

March 2007

*So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.  
~Deuteronomy 5:32-33*



**NEWS**  
**Regeneration**  
[www.RegenerationMinistries.org](http://www.RegenerationMinistries.org)

## Manhood and Womanhood: Our Vocation

By Alan Medinger

I have had three vocations in my life. In the first part of my adulthood I was an accountant and a financial executive. Then, between the ages of 43 and 48, my vocation shifted to that of minister to the sexually broken. Quite a shift! My third vocation preceded both of these and continues on today. In many ways it has governed how I have functioned in the other two. This is my vocation to live as a man, the most manly man I can.

For the Christian a vocation is a calling by God, and God has called every man and woman to live out his or her life as a man or woman. This may sound simplistic, but we tend to forget that our respective manhood and womanhood goes to the very core of who we are. In the beginning we are told just two things about ourselves: we are made in the image of God, and we are created male and female. Being made in God's image gives enormous value to our lives, and being made male and female will to a great extent guide how we live out that value in the world.

As we are stewards of all God's creation, we are stewards of our manhood and womanhood. Being good stewards means that we are to do the best with what God has put in our charge. Regarding our manhood and womanhood, this means that we are to be the best men and women we can be. The best men and the best women are going to be those who best reflect the manly and womanly qualities God put in us. They will be manly men and womanly women.

God declared that His creation was very good. By implication this means that our manhood and womanhood

are very good. God defined what it was to be a man and to be a woman in two ways—through the creation itself, and through His word. In creating us He made man and woman's bodies differ according to their purposes, and in His word he assigned us different roles.

We live in a time when there is great confusion about what it means to be a man or a woman. And perhaps, uniquely in history, we live in a time when feminine men and masculine women are celebrated. A perfect illustration of where we are today comes from a current television situation comedy. One character has a son who is gay. We never see the son, but we constantly hear the father bemoaning the situation and describing the outrageous things his son is doing. Who is held up as the ridiculous character: the son who goes around wearing a dress, or the father who is distressed by the situation? Of course it's the father.

### Extreme Individualism: An Impediment to Manhood and Womanhood

The acceptance of unmasculine men and unfeminine women is part and parcel of the extreme individualism that is a supreme value in our culture, a value that I fear is held almost as high by Christians as by non-believers. To recognize our calling to be the best masculine men and feminine women that we can, we have to confront this extreme individualism head-on.

"I gotta be me." "Do your own thing." "It (the church, the marriage, the friendship) was not meeting my needs." Extreme individualism may be the most pervasive sin

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attitude in our world today—both inside and outside the church.

What is the opposite of individualism? It could be collectivism. But collectivism brings its own terrible abuse as decades of Communist rule in a number of countries showed us. No, we don't need to go to the opposite extreme; we are too valuable as people made in the image of God. Each of us is made wonderfully unique—we don't need to totally abolish our identity as individuals. But we need to temper our individualism. There are three ways we can do this:

**1. Regain our sense of community.** No man (or woman) is an island. We are a part of something bigger than ourselves; we are a part of a family, a community, a nation, the Body of Christ. The rise of extreme individualism has damaged community at every level.

### Please Pray With Us . . .

**Thanksgiving** – Join us this month in thanking God . . .

- For **Laura Suffecool's** 17 years as Regeneration's accountant. Laura moved on at the end of January to pursue a new career.
- For the presence of the Holy Spirit in our groups as men and women learn the truth about themselves as His beloved son's and daughters.
- For **Alan and Willa Medinger's** successful move to Churchville, Maryland in February (while still maintaining their connection to Regeneration)!

**Prayer Requests** – Please pray for . . .

- For **Bob Ragan** as he partners with several churches in Northern Virginia who are coming under fire for standing up to denominational leaders who have departed from Scriptural teachings on homosexuality.
- That many pastors and lay-leaders would take advantage of the opportunity to become better equipped to help those in their congregations struggling with sexual sin by attending this spring's pastors' luncheons held by Regeneration Baltimore (*see page 3*).
- For continued improvements to our donor management system as we work with an outside company to clean up and streamline our current system.
- For the healthy birth of **Josh and Jamie Glaser's** third baby at the beginning of April.

