



DON'T BE A SON OF THE DEVIL.

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Alright guys, night out, guys. Night out. So good to see you guys. Hey, how many of you are the new guys? Raise your hand. Hey, can we welcome all the new guys? Thanks for joining us, gentlemen. You made a good decision here in the best place with the best guys. Uh, my name's Pastor Mark honored to teach, and uh, we're doing a little series Dominion for Dudes. And the point is this, you have authority that you're under and then your father shares and delegates that authority with you to exercise in various areas of your life as a man. And the truth is, there's lots of ways that we divide people in our world. You know, are you young? Are you old? Are you rich? Are you poor? Are you republican or wrong? You know, different ways of dividing people. And um, and so in the Bible, really there are two categories and it all rises and falls with who your father is. And the Bible says that God is a father and he has sons. And Satan is a father and he has sons. And really the battle on the earth is between these two fathers and these two families. So I wanna look at this, that every man tends to think of themselves as independent, autonomous and authority unto themselves. But really we're all under authority. We're all sons. We're either sons of God or sons of the devil. And here's a story, uh, from the life of Jesus, a true story. He has an argument with some religious leaders. And the argument is, uh, are you, are you under the father? Are you under the devil? And here's what Jesus says in John eight, beginning of verse 32. Uh, they'll put it on the screen. You will know the truth. The truth will set you free. That's the key. They answered him. And these are the religious leaders. And some of you guys, you may wonder what we're doing. Well, we wanna be the father sons. We don't want to be the religious guys. We don't. We wanna be the guys who have a relationship with our father and relationship with our brothers. And sometimes the greatest enemy to what God is doing are the religious guys. The smarmy, nitpicking, holier than thou. I read the footnotes. I'm a total nerd. I don't do anything, but I'm here to put on a striped shirt, blow a whistle, and criticize your life. These are the religious guys. Uh, he's the answer to him. Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, if you are Abraham's children, you would be doing the works. Abraham did. But now you seek to kill me. A man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You're doing your, the works of your father. Like father like son. Okay, your father did. They said to him, we were not born of sexual immorality. Now they're going after his mom. They're saying, you know, your mom said she was a virgin. Ha ha ha. That's what they all say. At least we know who our father is. Your mom slept with so many dudes. Um, you don't even know who your dad is. I mean, this is, this is getting dark fast. You're doing the works. Your father, you were, uh, we were not born of sexual em, marity. We have one father. Even God. They're like God's, our father. And Jesus said to them, um, if God were your father, you would love me. For I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me, you were of your father, the, the devil. There's two fathers. There's God the Father, and there's the devil who is a father. And both of them have sons. And the argument here is Jesus, who is literally the son of God, is having an argument with the religious guys. And he's telling them, you don't have the Father, you have the devil as your father. Um, he was a murderer from the beginning. Does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks of his own accord. For he is a liar and the father of lies. Uh, but because I tell you the truth, Jesus goes on to argue. So here's the big idea. You are a man and you are a man under authority. And like father, like son, either God is your father or the devil is your father. And the argument here is this, how do we know who our father is? Well, if you believe the truth, then God is your father. And if you believe a lie, then Satan is your father. 'cause Satan is the father of lies. What this means is every lie in our world ultimately began with Satan. All of the spin, the the negative narrative, the media, all of the deception, all of the algorithms, all of the platforms,

all of the disinformation and misinformation, it all started with Satan. And everyone who is telling a lie or believing a lie is actually a son of the devil. And they're perpetuating war against God and his sons. And so what I want to talk about is some of the most prevalent myths that the father of lies is telling men. And here's why I want you to know what those lies are. I want you to reject those lies. And I want you to receive the truth. Jesus just told us that the truth does something. It, it does what? It sets you free. So Satan is a liar and he's a father and he lies to all men. And if we believe that lie, then we operate his, his son. And then when we hear the truth of God, if we believe that, it sets us free to live for the destiny that God has for us. So what I want to do, it's a bit of a, a different talk, but I want to talk about some of the most common lies that the father of lies has told men in our culture. And the sad truth is most men believe them and as a result, they're not living as a son of God. They're living as a son of the devil. The first one is this, uh, this is the lie that goes out to all men. Don't be emotional or relational. 