

# Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

June 15, 2025

*"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.  
Let all that you do be done in love." – 1Corinthians 16:13-14*



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“\*” = Please stand if you are able.

## Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

### Call to Worship – 1Peter 2:15-17

*Leader: For such is the will of God*

**People: That by doing right**

*Leader: You may silence the ignorance*

**People: Of foolish men.**

*Leader: Act as free men,*

**People: And do not use your freedom**

*Leader: As a covering for evil,*

**People: But use it as bondslaves of God.**

*Leader: Honor all people,*

**People: Love the brotherhood,**

*Leader: Fear God,*

**People: Honor the king.**

### Prayer of Invocation and Confession

#### Gospel Absolution Text – Romans 7:24-8:1

**\*Hymn #687** – “*Make Me a Captive Lord*”

### Scripture Reading – Genesis 1:26-31; 2:16-25; 3:17-19

### Ancient Creedal Proclamation – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

### Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

**\*Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Sung Psalm #145A** – “*I’ll Give You Praise, My God, O King*” (see insert)

## Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (sins)

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

## Reformation Creedal Reading – Westminster Larger Catechism, Q#1

**Leader:** *What is the chief and highest end of man?*

**People:** **Man's chief and highest end**

**Leader:** *Is to glorify God,*

Rom 11:36; 1Cor 10:31

**People:** **And fully to enjoy Him forever.**

Ps 73:24-28; John 17:21-23

## Ministry of the Word

### Prayer of Illumination

**\*Sermon Text** – 1Samuel 2:12-13a

**\*Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**Sermon** – “Worthless Men”

(A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8)

**\*Hymn** – “Rise Up of Man of God” (see insert)

**\*Benediction**

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*Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today*

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## Announcements

- The Deacon's Fund is low, additional contributions would be helpful.
- The church has been experiencing cyber-attacks, please be very discerning about any emails you get from the church, Pastor Doug or any church member.

## Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday Morning Study** is done for the summer.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** (6:30-8:00 PM) will continue through the end of June.  
June 18<sup>th</sup> = The geography of the work of the Spirit in Acts.  
June 25<sup>th</sup> = The geography of the spread of Christianity in Acts.
- **Pool Party/Picnic** to be held on **Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>** at the Gabelmanns, 101 Wallens St., Winsted, beginning at **noon**. Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and an ice cream bar will be provided. Please bring a dish to share if you are able. Bring your swimsuits if you wish to enjoy the pool. This will be held rain or shine as we are not able to plan for a rain date this year. Mark your calendars!

## **Regular Weekly Events**

*Sunday*      9:00 – c.10:00 AM

### **Sunday School**

Children's curriculum: KVB Publications

Women's Study: Sproul's What is Reformed Theology?

Adult Study: Westminster Larger Catechism

10:30 – c.11:40 AM  
c.11:40 AM

**Worship** (Lord's Supper on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)

### **Coffee Hour Fellowship**

*Tuesday*      10:30 AM – Noon

[Off for the summer]

*Wednesday*      6:30 – 8:00 PM

**Wednesday Study** (biblical geography) at Pastor Doug's house

6:30 – 8:00 PM

**Gen Alpha Club** (Tiny Theologians) - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays  
at Pastor Doug's house

*Friday*      6:30 - ??? PM

**Young Adult Discussion Group** at Pastor Doug's house  
(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays)

*Saturday*      morning

**Prayer Group** at the Gabelmann's. (Please call Sheryl to  
confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

**TRC's Webpage:**

TrinityReformedCT.org

**TRC's Facebook Page:**

facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/

**TRC's Youtube Channel:**

youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT

**Pastor Doug's**

youtube.com/simplyreformed

**Youtube Channels:**

youtube.com/@PilgrimsOfPlunder

## **INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN**

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at:  
**trcnwprayer@gmail.com**. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

## **LEADERSHIP**

**Elders:** Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor

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Bob Ensminger

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Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek

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**Deacons:** David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters

**Sunday School:** Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell

**Music Coordinator:** Cindy Rines

**Clerk:** Sheryl Gabelmann

**Treasurer:** Cindy Rines

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## **Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut**

*Worship Starts At:* 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

*Sunday Worship At:* Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

*Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – *Phone:* (860) 238-7399

*Webpage:* trinityreformedct.org – *Email:* trinityreformedct@gmail.com

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## **Sermon Notes**

1Samuel 2:12a

“Worthless Men”

