

After God's Heart



A godly man is an active man.

It's shocking to realize Adam was next to Eve when she took that infamous bite. The entire time Satan tempted his wife and twisted God's words, Adam heard everything that was going on ... and yet he did *nothing*.

Look at Genesis 3:6: "The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, *who was with her*, and he ate it" (emphasis added).

Adam's choice to remain silent had catastrophic consequences. In his book, *The Silence of Adam*, Larry Crabb writes, "The silence of Adam is the beginning of every man's failure, from the rebellion of Cain to the impatience of Moses, from the weakness of Peter down to my failure yesterday to love my wife well. And it is a picture — a disturbing but revealing one — of the nature of our failure. Since Adam every man has had a natural inclination to remain silent when he should speak."

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Contrast Adam's silence with the depiction of God just two chapters earlier. In Genesis 1, there are 39 active verbs describing God's activity. He speaks, forms, shapes, creates, and so much more.

By definition, a "godly" man is an active man.

God said, "I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; *he will do everything I want him to do*" (Acts 13:22, NIV, emphasis added). Why did God find that David was a man after His own heart? God knew David would fight the battles he needed David to fight.

Jesus defined His own obedience by actively fulfilling the mission God had given Him: "I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do" (John 17:4).

James codifies this active mentality when he turns the tables on what we usually think sin is (acts of disobedience), to define sin via acts of omission: "So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it" (Jas. 4:17).

Adam lived the opposite life of these active men. According to Crabb, "Adam then was a silent man, a passive man. Like many men in history, he was physically present but emotionally absent. ... God's speaking brought creation out of chaos; Adam's silence brought chaos back to creation. God used language to establish relationship; Adam used silence to destroy relationship. ... Adam ruined paradise by failing to do something."

The absence of active fathers and husbands has been devastating to society. "Kids without dads in the United States are four times more likely to live in poverty, 10 times more likely to abuse chemical substances, two times more likely to commit suicide, nine times more likely to drop out of school. Seventy percent of the men in prison were from fatherless homes, and 70 percent of teen pregnancies happen to fatherless girls. Ninety percent of homeless and runaway children were from fatherless homes."

Parenting and marriage will confront us men with issues in which we

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feel way over our heads. Let's remind ourselves: passivity, silence, throwing up our hands, and giving up on our kids and marriage isn't the path God calls us to. We're to be active, initiating men, surrendered to an active, initiating God. ☐

1. "Fatherless Epidemic: Twenty Million Infected," National Center for Fathering, Fathers.com, 2015.

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The Role of Husband and Father

Here are some helpful questions for fathers and husbands to ask themselves to be more active in their God-given roles.

Husbands

- Are you pursuing your wife?
- Are you loving her in such a way that it's costing you something?
- When is the last time you prayed with her?

Fathers

- Do you know your children and their friends?
- What is the spiritual temperature of their hearts?
- What are their greatest temptations?
- What strengths are you encouraging and building?