'cause a real man doesn't have emotion and doesn't have relationship. Now how many of you guys, you grew up with a dad not to be negative or pejorative, but like your dad was just not emotional. He was not emotionally present, or he had one emotion angry, that's it. Or he was non-relational. Some men are just not relational. Some of you guys are like, I don't really know my dad. He he didn't really ever say anything what he was thinking doing. I, I don't really know. It's just my dad wasn't emotional or relational. And there's a whole generation of men, um, especially older generations of men, they were told, just don't be emotional and don't be relational. 'cause men are emotional and men aren't relational. The truth is, men and women have the same emotions. We just expressed them in masculine and feminine ways. True. Like my wife, um, gets happy and she giggles. I don't, you know, I get happy, but I don't giggle. Right? Um, as well, I do get emotional. I'll be honest with you. This, I, I think I cry more than my wife, but I don't, I tend not to cry out of sadness. I tend to cry out of joy. So like, there are times when my daughter, how many of you, your daughters make you cry? My daughters make my daughters all the time. It's like a superpower. I didn't, you know it. So my daughters like, dad, I love you. Could I talk to you? Could you? Yes, I would like to do that. You know, so, uh, most of my tears are shed with my daughters in joy. So when I get really joyful, I don't giggle. Especially if it's my daughters. I tend to get very emotional. So let's look at Jesus. Jesus is God, become a man. He's perfect as a man. Was Jesus emotional? Yeah, he was very, he was very emotional. Um, in all four gospels, it mentions Jesus emotions about 60 times. And Jesus was nothing like Spock in Star Trek. Uh, he was emotionally present. Let me just look at one of the four gospels, Matthew, mark, Luke, and John. I'll look at Mark 'cause that's obviously the most handsome name for a book of the Bible. So we'll look at that one. And then just different translations, just read with me the emotions. Uh, 1 41, pity, compassion, or he was indignant. Three, five, anger, grieved, anger and sorrow, anger and deeply distressed or angrily, deeply saddened. Uh, six, six, marveled amazed wondered. Six, uh, 34 as well as chapter eight, verse two, chapter nine, verse 22. Compassion, just so you know, that is the number one most frequently mentioned emotion of Jesus Christ. In the Bible, he had compassion. You know what that means? You're not a godly man like your father and Jesus, your big brother. If you don't have compassion for people, if you have compassion, that's actually masculine maturity. 7 34, he sighed. He sighed deeply. Deep sigh. How about this one? On the next slide, eight 12 sighed deeply in his spirit. 10 21 he loved, he felt a love with love and genuine love. A lot of times men are told, oh, don't say I love you. Well, if you have a wife and kids, you sure better. And when grandkids come, you should double down. Say it all the time. 14 33 and 34, greatly distressed and troubled. My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. And then on the cross, Jesus says, my God, my God, why have you forsaken me? True or false? Jesus was

emotional. Shortest verse in the Bible. Jesus wept, was Jesus immature? No. Was he effeminate? No. Was he mature and masculine? Yes. And was he emotional? Yes. So some of you guys, especially those of you who maybe you grew up with stoic father, or maybe you're the older generations that were taught not to be emotional. Just remember your goal is not to be like your earthly father, but like your heavenly father. And ultimately you, you should be the guys who kiss your kids, you know, uh, on the head. Tell 'em you love 'em. You should hold your daughter's hand. You should be doing daddy dates. You should be telling your kids that you love 'em. You should be telling your wife that you love her. When your kids or your wife are going through something, it's okay to get emotional and to grieve with them, to process them to be emotionally present and to have compassion. And men who do that, what they can then do is enjoy relationship. If you're non-emotional, you're non-relational. And so one of the lies that men are told as well is that you should just be, uh, not only non-emotional, but also you should be non-relational. That you should be completely autonomous and self-sufficient. And this is where, you know, we all grow up watching movies. So let's just do a little verbal process here. Movies where there's just one guy against the world all by himself. And that's kind of the hero of the Western narrative. Gimme some examples of those guys. John, John, John Wayne, Bruce Willis Rambo. Clint Eastwood, right? Terminator. Uh, so you guys see this right? In our western culture, a lot of the narratives are the best men are non-emotional. Like Clint Eastwood not super emotional. Uh, John Wayne, not super emotional. Rambo won emotion. Um, violent murderous rage, um, would be rough. Had a quinceanera to have that guy around. But he is helpful when the bad guys show up. So non-emotional and then non-relational. Everything they do, they do independently. They're all by themselves. And uh, lemme talk about that. And this is why I wanna honor that you guys are here. Part of the reason we get together, we wanna encourage men how to be emotionally masculine, mature and healthy. Like, I'll be honest with you, I've got three sons. They're all taller than me, which isn't a huge, you know, accomplishment, but, um, but I tell 'em I love 'em. And they tell me that they love me all the time. I, I love you son. I