A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8

June 15, 2025

## Introduction

- 1) If I could beg your patience for a few personal reflections before we begin this sermon that hopefully do not boarder on narcigesis.<sup>1</sup>
  - a) As a good child of the Puritans I dislike focusing on secular/national holidays in church: 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Valentine's Day, etc. Lev 10:1-3; Deut 12:29-32  
1Sam 15:22-23; Is 1:12-15  
Matt 15:8-9; Col 2:20-23
  - b) They're okay for outside Sunday but they shouldn't invade the Lord's worship.
  - c) I especially dislike Mother's & Father's Day.
    - i) One because of a "trauma" (joking) on the first Mother's Day I had to preach.
    - ii) But mostly because the church subconsciously, and many time overtly, bought into the secular culture's war on the created order, especially with regards to gender, and in particular with regards to men.
    - iii) What is the old joke?
      - On Mother's Day the pastor praises women.
      - On Father's Day the pastor attacks men.
- 2) There is a bit of irony then when Verna told me this Sunday is Father's Day when the title of the sermon was going to be "*worthless men*", from today's sermon text.
- 3) The gender revolution has moved us away from the biblical teaching of gender roles as seen in Scripture, and the created order, in favor of feminism is probably one of the greatest worldly threats to the church this day and age.
  - a) The texts most pastors and modern Evangelicals are terrified to preach on are the texts that teach the headship of men and the proper roles for women.
  - b) Sure, we love Ephesians 5:33a – "*Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself...*"
    - i) This is a good and glorious text!
    - ii) One which a godly husbands must obey.
    - iii) Goes so well with Ephesians 5:25 – "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her*".
    - iv) Easy text to preach!  
Preach with no qualifications!  
Great Father's Day sermon!
  - c) However, how about the rest of verse 33?
    - i) Ephesians 5:33b – "*and the wife must see to it that she fears (phobeomai) her husband.*"
    - ii) This is a good and glorious text, right?  
Isn't all Scripture God breathed and good and useful for training in righteousness? Ps 19:7-11; 119:105; John 17:17  
Rom 15:4; 2Tim 3:16-17
    - iii) Godly women should obey this text, right?

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<sup>1</sup> "**Exegesis**" is to explain the meaning of a biblical text from its context and then makes application for the church.

It is a good thing and the goal of all godly preachers. (2Tim 2:15)

"**Eisegesis**" is to read one's own agenda back into the text, which is a sinful thing.

"**Narcigesis**" is a form of eisegesis where the preacher makes the text all about himself, which is a very sinful thing.

- iv) Easy text to preach, right?  
 Preach with no qualifications, right?  
 Great Mother's Day sermon, right?
  - v) Even if he did, would he kill the text by a thousand qualifications?
- 4) You disagree?
  - a) Why?
  - b) Have we been taught by the world?
  - c) Let's try two thought experiments.
- 5) *Thought Experiment #1* = Question: What sins/weaknesses do men wrestle with that are particular to being male?
  - a) Probably several things quickly come to mind.
    - i) Lust & pornography.
    - ii) Violence & violent crime.
    - iii) Lack of hospitality (Remembering birthdays, taking care of elderly & children)
    - iv) Not good at multi-tasking.
    - v) Are there exceptions? Sure.
      - Are all men like this? No, of course not.
      - But as a generalization are these not things that many men wrestle with?
  - b) But what is good for the gander (male) is good for the goose (female)!
  - c) Question: What sins/weaknesses do women wrestle with that are particular to being female?
    - i) What comes to mind?
      - Nothing?
      - Or generic things that plague both genders (e.g. being faithful), which is dodging the question.
      - Or you think the question is "sexist" and "part of the patriarchy"?  
 If so, you have been indoctrinated away from God.
    - ii) Up until recently everyone could answer: Too emotional, gossips, illogical - bad at linear thinking, seek safety over the truth, weak leaders, etc.
    - iii) Are there exceptions? Sure.
      - Are all women like this? No, of course not.
      - But as a generalization are these not things that many women wrestle with?
- 6) *Thought Experiment #2*
  - a) Is it okay for women to have standards and a list of requirements for a future husband that are gender specific?
    - i) Besides general things: Christian, good morals, etc.
    - ii) It is okay for a woman who wants a husband to work hard to provide financial and physical protection and leadership for their family?
    - iii) Sure! I have trained my daughter to have such standards.

