

ENDORSEMENTS

I Stand: The Road to Manhood is a practical playbook that equips men to identify and break through the roadblocks that have denied us of our authentic manhood. *I Stand: The Road to Manhood* is a literary movement challenging men to boldly protest that which has held us hostage to our past all the while planting a stop sign in our present and future. Through his personal journey, Rufus Chambers III enlightens us on God's standard of manhood that can only be discovered through His unfailing love. As a father of four sons, *I Stand: The Road to Manhood* greatly encourages and empowers me to deal with the issues of my past that have reproduced negative fruit, so that my children will not repeat certain parts of my history. If you are a man who is ready to pursue the life God designed for you, follow the plays in *I Stand: The Road to Manhood*, and victory will inevitably be your reward.

Anthony L. Scott
Grateful Husband & Father

A Journey of renewal...*I Stand: The Road to Manhood* is a type of “map-quest” that takes us on a Journey of healing, restoration, and empowerment toward the divine destination of true, God-centric manhood. Rufus Chambers III has written a book that will prove to transform!

Darius Wise
Executive Director of Upstream Impact

Rufus Chambers III in *I Stand: The Road to Manhood* has concisely packaged a phenomenal tool, a compass for any man (junior or senior) to navigate life and move forward to reach his God given destiny. His personal candor and transparency unveils truth and comforts other men into the realization that they are not alone. Moreover, that God is with them every single step of the way. I believe it is not only a must read for men, but for the women who love and support them.

Lillie Hudson
Medical Professional and Servant Leader

I STAND

THE ROAD TO MANHOOD

RUFUS CHAMBERS III

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to two special people: My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and my father, Rufus Chambers Jr. (1944 - 1994).

When I welcomed Jesus Christ into my heart in 2001, my life forever changed, and I am eternally grateful. His love alone has re-shaped my existence and the eternal inheritance of my offspring. His Word has challenged me in an all-inclusive way to be the man, father, and husband He has predestined me to become.

My father's legacy will continue to live on through me, my children, and the countless lives I plan to impact through the grace of God. It is with great honor and dignity that I carry his name. I will forever cherish his love, guidance, discipline, support, and teaching. The time we were together on earth has left a mark on my life that can never be erased. For that reason, I am forever grateful.

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FOREWORD

BY

Pastor David A. Burrus

In his book *In Pursuit of Purpose*, Dr. Myles Munroe, one of the great orators of our time states, “where purpose is unknown abuse is inevitable.” Essentially, what he is stating is where there is no clear understanding or direction for a thing; it is subject to be misappropriated, mishandled, and abused. While this statement can speak to a myriad of items, it is undoubtedly applicable to the understanding and misunderstandings of men. There are countless mothers, sisters, daughters, and even wives on a desperate pursuit of a concrete understanding of the men they love, yet many have come up empty handed. The reality is that there are far too many men that do not have a clear understanding of their purpose and worth, and can offer no resolve for the women in search of answers. Perhaps you are reading this and you are the woman I am speaking of; or maybe you are the man that is in search of some resolve for yourself. You are in the right place, reading the right book, at the right time.

If you have ever been on a road trip for any length of time, I am certain you will agree that the two most important factors are a clear destination and clear directions. Having these in place can save you valuable time and energy on your journey. *I Stand: The Road to Manhood* is a clearly defined roadmap of success for men, and the women desperately attempting to understand them. It is this type of clear direction and destination we so desperately need. Rufus Chambers III takes a clever approach in presenting the plight of the male/man from a natural perspective, while at the same time offering spiritual solutions from a Biblical perspective. Unlike many other books written on the subject of manhood, Rufus Chambers III undergirds *I Stand: The Road to Manhood* with his own personal experiences as a boy transitioning into manhood. As this is indeed a roadmap for men, he outlines the road that brought him from searching for manhood, to discovering authentic manhood. He does a stellar job of drawing the reader into his world, and affording them the opportunity to experience growth and manhood from his perspective.