For more information or in-depth monthly prayer requests,  
E-mail [josh@RegenerationMinistries.org](mailto:josh@RegenerationMinistries.org).

**2. Make our individuality and uniqueness less selfish.** Each one of us is wonderfully unique. God planned it that way. He gave different gifts to different people, but as Paul writes when addressing spiritual gifts, these gifts are given for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:6). I am not to be a manly man to gain the admiration of others, or even to feel better about myself. I am to be a manly man so that I can better serve others using those qualities that are especially masculine.

**3. Focus on who God created us to be.** You have to be who you truly are. Well, who you are is who God created you to be, and that is a man who manifests manly qualities or a woman who manifests womanly qualities.

### Our Manhood, Womanhood are for Others

Some of us find it easier to live as manly men or womanly women than others. But each of us is obligated to live as much as we can according to God's plan for us as men and women. Why? Because we are not called to live for ourselves, but for the glory of God and for others. As a young man in one of our groups said years ago, our manhood is something we have in order to give away. The same can be said for womanhood.

Being a man places obligations, as well as privileges, on men. Being a woman places obligations, as well as privileges, on women. This is a part of our vocation. My wife, my children, my grandchildren, my church, my nation need me to be a manly man. They need me to fulfill certain roles that only manly men can properly fulfill. And in addition to actually fulfilling certain roles, *role models* of manhood and womanhood are desperately needed in the family and the community so that future generations will know and appreciate God-designed manhood and womanhood.

### The Attributes of Manhood and Womanhood

Because God made each of us wonderfully unique, there will be great variations in how our manhood and womanhood are manifested. Therefore, we need to look at the fundamentals. What are the basic attributes, the fundamental qualities that don't change over time and place, that God designed into men and women to enable them to fulfill their respective roles? Like any gifts, we may by nature have more or less of some of them. Like other gifts, if we have never developed them, they may lie dormant. But our job is

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to use what we were given. If through our brokenness some of them were never fully developed as has happened with so many same-sex attracted people, we need to seek to develop them.

In men, some of the fundamentals are being physically strong, physically active, initiating, leading, acting on principle, having a passion for truth, being courageous, being a protector, being playful. In the ultimate, a manly man has such character that he is willing to sacrifice his life to protect others or to stand for the truth.

In women, some of the fundamentals are nurturing, coming along side others as a supporter, having a deep understanding of human ways, being attractive, being relational, being protective as a wife and mother. In the ultimate, she may be called to yield her life to the calling and needs of her family.

There is not much place for extreme individualism in this, is there? There is conformity, but it is a conformity to God’s marvelous plan—not conformity to our current culture. In fact, what is suggested here in today’s world is quite counter-cultural.

I believe that we all started out with a strong desire to be manly men and womanly women. This was built into us. My wife and I have just moved into an “in-law” addition built onto our son’s and daughter-in-law’s house. Our four

year old granddaughter, Paige, regularly comes into our quarters dressed in one of her princess outfits, and our 19 month grandson, Chase, shows up carrying his soft rubber football. She wants to be a womanly woman and he a manly man. The flowing gown and the football symbolize this.

We all gain a deep sense of fulfillment when we are able to live out our vocation. The musician is fulfilled through making music, the artist through his or her painting or sculpture, the athlete through his physical exploits. And we are fulfilled by expressing and living out our God ordained manhood and womanhood.

To a great extent, lesbianism is a rejection of true womanhood, and male homosexuality reflects a hopelessness as regards achieving real manhood. We who follow Jesus do not reject what God has created and declared good, and we do not give up hope that His plan for our lives will be fulfilled. No matter how deep our problems, nor how “different” we are, becoming who God created us to be is the calling of every one man and woman.