love you too, dad. All the time. I want to tell 'em, you know, all the time so that when they grow up, I've made so many deposits that, uh, when I screw up and make a withdrawal, they know I love 'em. Okay? We wanna be those guys. And then when you're emotional, you can be relational. And the first thing that God said in the Bible, it wasn't good to be alone at that point. That was our father, Adam, our our biological father. We all descend from him. He had no sin and a perfect relationship with God. And it still wasn't good to be alone. Well, now we are sinners and we don't have a perfect relationship with God. And if it wasn't good for him, it's certainly not good for us. The Bible uses the word brother about 800 times or more, okay? Just think about that brother denotes what a couple of guys who look out for one another, care for one another in a masculine and also a mature way, okay? And so the Bible gives us this category for how we connect with one another. The reason that we do this, men, there's a lot of reasons, but one is just for you to find your brothers, to find a few guys. You're like, Hey, I like them and I like them and they love Jesus and I love Jesus. And uh, you know what? We're gonna pray for one another. We're gonna support one another. Maybe our wives can be friends. Maybe our kids can be friends. This'll be kind of our relational community. These are the people that we do life with. 'cause the world has lost its freaking mind. And we don't wanna pick those people to come to our house. 'cause the dad's wearing a dress and you know, the mom wrote a broom and the the kids are all taking hormone replacement therapy. You're like, no, thank you. You know, so you're looking for people that are like-minded. In addition, uh, the Bible uses the word friend about a hundred times. And Jesus Christ comes to the earth. He is emotional. We've established that.

Was he relational? Yes. Yeah. His 12 disciples were his, those were his brothers. Those were his friends. Now, one of 'em was a dud. You're always gonna have one dud. Don't be the dud, right? His name is Judas. But if Jesus is emotional and he comes to the earth and he grabs a few guys for brotherhood and relationship and he is the perfect man and lives the perfect life, then being emotional and relational must be the way that life is to be lived. And so with Jesus, he has his 12. But then within that Jesus has, uh, three that are kind of his closest brothers and buddies. Do you guys know who those guys are? Peter, James, and John. They're there at sacred moments when other people aren't there. Uh, these are like his closest friends. And then they've got like a group of buddies. So these are like, if I was gonna go hunting or fishing, um, you know, or I had four tickets to uh, a game, I would call those three guys. And we'd go, well, let's say we're gonna do a hunting trip or a camping trip or a fishing trip, or we're gonna have an open house party and we're gonna watch the Super Bowl. We'd invite those additional eight guys and there'd be the 12 of us. This is his friend group. And here's what the Bible says about friendship. A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity. You know who your brothers are when you're down. Your brothers are the people that when everybody else is walking out, they're walking in when everybody else is sort of taking a step back. 'cause you're in a tough season. They take a step forward to help you through that season. And sometimes you don't even know who your brothers are till you really hit adversity. Um, about a almost a decade ago, went through the hardest season of my whole life, canceled, moved across country, relational shift, all of that. I was really shocked. There were certain people I would've thought, they're my best friends. They're gonna be there forever gone. People I didn't really know there. And still there a decade later, they're like, it's interesting. Sometimes adversity really reveals who your brothers are. Okay? Um, in addition, it says this in, uh, Proverbs 18:24, A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there's a friend that sticks closer than a brother. And here's what he's saying. You don't need a ton of brothers, you just need a few. You can have a hundred relationships. But when you really hit that season where you need advice or counsel or someone confidential to walk with, you don't need a hundred people. You just need a few brothers that you can really trust and talk to. That's where I would just tell you men, as we've been meeting now for a while and things are going incredible. I mean, that's, it's, you guys need to know I love you with all my heart and I look forward to this every week. And I go home after our time together and I talk my wife's ear off. Uh, 'cause I'm so excited telling the stories about what God's doing in your life. I, I drink a whiskey and coke and I eat nachos. Um, I'm not saying you should, I'm saying pray about it. But I, that's what I do. And so I'm here every week 'cause I am so excited to see what God is doing in your life. And I am so excited that I have a hard time sleeping after we get together. It's such an honor to have you, man. I just hope you genuinely know that emotionally you mean a great deal to me. I deeply care for you and you matter and your marriage matters and your family matters, and your job matters. And your life matters to me. It matters very and very emotional about this. And when you guys get together and I see you meeting your brothers and all of a sudden it's like, Hey, we're going fishing, we're going hunting. Our families are getting together. Our wives are double date. I'm like, praise God, right now you guys are being emotionally activated, relationally connected. And you know what? Life just goes better. 'cause we were made by God for relationship. And here's what we see. Um, this is an interesting statistic that came out. Uh, friendship decline is more pronounced in men. If you look from 1990 to 2021, the number of men that have no close friends went from three to 15%. Imagine that you have a bad day. There's nobody to call. You have a good day. There's nobody to tell. Um, and then what you see here is, uh, let's say, uh, two friends or less. What is that? 28, 34. Uh, 49% of men have two friends or