It is not often that you discover a book that is in a category all by itself, but *I Stand: The Road to Manhood* is certainly one of those books. It is warm and inviting

enough to be an autobiographical tale of one boy's quest for manhood, yet it is intellectually stimulating enough to be found in the academic section of your local bookstore. It is spiritually rooted enough to entreat supernatural growth in the reader as well. It is infused with practical tools a man needs for self-discovery. *I Stand: The Road to Manhood* is a transparent book written by a transparent author who has a passion to see men living at their greatest potential. It is through that very passion that Rufus Chambers III presents practical tools for men to confront and tackle hindrances that may be standing in-between them and their destiny. This book offers female readers a deeper understanding of why the men they love may respond to life's situations the way they do.

If there was one word that could sum up *I Stand: The Road to Manhood* as a body of work, that one word would be "necessary." This book will serve as an incredible contribution to the lives of boys and men for generations to come. Praise to Rufus Chambers III for starting what is sure to be a lifelong conversation in the hearts of the men and women who read this book.

Pastor David A. Burrus
Pastor of Hope City Church (Hewitt, Texas)

FOREWORD

BY

Bishop C. Carl Smith

"If the foundation be destroyed, what shall the righteous do" (Psalm 11:3 [KJV])? God's original intent is for the man to be the foundation of the family. However, in today's society, one of the greatest attacks is on the male seed. If we are going to strengthen the foundation of our families, we must strengthen the man.

I Stand: The Road to Manhood is the road map leading men back to God's original design of authentic manhood. Within these pages, Rufus Chambers III captures the significant struggle for countless men. That struggle is the lack of fathering. Whether your father was in your home, but absent, or your time with your father was cut short through some misfortune, the emotional impact of circumstances like these, assault the essential nature of the man and ultimately the family.

Whatever your case, every boy needs a father that will help him become a man. More often than not, the absence of the father has the potential to cripple a boy's destiny. If there is no divine intervention, a boy's developmental

process is delayed and he is prevented from developing into the legitimate man his wife and children need.

In the pages of this book, you will hear Rufus Chambers III's personal testimony of how he overcame the struggle of the absence of his father at the time when he needed him the most. You will also learn Biblical principles, from the Word of God, that will teach you:

- How to overcome life's challenges.
- How to become a man of character and integrity.
- How to overcome rejection.
- How to overcome excuses.
- The importance of mentoring and much more.

Whether you are struggling with the process of true manhood or not, *I Stand: The Road to Manhood* is a must read for every man. It will challenge you to become the genuine man God has called you to be for the benefit of your family and your God-given place of influence. God bless Rufus Chambers III for being transparent and making God's truth available to all its readers.

I S.T.A.N.D.,

Bishop C. Carl Smith
Senior Pastor of New Birth Church (Northern California)

INTRODUCTION

I grew up in a working class African-American neighborhood in the East Bay (San Francisco Bay Area) where people worked hard and were committed to providing a good home to raise their children. When I was around 10 years old, I used to love to spend my time playing outside with my friends. We enjoyed the thrill of riding our bikes throughout the neighborhood, playing basketball at the house on the corner that had a basketball goal, and playing strikeout against one another's garage doors. We would play for hours after school until the street lights came on which was our cue to come inside for dinner.

I can remember one afternoon when I was hanging outside with my neighborhood friends, who were a few years older than me, goofing off behind a set of trees and shrubs that were next door to my parent's home. These friends were preparing to smoke something I was unfamiliar with and they asked me if I wanted to smoke. They told me it was weed and it would make me feel good. I was not familiar with weed, so I turned down their generous offer and eventually returned home.

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These friends did not have fathers in the home and they always knew how to push the limit beyond what my parents allowed. I was viewed as the good kid and the kid who stayed in line. This was mainly due to the presence of my father. My father had a firm disciplinary program he indoctrinated in me over the years that primarily consisted of putting a belt to my behind when I got out of line. His discipline was consistent and effective, so much so, when I thought about breaking the rules, I would carefully consider the probability of my father finding out and the severity of discipline I would receive.

