

Daniel Gwynn Blog Update
Date: 1/21/14
Subject: "How Can I Be"

How can I be a man when I'm trapped in a box devoid of life, liberty & dignity. Although my will to survive is strong, I have no control over what I can do. Emasculated by society & a system that refuses to permit me to legally provide for my family, I'm driven down a perpetual spiral of degradation & self-destruction. I can't raise a family, protect them nor provide for them, as I'm forced to helplessly watch them at a distance through a haze of either drugs, alcohol or prison bars for seeking not so legal means to provide. Worst of all, the children & family I dream of will never be.

How can I be a man when I have no freedom to speak my mind, and choose where I can go or do. I'm constantly being silenced, watched and told that I'll never amount to anything. My movements are restricted, and if I break some rule, I'm chastised & punished as if I were a child.

How can I be a man when my dignity & self-respect are constantly stripped away or violated. I have no privacy to use the bathroom or take a shower. As I sleep, a night-light illuminates my cell so I can be checked on throughout the day & night; they want to be sure I don't deprive them of the opportunity to murder me.

How can I still be a man after all of this? Through endurance, pride & holding my head up high. I give respect, and demand it when it's due. I stand firm in my faith & innate principles, because I have a responsibility to be a better man, and human being, as I pass through each character building trial. I also lead by example, especially when I cannot provide for my family, friends & community by any other means. Control is over-rated and a matter of perspective, for although I cannot control the actions of others, I still can control my own. All-in-all, I can stand for something and speak out against corruption & injustice wherever I can, for the embers of my manhood stay stoked.

