

## Fatherhood, Our Superpower in Confronting Inequality

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Fathers, at this critical juncture in life of our country we are in desperate need for you to step forward and lead us down the path of resolution. If we are to heal the wounds we must rise above the political rhetoric, reach across the divide of race, and transcend the enmity of history. Men of character are uncommonly gifted to bridge these gaps. Black Fathers and White Fathers are uniquely positioned to sit down face to face, set aside the color of our skin and connect with the heart of a Father. What divides us pales in significance in the face of a resolute Father.

There are issues in the land that are a stain on our nation’s character and authentic men are desperately needed to step forward and bring resolution. We said that all men are created equal yet far too many of our people are still fundamentally unequal. Today the frustration is pouring onto the streets and the most vulnerable are the tragic victims of its violence. Too many young people are trapped in substandard schools with little hope of a better life the new economy that values education.

In these troubled times, true men are needed to step to the forefront and lead us out of the endless cycle of useless accusation and recrimination. The existential need is for strong men who can look past the roar, assess the problems as they really are, and come up with reasoned solutions. Solutions that actually work.

### Nature of Authentic Masculinity

Authentic men are needed to bring to bear the qualities of true manhood. Men such as this are dedicated to doing the right thing, no matter the cost. We are in desperate need of Fathers who are dedicated to the proposition of perfecting the manhood within themselves and deploying trustworthy masculinity into their unique spheres of influence.

To what standard should we hold ourselves? The answer lies in the core values of a real man.

- Inner Strength which enables a man to set his course based on his core values, and rejects the concept that they need affirmation from another person.
- Self-Awareness that empowers a man to be honest about who he is and frees him from the influence of peer pressure.

- Authenticity that validates the true nature of the inner man by his outer genuineness. This defines a person whose developed competence aligns his original design.
- Objectivity which empowers a man to look through an issue, see what is right, and make judgments based solely the truths of the issue.
- Resolve that strengthens a man and thus enables him to act decisively – undeterred by external resistance.
- Courage which strengthens a man to do the right thing in the face of almost certain retribution.

An Authentic Man is established on a core code of ethics which controls how he conducts his life. He is a man who holds honor as sacred and chooses to govern his life according.

### Path to Resolution

If we truly want resolution, then a new generation of Founding Fathers must emerge. The fact that we have a huge part of our society that thinks the other side is not listening is evidence that what we are doing is not working. Key problem-solving principles are applicable here.

- We must give up the idea that the solution solely lies in identifying the group that is responsible for creating the problem and getting them to accept the blame for it.
- A related dysfunctional practice is presenting an exaggerated version of the issue to gain a tactical advantage.
- Every person must understand that he alone is responsible for his own actions, and nothing anyone else does will assuage him of that responsibility.
- The ability of a man to control his emotions, operate in the present, and rise above the conflict equips him to lead the drive to workable solutions.

Violation of these principles leads to polarization which blocks solutions because it creates enemies rather than partners.

Fatherhood is our superpower in the drive to resolution for it transcends it all. Fathers of integrity, we need you. Men of honor are needed everywhere, in every town of our nation. We need you on the seats of government, on the most powerful judicial benches, and at the head of our great corporations. We need you on our construction sites and in our factories. We need you in every nook and cranny of this phenomenal country.

