



MEN OF **COURAGE**

► *Leading with Wisdom and Humility*

Seek and you will find.

As a church community, we value knowledge and understanding of biblical truth. We believe that it is vitally important to continue learning and growing in wisdom throughout our life, to allow the Holy Spirit to work in us.

Seek Wisdom has been established with the goal of providing high quality events and seminars for all members of the Free Reformed Church and the broader community. Using the variety of gifts within our community, these events are created to act as a stimulus for members to dive deeper into the Word and help prompt meaningful conversations with fellow believers. We are thankful that we can join together to grow in faith and understanding of God's Word.

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.**

Proverbs 9:10

► For feedback, suggestions or queries related to Seek Wisdom events, please email us at events@seekwisdom.com.au.

► Contents

Conference Schedule	4
Our Speakers	6
Keynote Speech	
Redefining Manhood	8
Impact Speeches	
Headship's Heart	10
Living the Mystery	12
Panel Discussion	
Strengthening Marriage; Reflecting God's Love.	14
Impact Speeches	
Humility in Fatherhood	16
Courage in Action	18
Panel Discussion	
Defending the Truth; Inspiring our Youth.	20
Keynote Speech	
Monsters or Mice	22
Additional Resources	24
Thank you	27



► Conference Schedule

Welcome to the 2025 Seek Wisdom Men's Conference, "Men of Courage—Leading with Wisdom and Humility." In a world that often misinterprets true strength, we will explore how real courage is rooted in faith and humility. Learn how men today can lead with conviction and compassion, drawing wisdom from the Scriptures.

The conference will follow the TED Talk style format, featuring six impactful speeches to stimulate and provoke meaningful reflection and discussion. You'll discover that true courage isn't about being fearless; it's about moving forward with purpose, despite uncertainty. This conference encourages men to embrace their God-given roles, strengthen family relationships, and boldly step into their purpose—leading with wisdom, courage, and unwavering trust in the LORD.

8.00am

REGISTRATIONS OPEN

Sign in, grab a coffee and muffin,
and enjoy some fellowship

8.30am

Opening Devotions

8.45am

SPEECHES

Redefining Manhood
Headship's Heart
Living the Mystery

9.45am

Singing

10.00am

Morning Coffee and Fellowship

10.30am

Singing

10.35am	PANEL DISCUSSION Strengthening Marriage; Reflecting God's Love.
11.10am	SPEECHES Humility in Fatherhood Courage in Action
11.45am	Lunch Devotions and Singing
11.50am	Lunch Break
12.40pm	Singing
12.45pm	PANEL DISCUSSION Defending the Truth; Inspiring our Youth.
1.20am	SPEECH Monsters or Mice
1.45pm	Closing Devotions

Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous.** Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

► Joshua 1: 9

Our Speakers

Rev. Clarence Bouwman



Rev. Clarence Bouwman grew up in rural Canada, appreciating the beauty of God's creation. He earned his Master of Divinity from the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary in 1982 and began ministry that year in Chilliwack. In 1987, he moved to Australia to serve Byford and Kelmscott. He returned to Canada in 2005 for Yarrow and Smithville, retiring in 2021.

He authored many books, including *Beyond Comprehension: Who is God and Why It Matters* (2024). In retirement, Rev. Bouwman continues preaching and teaching, serving churches in Canada, Australia, and globally. He and his wife, Arlene, cherish their six children and 19 grandchildren.

Rev. Stephen 't Hart



Pastor Stephen 't Hart is a husband to Dorinda, a father, grandfather, and a pastor with over 25 years of ministry experience, now serving the Free Reformed Church of Southern River. He's quick to admit he's made plenty of mistakes in marriage and leadership but is grateful for the sanctifying work of Christ's blood and Spirit. When not

pastoring or wasting his time online reading the news, Stephen enjoys fishing, camping, good food, and the occasional glass of red wine.

Rev. Dirk Poppe



Pastor Dirk Poppe is married to his dear wife, Amanda. He loves her a lot. She keeps getting more beautiful. God's given them six children in the past twenty-eight years: two in-laws, two more about to be in-laws (he hopes) and one grandson. Very rich. His kids are some of his best friends.

They all recently visited Canada for their son Caleb and Rebecca's wedding. Very delightful. Currently, he has great joy serving as the minister of word for the FRC of Cardup Brook. Beautiful congregation. Great consistory. And a stunning Friday morning prayer group.

Rev. Abel Pol



Abel C. Pol is pastor of the Free Reformed Church at Mundijong. He is happily married to Rosemarie and they are the parents of two fun-loving boys, Caleb (12 years) and Joash (7 years). He enjoys basketball, a good coffee, and well-reasoned arguments. He is constantly surprised by the power of the gospel.

