

TRUE NORTH: A SERIES FOR MEN

Episode 01 – Challenges for Men Today

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1. Ed Davies spoke about the 'Lost Boys' report in Britain. The report gives a long list of problems – in employment, education, family breakdown, mental health, social media, crime and pornography.

In his personal story, Jack Stephens spoke about growing up with a negative view of being a man, and being unsure of himself.

Do you see any evidence that boys and young men are struggling or “doing it tough” in your community?

2. Consider the following quotes from the episode:

“Society seems to punish men just for acting like men.” *Nancy Pearcey*

“I’ve had more than a few boys tell me, ‘I wish I had not been born a male.’” *Warren Farrell*

Matt Fuller spoke about the prevalence of talk about “toxic masculinity”.

a) Have you been personally aware of these pressures on men and boys?

b) How do you respond? What do you think is the answer?

3. Al Stewart quoted David Gilmore’s book, ‘Manhood in the Making’:

“The harsher the environment and the scarcer the resources, the more manhood is stressed as inspiration and goal...Genderideology reflects the material conditions of life.” *David Gilmore*

a) What do you think about Al’s theory that our ‘soft and safe’ culture has allowed manhood to be devalued or even trashed?



b) If that’s the case, what role do men have to play?

4. Ian Rowe said:

“How do we help young people understand the power they have in their lives?” *Ian Rowe*

This is a great question. How would you answer that question?

5. Matt Fuller asked,

“Am I allowed to be proud, to enjoy being a man?” *Matt Fuller*

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 ESV says:

“Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.”

Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament looks for meaning and purpose in life. What can a man, especially a young man, rejoice in? What are the deeper implications here of life in



God's world?

6. The Apostle Paul writes to his young friend Timothy about the work of God's Spirit in the man who follows Jesus:

"For the spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." *2 Timothy 1:7*

What do you think 'power, love and self-discipline' will look like lived out day by day?

7. If you're part of a church, how does your church go at welcoming and caring for someone like Jack when he walks into a church looking for answers?

8. What will 'healthy masculinity' look like lived out day by day? How might 'True North' be found in Jesus?

