



## BUILDING BLOCK **6** Passage to Adulthood

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SMRBC'S  
**BUILDING  
BLOCKS**  
*Where To Grow Next.*



**Staples Mill Road**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## ***What Are SMRBC's Building Blocks?***



**SMRBC's Building Blocks is an intentional progressive discipleship map for Staples Mill Road Baptist Church.**

We want to enable every believer in our church to know the next step of spiritual growth for themselves and their children, and to equip them with the knowledge and resources to take that next step.

Parents already recognize stages of life within their family through milestones such as Baby dedication, Kindergarten graduation, or High School graduation. We can utilize these natural stages of life by equipping parents with resources and preparation to intentionally and consistently disciple their children in both planned and unplanned opportunities, leading their children through this unique stage of life and celebrating their children's physical and spiritual growth alongside them.

For each Building Block, we are preparing essential resources including seminars and classes, books, videos, and websites. We will help recognize physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual characteristics of each Building Block, and address the changes in relationships and challenges to faith that each stage brings.

Our goal is to help prepare each person for their next step in discipleship, whether it's parents to prepare their children or adults to grow and step out in faith in their own walks.



## BUILDING BLOCK **6** Passage to Adulthood

**Becoming an adult is a welcome, yet daunting, task for most teenagers.** The newfound freedom and relaxed structure lead to excitement as students embrace a new world. What students often don't see is the responsibility associated with their new freedom. For every good decision to be made, an equally negative one can result in life-altering consequences.

Parents have an amazing responsibility to prepare their son or daughter to embrace growing up from all perspectives. This Building Block places this time of transition to occur at age 16. Most students will get their driver's license and keys to either their car or a shared vehicle. They will have an unprecedented amount of freedom. Yet before engaging this new freedom, parents must prepare their adolescent to see this freedom through God's heart.

## ***SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND SERVICE***

As a child progresses toward becoming an adult, it becomes more and more obvious of the certain ways God has wired him. Children will share many attributes of their parents but also develop characteristics and passions that are unique. Parents have an important responsibility to help their kids discover how God has wired them.

***Spiritual Gifts*** – Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit when a person becomes a Christian. They are used to build up the church (body of Christ). A person will have one or more spiritual gifts to be used in the church.

***“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:7***

Spiritual gifts are always given to build up the body of Christ. Discovering one’s gift can be exciting, but be cautious to help your son or daughter understand that it isn’t about him or her. Gifts are given to serve others. ***“Spiritual gifts are not for individual enjoyment, but corporate employment.”- Warren Wiersbe***

***You can find helpful spiritual gifts assessments online. Also, there are some hard copies in the Media Center of SMRBC.***

***Talents and Abilities*** – God wires every person uniquely. Becoming a student of your child will help you understand how God has made him and what talents and abilities he possesses. Helping him discover talents and abilities will help him learn to serve in ways that challenge and encourage him according to the strengths God has given him.

***Passions*** – Talk to your son or daughter about passions he or she may have. These could range drastically and change throughout her adolescent and young adult years. Help her understand and evaluate her passions in light of Scripture. God can use a God-given passion in a child’s life to accomplish great things.

## ***SERVE TOGETHER***

One of the most powerful opportunities parents have is to expose their children to serving together as a family. Take opportunities often to serve others as a family and encourage your child to always look out for the interests of others.

As a result, your son or daughter will develop a love for serving others that he will pass down to future generations.

