

UTCCF Men's Ministry: Vision 2020-21

This year's Men's Ministry will strive to foster a welcoming, honest and vulnerable environment that is focused on pursuing a biblical definition of Christian manhood. In order to tangibly accomplish this goal, this year's ministry will follow the acronym, **DARE (Discover, Accept, Renew, Emerge)**. In essence, we hope to challenge ourselves and each other to have courage in determining what manhood looks like according to His Word, and how to live out this call in our daily lives.

Our first goal in this four-part process this year is to **discover** our interpretations of manhood with one another. This involves identifying our PERSONAL strengths, weaknesses and tendencies as guys, as well as GENERAL assumptions or traits that we think men have, as seen in unique individual upbringing and society's portrayal of manhood. We believe that this reflection is a vital first step in striving towards Christian manhood, as this act of recognition of one's self must come before the other three following processes.

"Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord." - Lamentations 3:40 (ESV)

Our next step is to refuse the ways of the world and instead, **accept** the ways of the Lord. In other words, this is where our eyes are opened and realize a) the gifts that God has blessed us with, and b) how weak and broken we are without Him. This process of acceptance allows us to turn to God in prayer to PRAISE Him for all the signs of His grace and REPENT and ask for strength through the Holy Spirit and through the community of others. We believe that standing together in this way is crucial to begin the walk in Christ towards Christian manhood.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" - 1 John 1:19 (ESV)

Following this, we hope to **renew** ourselves in God's Word from a perspective of Christian manhood. Through the study of various men in the Bible, we can investigate the different ways God calls us to live (or not to live). After determining these specific traits and examples of living as a man of God, we will be able to form a NEW DEFINITION of manhood that is rooted in Scripture, so that we can encourage one another to embody these attributes.

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." - Psalm 119:9-11 (ESV)

Our fourth and final goal is to put into practice these things and to **emerge** into the world. Upon learning the truths of what Christian manhood is, we can apply this biblical identity to the many different areas of our lives. Truthfully and intentionally living it out and being aligned with this new definition will draw us closer not only to God but also to our fellow brothers and sisters. As we all learn and seek Christian manhood, we hope this year's vision can continue to empower us in our daily lives and encourage others to **DARE** as well.

"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:9 (NIV)