Lucy Wagenaar



Lucy Wagenaar is a wife, mother, sister and daughter who truly appreciates courageous and wise leadership in her family and church community. With a background in education and counselling, Lucy enjoys supporting young people as they journey through life and hopes to continue learning and growing in this space.

Hon. Nick Goiran



Hon. Nick Goiran MLC is a Member of the Legislative Council in WA and a passionate advocate for protecting human life, traditional marriage, and strong governance. He currently serves as Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Minister for Child Protection and has held various shadow portfolios, including Industrial Relations and Domestic Violence Prevention. He has also chaired key parliamentary committees, including an inquiry into elder abuse.

A lawyer by background, Nick earned a Law and Commerce degree from Murdoch University and became a Barrister and Solicitor in 2000. He quickly rose to Equity Partner before transitioning into politics. He also chaired GOPAC Australia, working to uphold integrity in governance.

Nick firmly believes in policies that safeguard life from conception to natural death and support the family unit as society's foundation. A devoted husband and father, he balances his advocacy and public service with his deep commitment to his family.

Redefining Manhood

A man with empty hands – surely that's a contradiction in terms. We admire those who are strong, self-sufficient, respected – real *men*. But if Christ came not for the healthy but for the sick, surely it's preferable to be small, weak. That's grace for men: when we are weak, empty..., we are strong, full.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

Headship's Heart

"Headship's Heart: The Call to Christ-like Leadership" explores biblical leadership in marriage and family. Many men struggle to balance domination and passivity, harming relationships and missing God's design. Based on Ephesians 5:22-33, true headship is about sacrificial love, protection, and provision, not power. Husbands are called to lead by serving and nurturing their families. This message encourages men to embrace their God-given roles with courage and grace. Discover how Christ-like leadership can transform your marriage and strengthen your family.

[illegible]

IMPACT SPEECH TWO

Living the Mystery

Showing Christ's Love in Real Life

Christ calls us as husbands to love our wives as he loves his church. How is that possible? Only by looking to him, adoring him, trusting him, worshipping him. It's as we fix our gaze on Christ that we are transformed and become like him. He will enable us to give our wives shining eyes. After honestly laying out some of the difficult challenges in marriage, we'll consider three things we can pursue to help our marriages thrive: understanding, trust and humility. It is as we faithfully love and serve our wives that they will become radiant and show off not just Christ's glory but also ours.

SPEAKER Rev. Dirk Poppe

Strengthening Marriage; Reflecting God's Love.

IMPACT SPEECH THREE

Humility in Fatherhood

Drawing Near to God

An increasing number of couples in our circles postpone having children. Often it is because they enjoy their life together and don't want it to change. But what if change is fundamental to our spiritual growth as men? God uses fatherhood to teach us about the beauty of growth. He draws us into his work of creation in the most personal way possible. As our children grow up, God also draws us into his work of regeneration. When we look at it from that perspective, we learn to admire God's work of change instead of avoiding it. That helps us then to also recognise and embrace his work of change in our own lives. We can let go of control and depend on an unchangeable God. He never changes and he's fully committed to us. That's true for us all, whether you're a father or not.

SPEAKER Rev. Abel Pol

Courage in Action

What do young people need to grow and thrive? How can male role models impact their personal and spiritual development? This presentation explores the vital role of fathers, grandfathers and mentors, highlighting the importance of 'repairing ruptures' in relationships, as well as the effects of disengaged and dysfunctional fathering. Courage is viewed as an action, with emphasis on self-reflection, emotional maturity and the need for continuous spiritual growth to positively impact young people's lives and faith development.

Defending the Truth; Inspiring our Youth.

PANELLISTS Rev. Abel Pol | Lucy Wagenaar | Craig vanderSchaaf

KEYNOTE SPEECH TWO

Monsters or Mice

Real Bravery in Today's Culture

Our culture indoctrinates us with the idea that men are either cruel monsters or weak mice. And our speaker knows these extremes very well. In his speech will explore the negative portrayal of men in modern society and its consequences. White Christian men, particularly those who are married, are often marginalised or “cancelled.” We will examine why men are essential in society and the significance of courage in living out our Christian calling amidst cultural pressures.

SPEAKER Hon. Nick Goiran

Additional Resources

Recommended Books

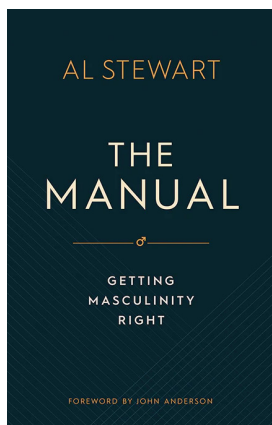


The Toxic War on Masculinity: *How Christianity Reconciles the Sexes*

NANCY PEARCEY ➤ \$34.99

Have you ever wondered why the public conversation about the sexes is so divided? When did men and women go from being partners to opponents? In her book, *The Toxic War on Masculinity: How Christianity Reconciles the Sexes*, Nancy Pearcey offers historical insights into these modern questions. She explains how the industrial revolution disrupted families and flipped the script on what it means to be a “Real Man.” With thoughtful nuance, Pearcey shows how human sin, secular society, and technological advancements created a toxic ideal for men, 007’s who like their drinks “shaken not stirred”. Ultimately, Pearcey suggests that for society to have a better class of men, it needs a better class of fathers, something which the Christian message nurtures in men.