## ***THE NEED FOR A RETURN TO BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD***

- In modern Western society, there is a pervasive assumption that any **perceived differences between men and women** are only culturally-derived stereotypes and not the wise design of our Creator.
- This has led to “unraveling the fabric of **marriage** woven by God out of the **beautiful and diverse** strands of manhood and womanhood.”
- Our culture, now accustomed to feminism, has increasingly embraced the rejection of male leadership in any form and is characterized by “**widespread ambivalence** regarding the values of motherhood, vocational homemaking, and the many ministries historically performed by women.”
- There are “growing claims of legitimacy for **sexual relationships** which have biblically and historically been considered illicit or perverse. The culture is plagued by an epidemic increase in **pornographic** portrayal of human sexuality.”
- There is an “upsurge of physical and emotional **abuse in the family**.”
- Especially since the 1980s, there has been an “emergence of roles for men and women in **church leadership** that do not conform to Biblical teaching but backfire in the crippling of Biblically faithful witness.”
- Assuming that biblical distinctions between manhood and womanhood are the uninspired influence of a tragically restrictive time for women, there is an “increasing prevalence and acceptance of” biblical interpretation “devised to **reinterpret** apparently plain meanings of Biblical texts.” Many Bible teachers and scholars find themselves willing to explain away or ignore texts that don’t support modern social assumptions.
- There is a “consequent **threat to Biblical authority** as the clarity of Scripture is jeopardized and the accessibility of its meaning to ordinary people is withdrawn into the restricted realm of technical ingenuity.”
- Many local churches have gradually **accommodated to the culture** and the flesh when it comes to their teaching on manhood and womanhood, instead of boldly

choosing “Biblical authenticity which in the power of the Holy Spirit may reform rather than reflect our ailing culture.”<sup>1</sup>

Throughout Scripture, God defines what a man and woman should look like. Leading your son or daughter well through this phase is critical to developing a Biblical worldview. Learning to evaluate everything through the lens of Scripture will enable your son or daughter to see through lies they will encounter each day.

## ***GOD’S DESIGN FOR MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD***

- Both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:18).
- Distinctions in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order, and should find an echo in every human heart (Genesis 2:18, 21-24; 1 Corinthians 11:7-9; 1 Timothy 2:12-14).
- Adam's headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall, and was not a result of sin (Genesis 2:16-18, 21-24, 3:1-13; 1 Corinthians 11:7-9).
- The Fall introduced distortions into the relationships between men and women (Genesis 3:1-7, 12, 16).
  - In the home, the husband's loving, humble headship tends to be replaced by domination or passivity; the wife's intelligent, willing submission tends to be replaced by usurpation or servility.
  - In the church, sin inclines men toward a worldly love of power or an abdication of spiritual responsibility, and inclines women to resist limitations on their roles or to neglect the use of their gifts in appropriate ministries.
- The Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, manifests the equally high value and dignity which God attached to the roles of both men and women (Gen 1:26-27, 2:18; Gal 3:28). Both Old and New Testaments also affirm the principle of male headship in the family and in the covenant community (Genesis 2:18; Ephesians 5:21-33; Col 3:18-19; 1 Timothy 2:11-15).
- Redemption in Christ aims at removing the distortions introduced by the curse.

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<sup>1</sup> The Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, “The Danvers Statement,” (Wheaton: CBMW, 1988).



- In the family, husbands should forsake harsh or selfish leadership and grow in love and care for their wives; wives should forsake resistance to their husbands' authority and grow in willing, joyful submission to their husbands' leadership (Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:18-19; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Pet 3:1-7).
- In the church, redemption in Christ gives men and women an equal share in the blessings of salvation; nevertheless, some governing and teaching roles within the church are restricted to men (Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16; 1 Timothy 2:11-15).
- In all of life Christ is the supreme authority and guide for men and women, so that no earthly submission – domestic, religious, or civil – ever implies a mandate to follow a human authority into sin (Daniel 3:10-18; Acts 4:19-20, 5:27-29; 1 Peter 3:1-2).
- In both men and women a heartfelt sense of call to ministry should never be used to set aside Biblical criteria for particular ministries (1 Timothy 2:11-15, 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9). Rather, Biblical teaching should remain the authority for testing our subjective discernment of God's will.
- With half the world's population outside the reach of indigenous evangelism, with countless other lost people in those societies that have not heard the gospel, with the stresses and miseries of sickness, malnutrition, homelessness, illiteracy, ignorance, aging, addiction, crime, incarceration, neuroses, and loneliness, no man or woman who feels a passion from God to make His grace known in word and deed need ever live without a fulfilling ministry for the glory of Christ and the good of this fallen world (1 Corinthians 12:7-21).
- We are convinced that a denial or neglect of these principles will lead to increasingly destructive consequences in our families, our churches, and the culture at large.<sup>2</sup>

