

SESSION #4 JOURNEYMEN: UNDERSTAND THE OVERLY-BONDED MOTHER WOUND.

Review: All Men Need From Their Father:

- A. A transcendent cause (that goes beyond the “self”).**
- B. A masculine vision (that goes beyond success to significance).**
- C. A code of conduct (that builds honorable convictions).**

THE OVERLY-BONDED MOTHER WOUND IS: An unhealthy emotional intimacy with mother that causes a son to either be threatened by the influence of women later on, or to over- identify with that influence.

It's Characteristics:

- This wound is not blatant, but subtle.
- It is not a wound of abuse, neglect, or absenteeism, but a wound disguised as love and care.
- It is not a wound of inattention, but over attention.
- It can look like love, but it feels like control.
- It is so powerful, it can shape and/or warp the masculine psyche.

Causes of the Mother Wound:

- 1. It begins with an absent or distant father or an absence of men in general.**
- 2. It is inflicted by:**
 - Ignorant moms.
 - Needy, hurting moms.
 - Controlling moms.
 - Fill-in-the-Gap moms.

“When mothers lead the family because the fathers fail to lead -- either by *absenting themselves* from the home or by taking a *passive role* -- boys are deprived of the most important natural model of manliness. Growing up ***mainly under the supervision of women***, many experience insecurity over their identity as men.

One tendency for boys growing up in such circumstances is to ***rebel against women*** who are authorities over them and become socially disruptive -- irresponsible in family and work commitments, overly assertive about their manly prowess, especially in sexual areas, or leading lives characterized by violence and crime, alcoholism, and other addictions.

Another tendency for young men is to ***identify with the adult women*** who are authorities in their lives and learn to behave or react in ways that are more appropriate to women than to men. To the extent that young males take either option, they do not learn the discipline, the responsibility, and the character involved in being a man.”

- Prentice Tipton, “The Crisis in Black Manhood,” Pastoral Renewal, March 1987, p. 4.

Two Wrong Responses To the Mother Wound

Sons become overly dominant (and hostile) in regard to women. (Genesis 3)

Sons become overly passive (feminized) in regard to women. (1 Kings 21)

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Describe your relationship with your mother growing up.
2. Discuss some of the possible ways the mother wound could affect a man’s outlook and behavior. Do you feel that you identify with any of these issues?
3. Does your mother presently exert an unhealthy influence in your life? How?

*I am greatly indebted to Robert Lewis of Fellowship Bible Church for the basic ideas and outline in this study.