less. That's half of men only have two guys that are a friend. Um, now if you notice on the flip side, women tend to be very, very relational. And so what we're seeing is we're seeing an increase with men of depression, suicidal ideation, anger issues. And it's because life is very difficult. And let me say this, life is especially difficult on a man. And it is doubly difficult on a man who's trying to obey God because nothing in this world is set up to help you. It's all set up to oppose you. You're like, I wanna be heterosexual. You don't get a month for that, right? I want to get married. Um, you don't get public support for that. I want to have children and I wanna raise them to be boys and girls. Well, now you're against the entire public school system, which is a government school and most of the entertainment platforms. And I wanna read my Bible. Well, well now you've declared war on the world, and I wanna raise my family to love and serve God. Everything is against you. And so ultimately, if you can find a few friends to walk with you through the battle, that will help strengthen you. I just kind of think of it. There's a guy in the Old Testament named Daniel. He's a young man. He's taken hostage as a prisoner of war into a nation called Babylon. And he made it, you know why? He had a couple of brothers? If you're gonna live in Babylon, you better have some brothers. Let me just say this, you live in Babylon. And so why we're here is to help you find your brothers. But statistically, the more that men are non-emotional, non-rational, those men are suffering and self-destructing. Here's the other lie. Uh, this is the, this is a massive lie. And I this is especially for you young men, but it is that passive men are good men. Passive men are good men. What? Yeah. Good for what? That's a good question, brother. Um, and so really what we're telling a whole generation of young men is don't pursue a woman for marriage. Be passive. Don't pursue a job or a career. Be passive. Don't pursue change in the world. Be passive. And the truth is, God made men to be active and God made men to be activated. And Satan wants men to be passive because he knows that the most powerful thing in the world is a man. How do I know this? When God wanted to change the world, he could have sent anyone or anything. And he decided to come as a, as a man. Jesus Christ is God, become man. And when God chose to change the world, he came as a man. That tells me that an active man is the only hope for the world. Which is why Satan, the father of lies and all of the cultural trappings that support him, the encouragement to be passive. Lemme give you a few scriptures. First Thessalonians five 14 brothers admonish the idol. Say we are the brothers. And what we're doing here, we're admonishing the idol. So question, what does it mean to be idle? What, what's an idol guy not doing anything, working, paying his own bills, moving out of his mother's house, raising his own children, fathering and feeding his own family. And so our, our line here, if you're new, is more fathers less government. That's our thesis. More fathers, less government. If men are idle than the government has to come in. And it has to protect women and children and house women and children, and feed women and children and, and educate women and children. And ultimately, I'm telling you that most of the systems that are seeking to replace the men, they are run by the father of lies. I'm just telling you, I believe that Satan runs the government. I believe he runs public government schools. I believe he runs the media. I believe that he is setting the agenda for the culture. And most of the world is following the leadership of the father of lies. And part of it is trying to get young men to be act to be passive rather than active. How many of you guys are single? Let me talk to the single guys. Okay? Single guys. Uh, a couple of verses for you. Deuteronomy 24 1. Uh, just read it with me. A man. What takes active or passive, passive active. Take a wife. Not like, like a caveman, you know, but you're like, like, come now. No, not like that. But what it means is that if you're a single guy, you should want to marriage. Okay? You said marriage. What you meant was have sex. Let's just be honest. Okay? I'm, I'm just gonna be honest, right? If you're, if you're a guy,