## ***WHAT DOES A GODLY WOMAN LOOK LIKE?***

- Lover of God (Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37)
- Lover of Others (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:38)
- Has a gentle and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:4-6)
- Is modest and discreet, adorning herself with good works (1 Timothy 2:9-10)

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<sup>2</sup> The Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, "The Danvers Statement," (Wheaton: CBMW, 1988).

- Freely submits, with intelligence and joy, to the leadership of her husband and shows him respect (Ephesians 5:22-24, 33)

### Proverbs 31

- Noble (10, 25)
- Respected (28)
- Diligent (13)
- Early Riser (15)
- Provider (14)
- Steward (15-16)
- Wise (16, 26)
- Strong (25)
- Persistent (19, 27)
- Resourceful (18, 21-22)
- Hospitable (20)
- Confident (18)
- Happy (25)
- Faithful (27, 30)
- Blessed (28-31)

*“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.” Proverbs 4:23*

***Who are some examples of godly, biblical women?***

## ***WHAT IS THE HEARTBEAT OF A WOMAN WHO FOLLOWS CHRIST?***

**We affirm that...**

**Scripture** is God’s authoritative means of instructing us in His ways and it reveals His holy pattern for our womanhood, our character, our priorities, and our various roles, responsibilities, and relationships.

**We glorify God** and experience His blessing when we accept and joyfully embrace His created design, function, and order for our lives.

**As redeemed sinners**, we cannot live out the beauty of biblical womanhood apart from the sanctifying work of the gospel and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

**Men and women** are both created in the image of God and are equal in value and dignity, but they have distinct roles and functions in the home and in the church.



**We are called** as women to affirm and encourage men as they seek to express godly masculinity, and to honor and support God-ordained male leadership in the home and in the church.

**Marriage**, as created by God, is a sacred, binding, lifelong covenant between one man and one woman.

**When we respond** humbly to male leadership in our homes and churches, we demonstrate a noble submission to authority that reflects Christ's submission to God His Father.

**Selfish insistence** on personal rights is contrary to the spirit of Christ who humbled Himself, took on the form of a servant, and laid down His life for us.

**Human life** is precious to God and is to be valued and protected, from the point of conception until rightful death.

**Children are a blessing** from God; women are uniquely designed to be bearers and nurturers of life, whether it be their own biological or adopted children, or other children in their sphere of influence.

**God's plan for gender** is wider than marriage; all women, whether married or single, are to model femininity in their various relationships, by exhibiting a distinctive modesty, responsiveness, and gentleness of spirit.

**Mature Christian women** have a responsibility to leave a legacy of faith, by discipling younger women in the Word and ways of God and modeling for the next generation lives of fruitful femininity.

### **How does a godly woman respond to men?**

"At the heart of mature femininity is a freeing disposition to affirm, receive, and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in ways appropriate to a woman's differing relationships." – John Piper

## WHAT DOES A GODLY MAN LOOK LIKE?

- Lover of God (Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37)
- Lover of Others (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:38)
- Loyal (Hosea 6:6)
- A Servant Leader (Matthew 20:26-27)
  - In the Home (Ephesians 5:23, 25-30)
  - In the Church (Titus 1:6-9, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:12-14, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 8:1-3)
- Kind (Ephesians 4:32)
- Humble (Philippians 2:3)
- Honest (Ephesians 4:35)
- Self-Disciplined (1 Timothy 4:7-8)
- Excellence (1 Corinthians 9:24)
- Integrity (Proverbs 10:9)
- Perseverance (Galatians 6:9)

## FINDING BIBLICAL BALANCE

### Strength & Power

- Loyalty
- Purity
- Self-Discipline
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Perseverance

