

Be a man

Men are taught directly, at home, or indirectly, from society, that being a man consist of having no fear, being masculine, do not express inner feelings, do not fail, be the bread winner, being the king of your castle, being a leader not a follower.

Being a man does not mean just having the gender of a male. There are miles in which a boy must travel in order to become a man. There is a huge misconception that the only things that are needed to being a man is a boy being exactly like his father, respect his mother, being a father to his children and paying bills. Oh so sad a misconception. You cannot just eat a hearty meal, beat on your chest and call yourself a man. No, it takes far more than that. **Being a man** encompasses being as wide and tall as a mountain. If your wish is to live in a log cabin you must build, which includes gathering up all of the necessary material to do so from beginning to end, or buy it, either way you must be responsible for its upkeep and accountable for its problems, maintenance and everything thereafter. Being a man includes baking a cake, buying a car, insurance or painting a fence, the list goes on. You must be responsible and accountable for what you do and the choices you make. Every action must be accounted for, every reaction; every thought and every word is your responsibility. The same goes for making a **family**. You cannot just get a female pregnant and think that is it. A child has to eat, be clothed, educated, protected, provided with a roof over its head, be nurtured and so forth. These are all of the substances that make up a man. Ah but, it is not nearly enough to just do those things; your duty. **Your significant other, family, friends, co-workers and strangers** shall require that same loving spirit. You should feel personally responsible for the success of your relationships. Taking care of yourself is beneficial for those who invest in you. You would be doing everyone a great service in being responsible, accountable and taking care of yourself so that you can share the love. It is your very duty to continue to walk in daily self-help. By building upon and utilize those skills and tools you developed along the way you would be building character and utilizing good etiquette, values and sociability skills. Being a man involves a willingness to **accept difference in others**, not being afraid of learning new things, assisting others while not judging and flourishing as

a man. **You must be responsible, hold yourself accountable and take full responsibility for everything that you do. Never blame others or accuse others for your faults.** Always seek ways in which to improve the lives of others as well as your own. When you step out of prison, fully realize it is not all fun and games, you will actually have to get up off your butt, make a living and be responsible for a multitude of daily issues, situations and work ethic, you will then begin to realize what being a man is all about. **It is your duty to deal with issues in a manly manner.** That is to resolve issues in a nonassertive manner and with concern for others feelings. You must always carry yourself in the **manner of a man**, always be polite, have dignity, maturity, purpose and be open to advice and direction. Do not be afraid to let go, commit, forgive, walk away, not get angry and be an adult about every choice and decision you make. Your every fiber must display that in which you wish to be viewed as...a man; the way he walk, talk and interact with others. You are the conductor of your manhood and it is up to you to act like a man. You should never follow others around, doing what they do and what they tell you to do when you know it can lead to trouble. It is not good enough that you just stand next to a man and believe because you do so that you are a man. No, you must fully embrace, accept and be a man yourself, **even when you do not want to be.** There are no breaks in this area. Go forth, exceed expectation, do not be afraid to express your feelings, be intimate and vulnerable. Be perceptive. Allow yourself to be sincere, cry, keep your ego in check, uplifts others self-esteem, respect others, do better, be better, emotionally healthy, know that you do not just make decisions for yourself but others as well, even if you never meet them, be transparent without filters, thoughtful, tolerant, patient, apologetic, selfless, helpful, honest, realistic, understanding, unassuming, fair, keep your word, accept no, deal with rejection, unafraid to seek help/direction, make mistakes, compromise and be human. These are some of the ingredients that make up a man. So, be it...man!