you look at a girl, you're like, I'd like to have sex. And then God says, you gotta get married. So then you're like, okay, I need to get married. Okay? Can we just be honest? Right? So and so, and it's, you don't, let me just say, so you don't just, you don't get married just for the sex. Like you're gonna have to do some laundry and talk and there's some other things that are involved. Um, the married guys are testifying now. Um, true. The father of lies will tell you otherwise. I'm just telling you how it works. So if you wanna have sex, you need to get married. And if you want to get married, you need to be active and you need to take initiative. Looking for a wife. There's a whole generation of passive guys. And some of you guys are hyper spiritual and adorable. You're like, well, if the Lord wants me to marry, I'm sure he'll bring a girl to my mom's basement to find me. No, no. If that girl does show up, you don't wanna marry her. Uh, how about this one, Matthew 2230. It speaks of a daughter or a wife. A woman is given in marriage. So even in a relationship where a man is seeking a wife, the man needs to be active. And then the wife needs to be, the woman needs to be pursued. We even show this in a wedding. How many of you guys have had a daughter get married? Okay, I, I, my daughter got married. What happens before she enters the altar, the father does what walks her, walks her down the aisle, and he is giving her, we actually have this in the wedding ceremony for Christians. Like the pastor will ask, who gives this woman to be married? And then the father will say, either I do or her mother and I. And it's literally giving the woman to marriage. This is biblical language. So, um, here's, this is what's so weird. This is how passive men have become, okay, here's statistics. Um, this is date psychology, 55% of men, which I'm not sure we're allowed to use that word under the circumstances, but we'll just go the quote. 55% of men have felt a quote, profound, an enduring state of unhappiness, uneasiness, and discontent about single hood. And 45% of men ages 18 to 25 have never approached a woman in person, mainly out of fear of rejection. Shots fired. Okay? Um, so, okay, if you went to public school, you're like, what? So here, here's how this works. 55% of guys are like, I hate being single. I hate it. And 45%, like, and I wanna talk to girls. This is so true or false. This is weird. You're like, I'm hungry, but I'm scared of grocery stores. Like, I don't understand. Like, this is the custom built solution for your problem. Why do young men not talk to young women? They're over mothered. They're under fathered. They're passive. They're passive. And they use technology. So they're like, you know what? Well, maybe, maybe, maybe I could find a wife. Lemme just tell you this, that's probably a dude who's lying to you or a t****y that you won't know until the honeymoon night. You gotta do your research. You gotta meet this person to look for the Adams app, okay? I'm just telling you, you gotta do your homework. It's a scary day, this public service announcement, okay? For those of you who are with us on the internet, thank you for joining us. Goodbye. Okay, so, so why do, why do young men not take initiative to approach a woman? Why? Because they're gonna get rejected. Rejected. Well, lemme just say this, gentlemen, that means you're right when you started, it's not really a loss, right? You're like, I'm single. She said, no, I'm still single. Pretty much I feel like you're even, and it's like, it's like a door to door salesman. Just keep asking until you get one that says yes, okay? Like it's process of elimination. No, you have any friends, you know, you gotta, Because being a man is about what? It's about being rejected. Okay? I'm 53. Google me. I'll just tell you eventually you get used to it. I, i, it's just the way it works. How about this one for passive men? Uh, oh, I got one more stat on the active versus passive men. Um, nope. Next one please. Okay, I'll go to the next one. Um, we lost that one. Uh, the other lie for men is, uh, single men, again, single men, I love you. I'm gonna put the dad hat on today. One of the lies is cohabitation is practice for marriage. Okay? So let me ask the dads, dads, what is dads with daughters? Uh, custom design question. What is cohabitation Sin? Sin Sin. Death Sentence.

Death sentence, Prison time. Okay, so if you're a single guy, you would've had different definitions, okay? But here's what cohabitation is. You're living together, sleeping together, but you're not married. Marriage is a covenant that is consummated. You don't live with a woman or sleep with a woman until she's your wife. Okay? Here's what the Bible says. Hebrews 13, four. So the father of lies has lied to the whole culture telling guys, lemme just tell you what the father of lies says. Lemme ask the single guys. So we're just doing this, just us girls. Um, so single guys, um, why, why are young men encouraged to live or sleep with a girl before they marry her? Why? But what are the things you're told? You gotta try it before you buy it. Women love hearing that, by the way. It's so romantic. You're like, yeah, I was buying a car, took a test drive. You know, what do you think? And so, you know, women don't like being talked about like that. And fathers definitely don't like hearing that about their daughters. What other lies are you told from the father of lies? Why should you live and sleep with her before you marry her? Make sure you're compatible. Lemme tell you this, you're not, lemme just save you a lot of grief. There's never a guy who married a girl and is like, oh my goodness, effortless. We just, it's, it's amazing. Like, we don't have struggles or issues. I leave the lid up, she gets baptized in the middle of the night. We have no issues whatsoever. You're not compatible. And so you're gonna get married and you're gonna learn how to annoy each other until you learn how to serve one another. I've been married 31 years. Um, we're still working on it, okay? That's just the way that it is. And also you are told, uh, lemme just ask you single guys, you can be honest. We're in church. Other reasons You're told you