e-concepts ───────── A Boy Learns to Leave

Why are young *men* so hard to find? Probably for the same reason old *men* are so hard to find. I would like to suggest that the most basic reason boys remain boys is because they do not leave home. The first verse in the Bible that talks about the development from a boy to a man is Genesis 2:24. It reads, *For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.* This command was never given to women. But if a boy remains at home, he will never become a man.

This failure to leave one's mother is common among boys in our culture. This leaving is of course not merely physical. It is possible to leave mentally and not leave physically. It is also possible to leave physically and not mentally. Leaving, for most of us, probably happens in stages.

What characteristics would we see in a good boy, one who will eventually be likely to leave home and establish his own relationship with God? I suggest it is a boy who has available a father who is a man and/or a grandfather who is a patriarch. Boys mature when they have mature models. So, for example, good play for a boy would be pretending to do real work. He plays at being a soldier, a pilot, a race car or truck driver, an athlete, or the captain of a ship. Sure it is full of chaos and borders on spectacular, only touching reality, but it fantasizes real work. In other words, he wants to grow up and be part of the world of responsible men.

The ideal boy in Scripture was Jesus. We read, ***And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men*** (Luke 2:52). The context of this was Jesus explaining to His mother Mary why He was in the temple when she and Joseph could not find Him. Luke recorded, *And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"* (Luke 2:49). Maturity for Jesus was doing the work of His heavenly Father, even as a boy.

A few other things could also be noted about maturing boys:

- Joseph was ***truthful*** (Genesis 37:2) and ***obedient*** *to his father* (Genesis 37:13).
- So was David. David also ***trusted God*** and *did dangerous things* because of that trust. [I doubt if David's mother would have approved of his taking on Goliath with a sling shot.] (1 Samuel 17:14-54)
- Daniel's boyhood echoes these things, plus we see he ***defended a virtuous personal standard of living*** (Daniel 1:8-16),
- which we see also in Joseph as a young man (Genesis 39:7-9).

But notice that the personal moral standards of all these boys led them to leave home and become men of God.

*For more information see study book **Mature Man** on Relational Concepts web page:*
https://relationalconcepts.org/