

## C'Mon Man! – Genesis 2

How many football fans do we have? Most of you know that I love my sports, and football is perhaps my most favored sport. Years ago, ESPN started running a segment on its Monday Night Countdown show called C'Mon Man! Basically, the segment spotlights a play or a series of plays that make you scratch your head and say C'Mon Man! I thought I would start this morning by showing you a few of these.

### Show C'Mon Man! Clips.

One of the reasons I love this segment is that it shows just how imperfect we can be sometimes. Think about it, these guys are supposed to be the best of the best, but still mess up every now and again, and make us say C'mon Man! Another reason I like the segment is the sense of humor associated with the clips. Afterall, God has blessed us with laughter and joy and considers it useful for our lives.

**Job 8:21** - *He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouting.*

**Proverbs 17:22** - *A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.*

You're probably wondering by now, what does this have to do with church? What does this have to do with Father's Day? Well, as I was thinking about today's message and keeping track of the cultural climate around us, to include the SBC convention held last week in New Orleans, I often found myself thinking: Really? C'Mon Man! And, while I find some of the things which often affect our lives humorous, I also find many of them to be alarming. Perhaps one of the most alarming is nothing new, but something that has plagued the Church for quite some time. Men are absent. Not just in attendance either. Many men are absent from being the strong, masculine leader that God intended for us to be. The statistics which support this are staggering. In a recent Tearfund report, it was reported that 2/3 of church memberships and church attenders are women. So, naturally, when you consider programs run inside the church; things such as Sunday School, Small Groups, Prayer Sessions or missions such as VBS; the percentage of men leading, not just be present, but leading in these areas drops to a staggering 10%. It breaks my heart to say it, but men, we have become lazy, we have become complacent, we have become fat, happy, and content to sit back and let the women do all the work. It makes me say, "C'Mon Man!"

This is not what God intended. Do you remember the Garden of Eden, where God placed Adam and Eve? Which one did God command to work it and keep it? Let's look at **Genesis 2:5-17**. That's right, it was Adam. **Genesis 2:15** says, "*The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*" In the later verses you'll see where God also gave Adam some further instructions; things such as naming all the livestock, the birds, the beasts of the land, and as we just read in verses 16-17, He

commanded the man to lead and protect. And this is where I really look around and say, “**C’Mon Man!**” Men, it’s not that we are just sitting back letting the women take care of everything, it’s that we are doing this despite the commands of a Holy God. Men, we have lost our way. We have left our first love. We have sought cultural significance instead of following through with Biblical Obedience. But I don’t want to just come up here this morning and put you on full blast. We need to change, and we need to do it sooner rather than later. After all, us men will normally put off today what can be done tomorrow.

### **Where do we begin?**

Perhaps it begins with our priorities. You know the things important to us, the things we care most about. The Bible tells us that our work is a model, or a demonstration of our true faith. **Read James 2:14-18.**

Thankfully God gives us this great little book with all the instructions we’ll ever need to help us grow in our faith and in our work for the Kingdom and for each other. Men in general, which includes Christian men, struggle with understanding and setting the priorities of life in the proper perspective and in the proper order.

### **What should be our first priority?**

**God** – God’s word makes it abundantly clear that priority #1 should be Him. **Read Exodus 20:3-8.** Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, while teaching about anxiety over provisions, informs us to “*seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*” (Matthew 6:33)

These are just a few examples where God makes it clear that serving Him and His plan for our life is more important than anything else. Here’s the cool thing about this. Once God becomes your most important relationship, He works it out for you to then care and serve your family, then your church family, then your work family, and finally, the last of all, yourself. Sounds a bit counter-cultural, but it’s God’s design, therefore, it’s perfect, Amen!

**Family** – The Scriptures teach us a great deal about caring for our family. If you go back to the Ten Commandments, the next one on the list is ““Honor your father and your mother”. (Exodus 20:12) And, then if you go back to Genesis 2:24, you find these words, “*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*” And finally, Dads, we are instructed to care for the physical and spiritual needs of our children. Ephesians 6:4, says “*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*” God makes it very clear that behind Him, men, our next priority is our family. We are usually good at providing physical needs, aren’t we? A home, clothes, food, transportation,

education, etc. But men, we fall short with the spiritual. It makes me say, “**C’Mon Man!**”

**The Church** – Remember the previous stat? Only 10% of men are actively involved in the operations of the local church. Remember also, that God designed men to be workers. To be doers. To make things happen. Not all men are called to be overseers and caretakers, but all men are called to discover their spiritual gifts and talents and then use them for the glory of God and the “*edification of the saints*”. Remember the words of Paul from **1 Corinthians 12**.

*Vss. 4-6 - Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*

*Vs. 12 - For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

*Vs. 27 - Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

Also, consider the words of **Hebrews 10:23-25**. *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

As men of God, we have a responsibility to make sure that ourselves and our families are actively involved with a local body of Jesus loving believers. I want to emphasize something here MEN. God expects us to honor Him in how we prioritize our lives. It starts with Him. If God is not part of your life, why not? If you’ve never given your heart over to Christ, why not? You want things to improve in your home, in your marriage, with your kids, with your church relationships, with how you feel about the work God may lead you to? Doing it on your own, expecting things to turn out for the best, hoping in culturally empty things, is not the answer.

God made a promise to the Israelites and because of Jesus, this promise holds true for us as well. Deuteronomy 28:8-9 reads, “*The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways.*”

Men – you want to be blessed? MFBC – you want to be blessed? Then we must make doing it God’s way our priority! No question. That is what He desires! Actually, that is what He commands!