should live or sleep with a woman before you marry her. Somebody mumbled. I don't know what that was. How many of you have heard? So, so that we can see sexually if she lives up to expectations, right? And, and, and what this creates then is there is no way that a healthy woman can be free with you until she's married to you. Because you don't practice for covenant relationship. You're either in or out. And so for a woman to be free, she has to feel safe for her to be safe, she needs to be your wife. In addition, if you sleep with a lot of women and you're comparing your wife to that woman, how in the world do you anticipate to have a healthy marriage? And I'll just tell you as a father, like I'll, I'll speak on behalf of all the fathers. Any guy who shows up and he's like, yeah, your daughter's attractive. I've slept with a lot of girls. I was wonder if I could sleep with her and see how she stacks up. How many dads. You're like, Hey man, we're going out and you're not coming back like you. Like you don't, because the thing is like, you need to love your wife. What you don't do is use and abuse your wife. And I'll, I'll assure you guys, I verbal process these all the time. So I'm just kind of thinking I'll never forget I was in college. I was a brand new Christian, brand new I, I I'd, I'd grown up believing everything, taught me by the father of lies. And now I'm the father son. And now I'm just starting to learn the truth and it's starting to set me free. I'll never forget I was in a university class on speech and, uh, the other Christian Guy in the class, he'd been a Christian for a long time, I'm brand new. He got up and the whole class was speech communication class. All the guys were in fraternities and these, these were not good men. These were not good men. So he got up and he gave a whole talk on the benefits of virginity before marriage thought, oh my gosh, I hope he brought a helmet and more a cup. This is gonna be fun. 'cause at the end of the talk they opened it up for any questions. So this is like a Monday and these guys are still hung over from the weekend. And one of the guys, he talked about how he was engaged to be married and how he had not even kissed his fiance and wouldn't until their wedding. And, and both of 'em were virgins. What do you think the first question was from one of the hungover frat guys. How do you know if she's any good? And his answer, I'll never forget, he said, how will I know if she's not? He's like, if I've kissed one woman and slept with one woman, that's the best I've ever

had. And I thought, you know, that makes sense to me, that makes sense to me. Um, and so the, the lies in the culture are that if you live and sleep together, you can see if you're compatible and that it will help prepare you for marriage. So here's a, a study that this is just regular data, um, timing of cohabitation and marital disillusion. Here's what happens. If you live and sleep together before you're married, you have a 34% chance of divorce. If you don't, your divorce rate goes down to 23%. Just these are just the facts. The facts are God's way is still the best way. And what's interesting, Scott, uh, Stanley and Galena Rhodes, they're two of the leading researchers in the country on cohabitation. 50 to 65% of Americans believe that cohabitation before marriage will ruin your life. And that you should live and sleep together before you're married. 'cause that's the best way to figure out if you're compatible. The younger generations tend to believe this lie more pronounced, uh, 70% of couples cohabit. And literally, if you will, just as a man say, I want to do things God's way and not believe the lie of the father of lies, that I should live and sleep with her before we're married. Even if you don't know Jesus, your marriage will be better and your divorce rates will decrease. Now, if you do both know and love Jesus, actually your divorce rates will decrease significantly and your marital satisfaction statistically will rise. The next lie. I'll hit the last few quickly. The lie to single men is this, how many of you're single guys, here's the lie that the father of lies tell single men, marriage will ruin your life. This is now trending on social media guys who are trashing girls and talking about the benefits of just stacking a body count and never getting a bride. Here's what God says, Genesis two, the Lord God said it is not good that the man should be alone. Okay? It's not good to be alone. Uh, I've said it, but, uh, George Gilder, he wrote a, a book, um, men in Marriage and his subtitle, I think, is, um, civilization is built by Men with Families to Feed. And the point is this, by yourself, all of your masculine strength and energy, you're either gonna become inactive and passive like that lie, or you're going to use all that strength and energy to go do evil rather than good and to break things rather than build them. And so what a wife is for a man, um, it gives him purpose and dignity and motive and responsibility. It's not good for a man to be alone. I will make a helper fit for him. Therefore, a man shall leave his mother and father hold fast to his wife, become one flesh covenant, then consummation. The man and his wife were both naked and they were not ashamed. God's design for men. Now, some of you guys are going to be single, okay? God calls Elijah Paul, Jesus to be single. A couple of things I'll say. Number one, if you're just selfish, that's not a good reason to be single. If you just prefer porn and girlfriends to marriage and covenant, that's not a good, that's not a good answer. And with Elijah and Paul and Jesus, the guys who are single in the Bible, God called them to very difficult, deadly responsibilities. I mean, can you imagine if the Apostle Paul getting beaten, shipwrecked, homeless, left for dead, also had a car seat like a wife and a kid? That's impossible. And Jesus, well, Jesus was gonna die and return to heaven. He didn't want to abandon the wife and kids. And secondly, a lot of women think they'd like to be married to Jesus, but I don't think so. 