

## **Strong Men = Strong Love**

Intro: Just what is it that men should be doing to get the most out of the lives that have been given to them by God? I think it is accurate to infer that God wants us to be strong. What that means has become more confusing all the time from a cultural standpoint. This morning, we look at the view one man had of himself and the view that God has of a married man. I think we can find an answer to our question.

1. Job's View of His Value - Job 29
  - A. A man is building a legacy of respect. (29:2-5; 7-10)
  - B. A man is a person of mercy and justice. (29:12-16)
  - C. A man is a person who has found stability in his life. (29:18-20)
  - D. A man matures to having wisdom that is respected by others. (29:21-25)
  
2. Assessing Job's View
  - A. There is nothing wrong with Job's assessment.
  - B. It does speak to man's seemingly universal craving for respect.
  - C. But did Job lose his value to humanity when he lost that respect? Note Job 30-32.
  
3. No one can chain man's ability to love.
  - A. It is the one thing that we "always owe". Romans 13:8-10
  - B. It is the kind of love that leads to obedience to Christ. John 14:15
  - C. Our culture has redefined love as "sensitivity". More to it than that.
  - D. But it is clearly something that is to be visible. Consider a comparison from Revelation 2:4-6.
  
4. The "Strong Love of Strong Men" is exhibited in Ephesians 5.
  - A. Remember, love not seen is not love.
  - B. Strong love makes visible sacrifices. 5:25
  - C. God sanctifies us by his word (John 17:17). Words of love do the same for our wives.
  - D. Strong love will lead our wives to purity and loyalty to our love. 5:27.
  - E. Strong love demonstrates you value her needs as well as your own. 5:33.

Conclusion: Movies and TV have presented various role models for men over the years. If we use God's picture of manhood as portrayed in Ephesians 5, we will never veer to far away from a Godly path. Rambo may represent one thing, Cliff Huxtable, yet another. But we must keep finding the truth from the one who made us men.