### Gentleness & Tenderness

- Lover of God
- Lover of Others
- Servant Leadership
- Kindness
- Humility
- Honesty

## WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL ROLE OF A MAN?

*"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden **to work it and keep it**. And the Lord God commanded him saying, '**You may surely eat** of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and **evil you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.' Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; **I will make him a helper fit for him.**'" Genesis 2:15-18*

**From one of the earliest passages of Scripture, we see God's role for man:**

1. Obedience to God's will (A will to obey)
2. Work the ground (A work to do)
3. Love his wife (A woman to love)

**Jesus modeled these characteristics and these roles perfectly:**

1. A Will to Obey (John 5:30)
2. A Work to Do (John 17:3-5)
3. A Woman to Love (Revelation 21:9)

**Jesus modeled each of these to the point of death...**

***How are dads to model this for their sons? How are you modeling this?***

## ***FIVE PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL MANHOOD IN AN UNBIBLICAL WORLD...***

1. ***Reject Passivity*** – Proverbs 28:1
2. ***Accept Responsibility*** – Luke 12:48b
3. ***Lead Courageously*** – Deuteronomy 3:6
4. ***Love as a Servant*** – Ephesians 5:25-30
5. ***Expect a Reward*** – Revelation 22:12-13

**How does a godly man interact with women?**

“At the heart of mature masculinity is a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for, and protect women in ways appropriate to a man’s differing relationships.” – John Piper

## ***HOW DO I TEACH MY SON OR DAUGHTER TO EMBRACE THESE ROLES?***

- **Faith Talks:** At this busy stage of life, it is tempting to stop having Faith Talks because of the challenge of multiple individual schedules and the reality that your child is becoming an adult. However, weekly intentional times of conversation around the Scripture couldn’t be more important through this time. Committing to family Faith Talks will model the importance of family above individual schedules and busyness of life. It will also model the importance of staying connected to God and His Word when life is crazy.
- **God Moments:** Spend time with your children. The time you spend will supply ample opportunities to speak into your child’s life. Capitalizing on God Moments will give you the opportunity to informally guide them through the pitfalls of life. Years

from now, you will probably be the one they still call for advice and a fresh perspective.

- **Modeling:** During this stage, your son or daughter will watch you intently to see if you are living out your own teaching. He will catch your behavior, responses and priorities. Model well.

## ***Model Spiritual Discipline***

*Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;*

- 1 Timothy 4:7

In order for your son or daughter to become godly men and women, they must have a vibrant relationship with Jesus. One who has a relationship with Jesus practices Spiritual Disciplines. Parents must teach and demonstrate Spiritual Disciplines.

Discipline is defined as a field of study or training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character. Donald S. Whitney defines the Spiritual Disciplines as “those personal and corporate disciplines that promote spiritual growth.”

- Bible Intake
- Prayer
- Worship
- Fasting
- Evangelism
- Serving
- Stewardship
- Silence and Solitude

## **Catechism – A Systematic Approach to Teaching Foundational Doctrine**

Resource – *The New City Catechism*

***The greatest resource for preparing your child to become an adult is catechism. Catechism walks your son or daughter through foundational doctrine. He will learn to systematically understand what scripture teaches about God, his Word, and what it means for their lives.***

## ***CELEBRATING PASSAGE TO ADULTHOOD***

### ***Family celebration: Passage to Adulthood Ceremony***

The Passage to Adulthood Ceremony will hopefully be one of the most memorable experiences of your son or daughter’s life. It is the moment when you visually begin to release her to adulthood. SMRBC recommends this at age 16 but you must decide when your child is ready. The ceremony should require sacrifice on your part as parents and should be a meaningful event.

## Why celebrate Passage to Adulthood?

1. Remembrance – a memory of commitment
2. Reminder – a reminder of commitment
3. Reference – accountability of commitment

**Preparation** – The most important aspect of the Passage to Adulthood Ceremony is the years of preparation that will go into your son or daughter. The ceremony is a culmination of years of investment. Without the investment, the ceremony is merely ceremony. With years of pouring into your son or daughter, Passage to Adulthood becomes an ownership event. Your child will now own his faith and take responsibility for actions. He will still have a couple of years at home but the change will progress rapidly.