'cause he's perfect, which means every time you have a fight, it's your fault. A lot of women like to blame their husband. You couldn't do that with Jesus. You'd kind of be in a bit of a pinch. But here's what the Bible says about marriage. Proverbs 18:22. He who finds a wife finds a, a good thing and obtains favor. That's the word for grace. There's a special grace on a married man to love that woman, to lead that family, to pay those bills and to, and to take on that level of responsibility. How many of you men right now, maybe your husband, maybe a husband and a father, even a grandfather, and you're carrying a, a heavier weight of responsibility than you even thought you could, like you're shouldering it. You know why God has put favor on you. The Father puts grace on the sons who are trying to obey. And when you're a single man, God gives a certain measure of grace. But

when you get married, the Father pours out more grace to help you to care for that woman. This has been my experience. The greatest blessing to me after Jesus is my wife. Grace, you need to know I'm a hundred percent pro-marriage to a woman, okay? Um, and, and what I find is when young men step into that covenantal responsibility, um, it's a good thing to find a wife. And then there is grace to help that man level up, to carry that responsibility. And lastly, I'll share this one, uh, one Corinthians 11, seven, the woman is the glory of the man. Uh, let me explain this. For those of you guys who are single, the lie that the father of lies has told you is that you're looking for a special woman. And that woman is going to be easy for you to be married to. She doesn't exist. If she did, she could do better than you. So you gotta, you gotta deal with reality, right? And so at the end of the day, what happens sometimes to single men, they'll look at married women and say, oh man, I gotta find a girl like that. No, no, no. She's the result of being loved over a period of time when it says that the woman is the glory of the man. What it means is this. Um, a lot of guys, they look at a married woman and they're like, oh, it's like a beautiful park, right? Because there's a gardener, right? If the, if the woman is like a garden, the man is the, the gardener. And a lot of single guys are like, I'm looking for a garden. No, no, no, no. You're looking for a woman that you can love. You're looking for a place that you can cultivate, that you can invest in, that you can, uh, serve so that eventually she blossoms and is like a beautiful garden. And a lot of guys will say, man, look at my garden. It's like, well, I'd rather look at the gardener. It, if the garden isn't great than the gardener may not be doing his job, okay? And what a lot of single guys are looking for, they're looking for a garden. No, no, no, just look for a godly woman who wants to be loved and served so that she could be fruitful over time. Uh, here's the single versus married men. Lemme just skip this one. Actually, lemme just jump to the last one. Um, here's another lie to, to men, kids are going to ruin your life. Okay? Can the dads testify? Is it awesome being a dad? Amen. I I love being a dad. The whole culture's like, don't have children, they'll ruin your life. I'm like, if you don't have children, what's the purpose of your life? Just to be selfish and to invest in no one and to develop nothing and to leave no legacy. Lemme just say this, being a dad is awesome. Amen. I love being a dad. And here's what the Bible says about becoming a dad. Psalm 127, 1 through five, lest the Lord builds the house, those who build it, labor in vain, build your house with the Lord and for the Lord, behold, children are a heritage from the Lord. The fruit of the womb of arod like arrows in the hands of a warrior, the children's of one youth. Blessed is the man who finds his quiver full of them. That's a lot of kids. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemy in the gates. Here's what it's saying. A smart man knows that having kids is a blessing. And I'll just tell you single guys, there's nothing you've done in your life that has quite the dignity and satisfaction than coming home to your wife and your kids. And you are protecting them and providing for them. And they appreciate you because you are the man of God in the house. There is a level of dignity as a single man. You don't even know what I'm talking about. But when you experience that, you were made for that. And the Bible says that a man is the glory of God. And you feel that glory when you're taking on that weight of responsibility. I, I'll say this as well, Proverbs 17, six, and I just wanna read a couple things. Grandchildren are the crown of the aged and the glory of children is their fathers. Okay? Let me ask the grandfathers, how awesome is it to be Grandpa? It's awesome. I'm grandpa, man. I love it. I love Mike. They're little and I can't wait till they get bigger. I mean, I, I love being a dad. I love with all my heart raising my sons going to little league games, playing catch Wiffle, ball wrestling, uh, going to the dump. They love going to the dump man all the time. They're like, what do you wanna do? Go, let's go to the dump. And then they're throwing stuff at the, you know, at the crusher going by. And they're just like, dad, I love