This offer to smoke weed was no different in that I knew it was wrong, and my father's disciplinary program was lingering in the back of my mind when I received the offer. Years later, I realized I made the right decision because that encounter helped me understand that I wanted to go in a different direction than that set of friends.

After returning home from my afternoon play, I told my parents about the proposition I received. My mother was shocked, but my father was low-key about it. He already had his reservations about this set of friends, and this new incident did not surprise him one bit. He shared a few things with me I will never forget. He helped me

understand that many of the boys running the street doing foolish things did not have a father at home with them. He also shared with me that I had to make the decision on the type of friends I would surround myself with. That was one of the first times my father had ever put something in the context of me coming of age and having the power to make my own decisions. As the years went by, I took his feedback to heart, and I hung with this crew a little less.

Over the years, some of the neighborhood boys got into trouble. This made me appreciate the sentiments of my father that much more. As I grew up, I began to realize the importance of a father in helping a boy mature into true manhood. It was as if the presence of a father improved the likelihood of success for boys. Even in my teenage years as I began to date, I could see the effects of an absent father in a young girl's life. I realized that having two dedicated parents in the home provided children with the love, guidance, support, protection, and discipline needed.

As I grew into a man, I would look at my life and compare it to the life of my father to see if I was measuring up. He provided a real-life blueprint for me to build upon, and showed me what manhood was all about. I would often wonder how distorted my view would be if I never

had a father present. It would have been like me taking an eye exam without my prescription glasses. As much as I would try to squint and strain my eyes, I would not be able to make out the letters on the bottom two rows. Without having the proper vision or perception of manhood, how can we move towards all it has to offer us and those we cherish?

Manhood is critical not only to the men who are trying to live their lives, but also to the people who have been entrusted to them. Men play a strategic role in society. They serve as fathers, sons, husbands, grandfathers, and leaders to countless people throughout the world.

I like to view manhood from the lens of an individual family. A father and husband will directly impact the well-being of everyone in the house, bar-none. How he performs his duties will determine the amount of pressure placed on the shoulders of the wife and mother, the amount of love and self-esteem his daughter receives and develops, and the amount of teaching and discipline his sons receive. One father and husband being out of place can have a devastating effect on those who depend on him most.

King Solomon was one of the wisest men to ever walk the face of the earth. His father, King David, was a

tremendous role model as a leader, son of God, husband, and father. In the 13th chapter of the book of Proverbs, King Solomon declares, “*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children*” (Proverbs 13:22 [KJV]). Often, this scriptural reference to inheritance is put in the context of financial wealth, however I believe it can also be seen through the lens of King Solomon showing his children the road to authentic manhood. As a father illustrates and teaches his children the true standard of manhood, the impression can last beyond the lifetime of the father and personify an inheritance. My life is living proof of this.

Young and old men alike are in desperate need of getting help to remove themselves from the mistakes of the past and pains of their childhood that have stifled their growth and pursuit of authentic manhood. Countless boys are growing up with absentee fathers; and this fact is reducing the likelihood of the success of an entire generation. There are approximately 24 million children in America growing up in fatherless homes. This equates to one out of three children not having the lasting impression of “Daddy” growing up in the house. National statistics consistently prove, children who do not have fathers in the home are more likely to live in poverty, drop out of high school, commit crimes leading to incarceration, and use

drugs and alcohol. Because of the truancy of the father in the home, many of us lack the understanding of what true manhood is and are ashamed to ask for the help we need.

In the pages of this book, you will find practical tools that will assist you and others to move past roadblocks and aggressively pursue manhood. Regardless of what has happened to you in the past, God has provided you a rich resource in His written Word that can help you overcome insurmountable odds and climb to your full potential. "Potential is always present, waiting to be exposed" (Dr. Myles Munroe).

There is an entire generation waiting for us to come into our position of authenticity, authority, and honor. Therefore, I challenge every man who reads this book to **S.T.A.N.D.** and be counted, as we advance on the road to manhood.