How do you prepare:

- Consistent weekly investment of Truth into your son or daughter (Faith Talks and God Moments, celebrating the Building Blocks and observing an intentional path of discipleship)
- Daily praying as a couple and individually for your child
- Daily praying with your child
- Creating family moments (meals, vacations, days away)
- Family Traditions
- Involvement in your child's life (sports, school, shopping, fishing, etc.)
- Communicating every day

## Planning the event

**Step 1:** Choose a date, place and nature of the event (formal, one- gender only).

**Step 2:** Formulate a guest list – those who have invested in your child through prayer, discipleship, etc.

**Step 3:** Send invitations

**Step 4:** Prepare an agenda

- What will happen?
- Expectations of your son or daughter – Communicate to your son or daughter what he or she will be required to know and/or say.
- The Charge – Charge your son or daughter to become a man or woman of God.
- Gift Presentation – Present your son or daughter with an appropriate gift to remember the occasion.
- The Blessing – Write a blessing to your child concerning his passage to adulthood. Comment on the journey you've been on together and the hope of great days ahead.

**Characteristics of a Passage to Adulthood Ceremony:**

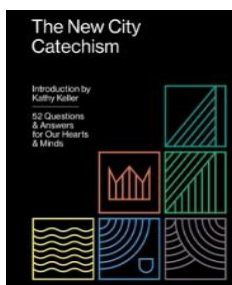
- Mysterious
- Sacrificial
- Well-Planned
- Touted
- Priority
- Memorable

**Passage to adulthood can prepare your child to embrace the world of freedom and responsibility with a biblical worldview and foundation.**

### *Campus Event: Summer Camp*

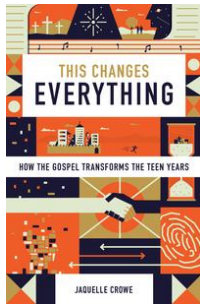
There is no group church event to celebrate Building Block 6. However, the summer camp attended by Staples Mill Students is a vital opportunity for spiritual growth. Staples Mill Students attend camps such as Centrifuge or Student Life in the summer of each year.

## ***RECOMMENDED RESOURCES***



The New City Catechism by The Gospel Coalition  
(available as a mobile app and as a devotional)

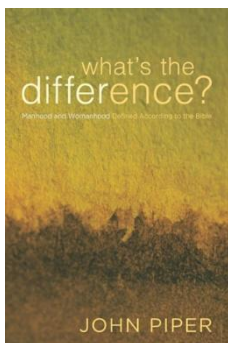




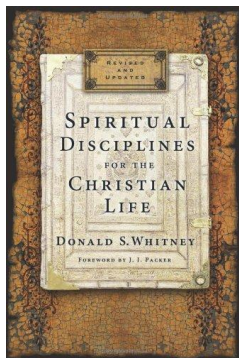
This Changes Everything by Jaquelle Crowe



Girls Gone Wise in a World Gone Wild by Mary Kassian (recommended for parents and mature readers)



What's the difference? Manhood and Womanhood Defined According to the Bible by John Piper



Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald S. Whitney



# SMRBC'S BUILDING BLOCKS

*Where To Grow Next.*

## ALL BUILDING BLOCKS



BUILDING BLOCK **1** New Child



BUILDING BLOCK **3** Salvation and Baptism



BUILDING BLOCK **5** Purity for Life



BUILDING BLOCK **7** High School Graduation



BUILDING BLOCK **9** The Mature Believer



BUILDING BLOCK **2** School-Age Kids



BUILDING BLOCK **4** Preparing for Adolescence



BUILDING BLOCK **6** Passage to Adulthood



BUILDING BLOCK **8** Life in Christ

[www.legacymilestones.com](http://www.legacymilestones.com)

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