you. Throw my heart. And it's breaking things. I love that. I miss that. And if my sons hear this, we haven't been to the dump in a long time. I know you're grown men, but if you want to go, I'm in. I, I love go. I loved hanging out with my sons. I love teaching 'em how to drive. I love teaching 'em how to pray. I loved hanging out with 'em. I love watching them grow up. I love having a front row seat to see the Holy Spirit work in and through them. And I'll tell you what, being a dad to a daughter is amazing. It's amazing. She rubs your beer, she kisses you, calls you daddy holds your hand, tells you she loves you, spends all your money. It's fantastic. You're gonna love it. I love it. And then you get grandkids. Now it's like, oh my goodness. Like more people to hang out with. Back to my first point to get there. You need to be what? Emotional and relational men who are not emotional and relational. They grow old, they grow lonely, they grow bitter. They grow, grow broken. They grow angry. I don't want that for you. Like this year, for Christmas. Like I'm gonna have my kids. I got two awesome daughter-in-laws. I got an awesome son-in-law. I got two grandsons. They're telling me they're all gonna have a lot of kids, which is awesome. Like if I have 20 some grandkids, you guys may never see me again. I don't know if I can make it to work. Like I gotta go canoeing and fishing and I gotta do, you know, tea parties with the girls. It's awesome man. Men who are in the room and those young men who are online don't believe the father of lies. Don't live a life that is non-emotional, non-relational, passive, not active. You don't take on responsibility. You're just trying to sleep with women rather than make a marriage. And you don't want to have children. 'cause then you'll never have grandchildren. It's an empty life. God made men to accomplish things and to leave legacies. And I'll close with the statistics and the evidence bears it out. Husbands and wives are happiest. Write this down. Single guy when the husband asks for the first date. So if you're single, guess what? If you're waiting for a woman to pursue you, her name is Jezebel and you don't want her. Instead you be the active, not passive one. The happiest marriages. The guy made the first move, he pursued her. Okay, next, next slide. Um, the best place to meet somebody, single guy, statistically is church. It's church baby. Notice bar and restaurant. At the bottom they call it happy hour. It's not okay. And so you're like, where do I meet a nice girl? Go to church and find a nice girl. Amen. And then lastly, who are the happiest grown men? Um, the least happy grown men are, um, unmarried with children and then unmarried with no children. The next happiest are married with no children, but the most happy men. Statistically the most happy men are what? Married with children. Children. Okay, you guys just need to embrace this. We're the weirdos and the whole world is listening to the father of lies. And we're listening to the Father. We wanna know the truth so we can be free of all of the lies that the father of lies is telling us through the world. And I am just telling you, I have walked not perfectly to be sure, but I have been faithfully married to my wife for 31 years. We started off wrong, sleeping together. I got saved. We had to reset everything. There's grace for you. There was for me. I have tried to live my life in obedience to God's word. And I will tell you this, I am the happiest man. I know I am the most joyful man that I know. I love my life. I've not always loved it. I've had some hard seasons to be sure I adore my wife. We're closer than we've ever been. Um, I am so proud of my kids and I love having a relationship with them. I love watching them grow up and serve Jesus and get married and chase God's destiny for their life. I love meeting my grandsons. I am just telling you my father has a great plan for his sons. And I love you guys. And I know that the plan and path of the Father is not always the easiest one, but is the blessed one. And if you'll continue to work that plan, there is joy and blessing and reaping after all of the working and sowing. And my hope and prayer for all of you men, is to feel about your life and your wife, and your kids and your grandkids like I do. I I, I talked to a pastor the other day. He said, uh, he said, mark, I don't know anyone that has

a better life than you. I said, I don't know anyone who has a better life than me. I love my life and I love you and I want your life to be full. And I want you to love your life. Amen. Amen. And if we obey our Father, that's the possibility. And if we don't, it is never a possibility. Here's the discussion questions for the tables. Uh, are there any of these lies that you have believed in the past, being honest or any of these lies you're believing in the present? Do you have any sons or grandsons believing any of those lies? You gotta go talk to 'em. And then how can we pray for you? Father, thanks for a chance to teach. I pray against the enemy of servants, their works and effects. I pray against the father of lies. And Father, we thank you that you're our father. Jesus, we thank you that you're our big Brother. Holy Spirit, we thank you that you forgive us and activate us so that we could hear the truth. And the truth can set us free to live the life and destiny that you have for us. In Jesus' name, amen. Love you guys. Thanks for letting me teach.^p