Regeneration’s ministry is not just about helping people diminish their homosexual desires and stopping their homosexual behavior. It is more fundamentally about helping people to develop, embrace and ultimately thoroughly enjoy their wonderful God-given manhood and womanhood. As this happens in our individual lives, our attractions and our behavior start to change. And as this happens God’s will is being done, and other people will be blessed. ■

**Pastors and Lay-Leaders Equipping Luncheons**

This spring, Regeneration Baltimore is hosting a series of informal luncheons providing helpful insights and practical tools for pastors and lay-leaders on how to minister to men and women in their congregations struggling with sexual sin issues. Church leaders are busy, we know, and you carry a lot of weight. Come enjoy a lunch on us and gain some simple tools to better address these difficult and very present problems. Each session will allow time for Q&A.

**March 28<sup>th</sup>, noon – 2 p.m.: Helping Men in Your Congregation Break Free from Internet Pornography** – Thousands of Christian men in the Baltimore area are falling prey to the ease of on-line pornography. Come learn what you can do to help! For more information or to RSVP, contact us at 410-661-0284 or [info@RegenerationMinistries.org](mailto:info@RegenerationMinistries.org).

**Mark your calendars: Our next pastors’ luncheon will be on April 25<sup>th</sup> from noon – 2 p.m.**

## Ministry News

### Exodus Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference *Restoring the Glory: April 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>*

This year's Mid-Atlantic Regional will feature international speaker and licensed professional counselor, **Janelle Hallman**. Janelle is the Executive Director of Hope Ministries in Denver, Colorado and is a featured speaker for Focus on the Family's *Love Won Out* conferences as well as Exodus International's annual *Freedom Conferences*. Janelle is a gifted teacher and is perhaps one of the most respected experts on ministering to women dealing with unwanted lesbianism. The conference will be held at Ridgecrest Retreat Center in Asheville, North Carolina. For more information or to register call 1-800-588-7222 or visit their website at [www.HopeForWholeness.com](http://www.HopeForWholeness.com).

### Exodus International 2007 Freedom Conference June 26 – July 1, 2007

Plan to attend this year's annual *Exodus Freedom Conference* at Concordia University in Irvine, California. Drawing from the nations' best speakers and teachers on the issue of homosexuality, *Exodus Freedom Conferences* are a must for anyone struggling with unwanted homosexuality, those questioning if change is really possible, as well as pastors, counselors and family members of those with same-sex attractions. For more information, watch this newsletter or visit [www.exodusfreedom.org](http://www.exodusfreedom.org).

## Financial News

This year, for the first time in our 27 year history, Regeneration has implemented regular budget line-items for both the development of a long-term reserve fund and for a ministry tithe. Both of these new budget items impact our immediate cash flow, but we believe the Lord has led us in this direction, asking us to trust Him with our finances in these ways. Our finances have been steady this year, and we ask for your continued prayers as we proceed.

We need your monthly support: For each of the past few years, we've seen monthly donations dip from the spring into the summer months and then pick back up in mid to late fall. This is not uncommon for ministries, but it is a hardship for us as we continue to minister without interruption to those struggling with sexual sin. Please remember to give generously through the spring and summer so lack of funds won't distract or hinder us from effective and focused ministry. Thank you so much!

## Regeneration Is...

### Staff Team:

**Joshua Glaser**  
Executive Director

**Bob Ragan**  
Northern Virginia  
Director

**Jay Wilson**  
Baltimore Ministry Associate

**Devon Medinger**  
Accountant

**Alan Medinger**  
Founder and Executive Director  
Emeritus

### Group Meetings

**Baltimore, MD**  
•Living Waters  
•New Beginnings (Sexual  
Addiction Group)  
•New Directions  
•Wives' Group

**Northern, VA**  
•Living Waters  
•Women's Group  
•Wives' Group  
•Men's Group  
•s.a.l.t. (Sexual Addiction  
Group)