chapel.
  - b. Building Godly Character In Our Children
  - c. Speaker: Pastor Elaine Kwok (Children's Pastor, Queensway Baptist Church)
- Sign up to attend: [rlc.sg/dah](http://rlc.sg/dah)

#### 4. RiverLife Kindergarten Annual Graduation Concert Sat, 9 Nov, 9am to 12pm.

- RiverLife Kindergarten will be holding their Annual Graduation Concert this year-end. They're looking for volunteers to serve as:
  - a. Classroom Helpers: Touch up children's hair, take care of them before and after their performances
  - b. Greeters & Ushers: Welcome guests and usher them to their seats
  - c. Stage Helpers: Help in moving children up and down the stairs Volunteers are highly encouraged to be available for a pre-concert rehearsal.
- Combined Full-dress Rehearsal: Thu, 7 Nov | 8.30am to 12pm | Worship Centre
- Actual Concert Day: Sat, 9 Nov | 9am to 12pm | Worship Centre
- *Sign up to serve:*
  - a. Email Oi Leng at [oileng@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg](mailto:oileng@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg)
  - b. Call Linda Chong at 6511 4103

#### 5. Volunteering with RCS.

- a. *Maths Tutor for Primary 1 to 4. Serve from now until end Oct*  
Come alongside and provide academic support for our beneficiaries as they prepare for their year-end exams. Sessions will be online via Zoom for 1.5 hours, once a week. Day and time can be discussed and confirmed between volunteer and student as per their schedules.
- b. *BLESS Family Volunteer. Serve for a minimum of 6 months.*  
Journey with a family in need through building friendship and supplying month groceries and necessities. You will serve once a month and an hour each time. Specific time and date to be arranged at your convenience.

Registration: [rlc.sg/rcs-serve24](http://rlc.sg/rcs-serve24)

#### 6. RiverLife Missions. Mission trip schedule for 2024 is out now on our Missions website! Discover how you can sow into the nations this year: [rlc.sg/missions](http://rlc.sg/missions)

1. **YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).**  
The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are interested in joining the gatherings and would like to find out more, connect with us on our Telegram Channel: [rlc.sg/ya](https://t.me/rlc.sg/ya).

Gathering Dates: 2 Nov, 14 Dec (Christmas Outreach)

2. **Caleb Ministry (For Seniors).** Caleb Ministry is part of our ongoing churchwide discipleship efforts, and aims to encourage, equip, and empower our seniors to live an abundant life (John 10:10) in their autumn years. The Caleb Ministry gathers on a bi-monthly frequency.

Gathering Dates: 9 Nov, 14 Dec

3. **RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: [rlc.sg/rpr-watch](https://rlc.sg/rpr-watch))
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: [rlc.sg/revivenights](https://rlc.sg/revivenights))

We encourage you to set aside every Wednesday for a time of fasting.

4. **Quarterly Calendar for Key English Adult Congregation Events**

*\*Some dates are tentative and subjected to change. Stay updated via our digital bulletin and our social media channels for the latest information.*

<b>Quarter 4</b>
<u>October</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3</li><li>• 16 to 23 Oct – Feast of the Tabernacles</li><li>• 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth)</li></ul>
<u>November</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 02 Nov – YA Gathering</li><li>• 3 &amp; 17 Nov – Discipleship @ Home for Parents of Primary &amp; Preschool Children</li><li>• 7 to 9 Nov – Ministry Orientation Camp for Sec 1s</li><li>• 9 Nov – Caleb Ministry Gathering</li><li>• 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3</li></ul>
<u>December</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering</li><li>• 19 to 21 Dec – Youth Conference</li><li>• 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend</li></ul>

# Ministry & Opportunities



## 1. The 9M Ministry.

This ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

- Receive Prayer Support: [rlc.sg/9m](https://rlc.sg/9m)
- Provide Prayer Support: [rlc.sg/serve](https://rlc.sg/serve)

## 2. Missions Microsite.

Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit [rlc.sg/missions](https://rlc.sg/missions).

## 3. RiverLife Cares Opportunities.

Enquiries/Registration: [rlc.sg/serve-rlcar](https://rlc.sg/serve-rlcar)

## 4. Prayer Ministry.

If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RiverLife's RTF ministry: [rlc.sg/rtf](https://rlc.sg/rtf)



## 1. Bible Reading Plan.

The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: [rlc.sg/brp](http://rlc.sg/brp)

- 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
- 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
- Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)

## 2. RiverLife Podcast.

The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is [rlc.sg/podcast](http://rlc.sg/podcast) or simply search 'The RiverLife Podcast' on Spotify.

## 3. Spiritual Growth Resources.

We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at [rlc.sg/resource](http://rlc.sg/resource). This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

## 4. Testimony.

If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at [stories@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:stories@riverlife.org.sg) to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

## 5. Stay Connected with RLC.

Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.

WhatsApp Broadcast: [rlc.sg/wachannelinvite](http://rlc.sg/wachannelinvite)

Telegram Channel: [t.me/RiverLifeChurch](https://t.me/RiverLifeChurch)

Facebook & Instagram: [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.instagram.com/riverlifechurchsg)

## ONLINE GIVING TO MISSIONS

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### Interbank Transfer

UOB Account 450-309634-4

Kindly indicate "Missions" in your transaction reference.



## ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

### PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200100806DSCB.

### Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: DBS Autosave 029-902431-0

Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



## ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

### PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200711586WDON

Kindly indicate your NRIC No. under the Bill Reference to qualify for tax deduction.