REVIEWED BY *Pastor Dathan Pleiter*



The Manual: *Getting Masculinity Right*

AL STEWART ➤ \$24.99

Men love to be practical. That is the idea behind the title of this book. It is a manual for Christian men, a practical handbook. Stewart defines healthy masculinity as “a willingness to take responsibility and use the power you have to care for and nurture those around you.” He shows how God’s calling for us is good (despite our cultural confusion), and he

shows how healthy masculinity plays out in all our relationships, as a son, a friend, a workmate, a single man, a husband, and a father. Stewart speaks from the heart and keeps you interested with many anecdotes and good humour. I found this book to be practical and helpful.

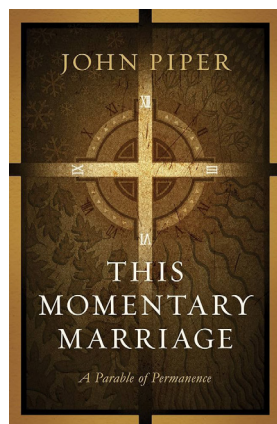
REVIEWED BY *Pastor Rodney den Boer*

This Momentary Marriage: *A Parable of Permanence*

JOHN PIPER ➤ \$25.99

The world has a low view of marriage, culture has a low view of marriage, but sometimes people in the church have a low view of marriage. The former is to be expected, that latter is to be lamented. This *Momentary Marriage: A Parable of Permanence*, by John Piper, re-acquaints people with God’s exalted purpose for marriage. Piper demonstrates the bible’s vision for marriage in way that is deeply humbling, inspiring, and motivating. To be clear, it’s not a comprehensive take on marriage. It doesn’t treat in detail gender roles, finances, sexuality, etc. But that’s the brilliance of this little book. By giving us the Bible’s grand vision for marriage, some of the “how’s” fall away in light of the glorious “why” behind so sacred a bond.

REVIEWED BY *Pastor Dathan Pleiter*



Speakers' Recommendations



Masculine Mandate:

God's Calling to Men

Richard Phillips ➤ \$34.99

Strengthening your Marriage

Wayne Mack ➤ \$27.99

Leadership for Growing Churches

Clarence Bouwman ➤ \$23.00

A Vow to Love

Clarence Bouwman ➤ \$19.99

Disciplines of a godly Man

Kent Hughes ➤ \$26.99

These recommended books are available for purchase at Pro Ecclesia Bookshop, in-store and online.

Additional Reading

*Recommended by
Pro Ecclesia Bookshop*

Reclaiming Masculinity:

Seven biblical principles for being the man God wants you to be

Matt Fuller ➤ \$22.99

A Man After God's Own Heart

Jim George ➤ \$21.99

The Shepherd Leader at Home

Timothy Witmer ➤ \$29.99

Humility:

The Joy of Self-Forgetfulness

Gavin Ortlun ➤ \$19.99

Humility:

The Forgotten Virtue

Wayne Mack ➤ \$25.99

Workers for Your Joy:

The call of Christ on Christian Leaders

David Mathis ➤ \$29.99

The Most Important Place on Earth:

What a Christian home looks like and how to build one

Robert Wolgemuth ➤ \$34.99

The Meaning of Marriage:

Facing the complexities of commitment with the wisdom of God

Timothy Keller ➤ \$27.99

Thank you for joining us!

Don't let the conversation stop here. To see real growth and change, we need to continually pray for God's guidance as we seek to lead with wisdom and humility. Have the courage to be godly role models in our church community, and pray for strength in encouraging others to embrace biblical masculinity.



Pop this on your fridge as a daily reminder to pray for wisdom, courage and humility.

We value your feedback



Your thoughts and suggestions are incredibly important to us as we plan future Seek Wisdom events. Please take a moment to scan the QR code and share your experience with us. Your input will help us to continue serving you in meaningful ways. Don't wait—your feedback makes a difference!

Thank You! ➤

We would like to acknowledge **Port Printing** for their help in bringing this year's conference to life. Their contribution through a wide range of high quality printing services has been greatly appreciated!



Seek and you will find.

events@seekwisdom.com.au

www.seekwisdom.com.au