- b) Question: Is it okay for the man to have standards and a list of requirements for a future wife that are gender specific?
  - i) Besides general things: Christian, good morals, etc.
  - ii) Is it okay that for a man to want his wife to be obedient, good with children, and skilled at cooking and keeping the house?
- c) If you think women can have standards but men can't, then why?
- 7) Let's be blunt: There are whole sections of Scripture that churches are afraid to preach on.
  - a) In particular that deal with being male, and especially, female.
  - b) If there are forbidden sections of Scripture doesn't that mean we have an idol? That we might need more preaching on the subject?
  - c) Why are young men & young women so confused?
    - i) We have been trained by the darkness of the world.
    - ii) We are afraid of the world and not God.
- 8) We have become "worthless men."
  - a) Let's ponder that phrase.
  - b) And also think positively: What it means to be a godly man of worth.

## **1Samuel 2:12-13b**

- 1) We are going through the beginning of 1Samuel and have heard how Hannah wanted a child so she prayed and vowed unto the Lord, who granted her request. 1Sam 1:1ff
- 2) As per her vow she turns over her first son, Samuel, to serve as a priest at God's House in Shiloh when he is around three years old. 1Sam 1:24-28  
1Sam 2:11
- 3) We read in today's sermon text: "*Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the LORD and the custom of the priests with the people.*" – 1Samuel 2:12-13b
- 4) Eli is the High Priest ministering to the Lord at His House, the Tabernacle, at Shiloh.
  - a) He seems to be a very pious man taking his ministerial calling very seriously becoming like a father to the young Samuel. 1Sam 1:14,17;  
2:11,20,23ff; 3:16
  - b) His major failing is that he is a lax father, who loses control of his two sons, Hophni & Phinehas<sup>2</sup>, who are also priests. This will bring God's judgment against him, and his sons and is the major theme for the next few chapters. 1Sam 1:3  
1Sam 2:12-17  
1Sam 2:22-3:18  
1Sam 4:4,11-22
- 5) We will over the next few weeks look into what sins in particular Eli and his sons commit.
  - a) What makes them "worthless" is they rejected God and the godly traditions of their fellow priests and the people of God.
  - b) They were known for their greed, irreverence and perversion and immorality. 1Sam 2:12-17  
1Sam 2:22-25

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<sup>2</sup> There are three different Phinehas's in the Bible.

- 1) The righteous grandson of Aaron who killed Zimri and his Midianite woman for defiling the camp of the Lord. (Num 25)
- 2) The youngest son of Eli for our sermon text.
- 3) The father of Eleazar. (Ezra 8:33)

6) The word “worthless” is particularly strong.

- a) It is a Hebrew idiom meaning “worthless/wicked men.”<sup>3</sup>
- b) It is literally “*sons of Belial* (bee’lee-uhl)”.
  - i) It eventually becomes a name for the devil.
  - ii) 2Corinthians 6:15 – “*Or what harmony has Christ with Belial* (literally “Belial” in the Greek), *or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?*”
- c) It can refer to a woman.
  - i) Interestingly, it was used by Hannah for herself.
  - ii) Eli, incorrectly assumes Hannah is drunk while praying before the Lord, but correctly challenges her seeming impiety.
  - iii) Hannah in godly humility and submission responds, “*Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman* (literally “daughter Belial”), *for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation.*” – 1Samuel 1:16

7) The majority of times the term is used, however, it refers to men who are godless, lawless, and immoral. For example:

- a) Those who encourage rejection of God, attack the saints, promote idolatry, give false testimony and hate justice. Deut 13:13; 1Kgs 21:10,13  
Nah 1:11; Ps 18:4  
Prov 6:12; 16:27; Prov 19:28
- b) Those who are greedy and violent. Deut 15:9; 1Sam 30:22; 2Sam 16:7
- c) Those who rebel against authority. 1Sam 10:27; 25:17; 2Sam 20:1; Job 34:17-18; 2Chr 13:7
- d) And sexual perverts. Judg 19:22

