

MEN'S
FRATERNITY

THE QUEST FOR AUTHENTIC MANHOOD

ROBERT LEWIS

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Founded by Dr. Robert Lewis in 1990, Men's Fraternity has grown into a significant ministry reaching men worldwide in churches, neighborhoods, college campuses, corporate boardrooms, and prison cell blocks via audio and video. Robert serves as pastor-at-large for Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Fellowship Associates, a church consulting and leadership training organization.

He has authored a number of books including *Raising a Modern-Day Knight (Focus on the Family)*, *Real Family Values* (Multnomah Publishing), *The Church of Irresistible Influence* (Zondervan), and *Rocking the Roles: Building a Win-Win Marriage* (NavPress)

coauthored with William Hendricks. It is Robert's passion to see the church of Jesus Christ powerfully influencing men around the world in life-giving ways.

Robert is also a contributing author to *Building Strong Families* edited by Dennis Rainey and *The Faith Factor in Fatherhood* edited by Don Eberly. He has been featured on radio programs such as "Family Life Today" and "Focus on the Family," and in a number of magazines including *Leadership*, *Real Man*, and *Stand Firm*. In 2001, Robert was awarded "Pastor of the Year" by the National Coalition of Men's Ministry headed by Patrick Morley. Married since 1971, Robert and Sherard Lewis reside in Little Rock and have four children.

WELCOME TO THE QUEST

Welcome to *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*! The journey on which you are about to embark has energized and excited men from all over the world. Many have commented that these messages have blessed them with a new sense of their own masculine identity, giving them a personal manhood vision, as well as insight into what God had in mind when He first brought man into the world.

The Quest for Authentic Manhood sets out to answer some questions that are universal to men.


- What makes a man a man? A real man?
- How does one become a man?
- Is there a moment when it happens?
- What is it that holds men back from their true masculine destiny?
- How should authentic manhood express itself today?

Those are just some of the questions *The Quest for Authentic Manhood* will answer for you in specific ways that you, as a man, can get your arms around practically.

In the sessions we will have together, we will closely examine our development as men, the wounds which often hold men back, and how those wounds can be healed. We will discover the importance of male mentors for encouragement, the power of Dad, raising healthy sons and daughters, and the role of a man in marriage. Other topics we will address include the biblical definition of manhood, the different seasons of a man's life, and how one "becomes a man!"

This journey is not for the faint of heart. It's a steep climb at times. You will need discipline and teammates in the process. It will be challenging, soul-searching, and eye-opening. But by the end—as so many have experienced before you—you, too, will find a clearer, richer, and nobler masculinity for yourself. That's a promise.

Like never before, our world needs men. Real men. Authentic men. Men, like Jesus, who possess life-giving spirits and righteous, warrior hearts. Are you ready? If so, tighten up those laces on your hiking boots and let's begin our journey.



JOIN THE JOURNEY TO AUTHENTIC MANHOOD

More than a rally or Bible study, Men's Fraternity provides men with an encouraging process that teaches them how to live lives of authentic manhood as modeled by Jesus Christ and directed by the Word of God. Men's Fraternity was developed by Robert Lewis over a number of years as he sought to connect with and challenge the men of his church. Now over 14 years later, more than 1,400 men attend his weekly Men's Fraternity meetings at six in the morning. Men's Fraternity is being used by pastors and church leaders all over the world to energize the men of their churches and to connect with men in their communities.

Ways to Experience This Material

This life-changing curriculum is being experienced by thousands of men literally around the world in a variety of settings. Some of the most popular settings are:

A churchwide or even community-wide weekly setting where the lessons are presented on DVD or by a live presenter who has mastered the material. The large-group teaching time is followed by a small-group discussion where each man is able to process the truth he has heard with a group of his peers.

A small group of men who gather weekly at a church, office, or home to watch the DVDs and allow time for discussion.

A personal journey where some busy men choose to purchase the DVDs or download the audio sessions from *www.mensfraternity.com* to experience as they drive to work daily or travel on business.

Other settings include prisons, military bases, athletic teams, and college campuses.

This workbook is an essential tool for experiencing and processing Men's Fraternity, regardless in which setting you participate.

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM MEN'S FRATERNITY

- Commit to attend all 24 sessions of *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*. These sessions build on one another, so don't miss any! Be a starter and a finisher. You'll be glad you did.
- Participate in the small-group discussion at the end of each session. Some of the questions you encounter each week may be hard to answer honestly, but your commitment to do so will help you and others. Believe that!
- Encourage the men in your small group. In any given week someone may be struggling and will need your help. Perhaps at some point you will need encouragement too.
- Take your assignments seriously. This semester you will be asked to complete a personal Manhood Plan. This application project will make the information you receive each week come alive in your life! It will add valuable insight, understanding, and support to your journey to become an authentic man.
- Pray, asking God to use this series to help you become a better man. Ask Him in every session to speak to your heart, to open your eyes to wisdom, and to bless the interactions you will have through this material. Ask, and you will receive (see Matt. 7:7).
- If you have to miss a session of your Men's Fraternity study, you do not have to miss that session's presentation. Visit www.mensfraternity.com to listen to the session for a small fee.

For additional information, resources, and stories, visit www.mensfraternity.com or www.lifeway.com/mensfraternity.

Session 1

AT THE STARTING LINE: FIVE MANHOOD PROMISES

I. Welcome to the Quest for Authentic Manhood!

II. A Brief Men’s Fraternity Orientation

	MF1	MF2	MF3
Name:			
Focus:			
Chief Elements:			
Major Challenge:			
Passion:			

III. Basic Presuppositions of Our Manhood Journey

- A. Manhood is in a state of _____.
- B. _____ men create major _____.
- C. _____ men settle for _____.
- D. There is no lofty _____ of manhood today that is compelling to men.
- E. The _____, I believe, has helpful insights to all of the above.

IV. Historical Roots of Our Present Crisis in Masculinity

- A. The Industrial Revolution
- B. World War II
- C. Feminism

V. Five Manhood Promises in the Quest for Authentic Manhood

- A. You will have a clear _____ of manhood.

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- B. You will develop a new manhood _____.
- C. You will make significant personal _____ about yourself.
- D. You will make new _____ who are pursuing a common goal.
- E. You will have your own personalized _____ for achieving authentic manhood.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP

Be sure everyone in your group is introduced.

1. Why did you choose to join a manhood study like this one? What expectations do you personally have for Men's Fraternity here at the beginning?
2. Which of the five Manhood Promises most excited you? Why?