

## **Biblical Manhood: Iron Sharpens Iron**

Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

In college, I ran track and played rugby. Most of our rugby matches were on Saturdays. Playing 80 minutes of full-contact rugby with no timeouts and no substitutions takes a toll on your body. On Sunday mornings, I'd wake up very sore. As I raised my hands to worship, I could feel the immenseness soreness in my hands and shoulders. I don't miss waking up sore. I don't miss running fast 400 meter repeats in track and field. But I do miss the camaraderie of being on a team. I miss traveling with a team. I miss working towards a common goal with a team. I miss the suffering together with a team. I miss winning with a team.

But here's the good news, God has placed every Christian man on the greatest team in the universe, the Body of Christ. We are on His team, the Church. By faith in Christ, regardless of our background, we are members of the family of God. Here's the problem we face: we forget that we are on His team. We think God's team is like golf, it's just us by ourselves. Christians have always struggled with that mindset. That's why Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." There are 59 one another commands in the Bible to remind us that we are on His team.

Lastly, God has designed His team to be interdependent. We need one another. We can not grow into who God wants us to be apart from our teammates. We can not do what God wants us to do apart from our teammates. If we are going to grow into the men, husbands, fathers, and leaders God wants us to be, we need other men in our lives. If we are going to grow in our identity, authority, and intimacy with Christ we must have community. That's why Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Men need other men to help them grow. Here are the 3 types of men we need in our community; a Paul, a Barnabas, and a Timothy.

1. A Paul is an older, wiser, Christian mentor who has been walking with the Lord longer than you have. They invest in you. Who is your Paul?
2. A Barnabas is a Christian peer. They walk with you and hold you accountable. Who is your Barnabas?
3. A Timothy is a younger, less mature mentee. You invest in them. Who is your Timothy?

**P2R (Point 2 Remember):** No man grows in isolation.