## **Happy Father’s Day!**

- 1) Since this is Father’s Day, however, I wish to avoid the usual Evangelical trap of attacking men on this day.
  - a) Besides, we will be dealing with Hophni & Phinehas’s (Eli’s worthless sons) particular sins in later sermons.
  - b) So, let’s try to do something more positive.
- 2) For the rest of this sermon, I want to ask a question that for generations everyone knew the answer too.
  - a) Question: What is it to be a man?  
In the positive sense of that word.
  - b) Scripture commands it: “*Act like men*” – 1Corinthians 16:13b
  - c) Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and especially since the 1960’s, there has been a cultural war on the created order, especially masculinity.
    - i) I don’t think many of the older generation realize how bad it really is for both young women and young men this day and age. There is great confusion.
    - ii) The fact we need documentaries to explain “What is a woman?”  
And/or a supreme court justice can’t define the term, shows how bad the problem is.

<sup>3</sup> For its uses in Scripture see: Deut 13:13; 15:9; Judg 19:22; 20:13; 1Sam 1:16; 2:12; 10:27; 25:17,25; 30:22; 2Sam 16:7; 20:1; 22:5; 23:6; 1Kgs 21:10,13; Nah 1:11,15; Ps 18:4; 41:8; 101:3; Job 34:18; Prov 6:12; 16:27; 19:28; 2Chr 13:7; 2Cor 6:15.

- 3) Where do we turn in Scripture?
  - a) In one sense, it is not obvious.
  - b) There is no such clear list.
- 4) Scripture does teach on the issue and listed below are the key places to start to reeducate one's self on what it is to be a man (and a woman)!

## **Biblical Manhood**

- 1) First, go to the beginning and see our original purpose, go to before the fall, go to Genesis 1-2.
  - a) There are two accounts of the one creation story also in Genesis.
    - i) Genesis 1:1-2:3 are the seven days of creation focusing on creation from God's perspective as the great architect of creation.
    - ii) Genesis 2:4-25 is the story of Adam & Eve in the garden, focusing more on the human perspective.
  - b) In the first story of Creation you hear the similarities but there are differences.
    - i) Genesis 1:27-28 - *"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*
      - Thus, man is to have dominion and rule over creation.
    - ii) Mankind, male & female, are to multiply and rule over creation based on the family unit.
      - In procreation there is one outcome but two different roles.
      - Those roles are more clearly spelled out in the next two sections.
  - c) In the Second Creation story man is created first. Gen 2:7ff; 1Cor 11:8-9; 1Tim 2:13-14
    - i) It is man who is called to work the garden and to cultivate and keep it. Gen 2:15
    - ii) God gives commandments to the man, assuming his headship. Gen 2:16ff
    - iii) It is assumed the norm for the man is to be in a covenant relationship with his wife. Gen 2:18,22-23
    - iv) The man names the animals, showing headship and dominion. Gen 2:19-20
    - v) It shows the norm is that for the man he needs a helper, who is a woman – that marriage is the norm. Gen 2:20b-25
      - Genesis 2:25 - *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."*
  - d) What is the norm for a man:
    - i) To go and cultivate, keep and rule over the piece of creation God has given him.
    - ii) To govern and lead those under him in a wise and godly way.
    - iii) Whatever his job is, work hard and do it well.
    - iv) Because work is what a man is called to do, to provide for his family.
    - v) That marriage and family are a blessing.

- 2) The other place to go to understand what it is to be a man is to go where when Scripture focuses on judgment passages about a particular sin men do and then to the opposite.
- a) Like the Catechisms on the Ten Commandments - Its not just about “not murdering” but it is about learning how “to give life.”
  - b) Read about the fall in Genesis 3.
    - i) Genesis 3:17b-19 – *“Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*
    - ii) So, what was originally intended?  
Work, to provide, to live and to give life (children).
  - c) Or, today’s sermon text: If Eli’s sons are “worthless men”, literally “sons of Belial”, then what do godly men do?
    - i) They know the Lord.
    - ii) They respect the customs of the church.
    - iii) They are to worship properly.
- 3) The positive version of this is Psalm 101:1-3 – *“I will sing of lovingkindness and justice, to You, O LORD, I will sing praises. I will give heed to the blameless way. When will You come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart. I will set no worthless (Belial) thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me.”*
- a) To have a house what do you need?
  - b) A good job, a godly wife, children, authority over your household.
  - c) And with these things you are suppose to do what? Worship God, fear and serve Him.
- 4) Happy Father’s Day.