

*The Overly Bonded with Mother Wound*

**I. A BRIEF REVIEW**

- A. "The most urgent domestic challenge facing the United States at the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (25 years ago) is the recreation of \_\_\_\_\_ as a vital social role for men."

David Blankenhorn, *Fatherless America*, (1994) p. 222.

- B. What every dad must give his son.

- 1) A \_\_\_\_\_: that goes beyond self.
- 2) A \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_: that goes beyond success to significance.
- 3) A \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_: that builds honorable convictions.

**II. EXAMAMINING THE MOTHER WOUND**

*When mothers lead the family because the fathers fail to lead – either by **absenting themselves** from the home or by **taking a passive role** – boys are deprived of the most important natural model of manliness. Growing up **mainly under the supervision of women**, many experience insecurity over their identity as men. **One tendency** for boys growing up in such circumstances is to **rebel against women** who are authorities over them and become socially disruptive – irresponsible I family and work commitments, overly assertive about their manly prowess, especially in sexual areas, or leading lives characterized by violence and crime, alcoholism and other addictions. **Another tendency** for young men is to **identify with the adult women** who are authorities in their lives and learn to behave or react in ways that are more appropriate to women than to men. To the extent that young males take either option, they do not learn the discipline, the responsibility, and the character involved in being a man."*

*Interview with Prentice Tipton, author of "The Crisis in Black Manhood."*

- A. Definition: *an unhealthy emotional intimacy with mother not purposely inflicted that stunts or inhibits a healthy masculine identity for a son.*

- 1) Other characteristics: This wound is . . .
  - a. Not blatant but \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Not a wound of neglect, or absenteeism but a wound disguised as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Not a wound of \_\_\_\_\_, but over-\_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. Looks like love but feels like \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. Is so powerful, it can shape and/or warp the \_\_\_\_\_ psyche.
- 2) An Illustration:

## B. Sources of the Wound

- 1) It begins with an absent or distant father.
- 2) It is inflicted by 4 types of moms.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ mom.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ mom.
  - c. Unwilling to \_\_\_\_\_ mom.
  - d. Fill in the \_\_\_\_\_ mom.

**QUESTIONS FOR YOUR T-GROUP DISCUSSION**

*Check In by circling what you are feeling:*

FEAR ANGER HURT SAD LONELY SHAME GUILT GLAD

1. *Describe your relationship with your mom growing up.*
2. *Did your father help you to make the break with your mother? If yes, how? If not, describe.*
3. *Does your mother presently exert an unhealthy influence in your life? How?*