

# Week Three

## I am God's Son

### Day 2 - "A Clear and Present Danger - False Masculinity"

#### A Story of a Dangerous Man

Joe Ehrmann coaches a winning high school football team, not based on a tough-guy ideal but on a different way of defining what manhood means. He played professional football for 13 years, most of them as a defensive lineman for the Baltimore Colts.

"The single greatest crisis is to answer the question, 'What does it mean to be a man?' The culture is giving our boys a threefold criterion for what it means: athletic ability, sexual conquest, and economic success. It causes men to compare what we have and compete with others for what they have."<sup>1</sup>

He further illustrates this by noting how boys compare their athletic abilities to others and compete for whatever attention it brings. As they move into their teen years, they compare their girlfriends with their friends' girlfriends and compete for the status of having the coolest girl. As adults, we compare bank accounts and job titles, houses and cars, and compete for the security and power that those represent.

"We compare, we compete. That's all we ever do—from the ball fields—to the bedroom—to the billfold. It leaves men isolated, alone, feeling insecure, and insignificant. It sabotages relationships of community from the get-go."<sup>2</sup>

But when you know who you are in Christ, you no longer need to compare and compete for worth—you are already secure and loved.<sup>3</sup> You are free to be dangerous!

Read Galatians 4:4-7

Respond:

1. Why did God send His Son to redeem you?

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2. Therefore, what relationship do you think God intends to be at the core of your identity?

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3. What has God done to affirm your sonship?

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Your Story:

What is your definition of masculinity as you begin The Making of a Dangerous Man?

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What did your father communicate to you as to what it means to be a man?

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How did your father's definition of masculinity impact you?

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