

REAL MEN

Appointed to Lead

One theologian put it this way, "God revealed Himself in the Bible pervasively as king not queen; father not mother. The Second person of the Trinity is revealed as the eternal Son, not daughter; the Father and the Son created man and woman in His image and gave them the name man, the name of the male . . . that *is*, God has given Christianity a masculine feel."

However, recent statistics from churchformen.com show the lack of male interest within the 21st century church.



- * The typical U.S. church congregation draws an adult crowd that's 61% female, 39% male. This gender gap shows up in all age categories. Young adult, middle aged, and seniors....
- * On any given Sunday there are 13 million more adult women than men in American churches.

- * Midweek activities often draw 70 to 80% female participants.
- * As many as 90% of the boys who are being raised in church will abandon it by their 20th birthday. Many will never return. Largely because of the poor example set by their dad's.

- * Men have been absent from the body of Christ, and a significant number of those who do go to church attend out of habit and are unaffected by what they hear.
- * Quite a few men go to church simply to keep their wives/mothers/girlfriends happy.
- * The majority of men who attend church do little to serve within the body of Christ.

This gender gap is not just a U.S. phenomenon; churches around the world are short on men. **No other major religion suffers such a large, chronic shortage of males.**

In the Islamic world men are openly, publicly, and unashamedly religious. Of the world's major religions, **only Christianity has a consistent, nagging shortage of men.**

But when we look in the Bible, we find that Jesus had no trouble captivating men. Rugged fishermen dropped nets full of fish and left all to follow Him, **but today's church can't convince men to drop their remote controls for a couple of hours a week.**

The good news is, God is still looking for able men to serve Him. Men who will put on the armor of God, take up the sword of the Spirit, and fight the good fight of faith. You see, we are in a spiritual war and God is calling able men to take a stand on the front lines.

So what are the principles behind the kind of man Jesus is looking for? I am sure we can all agree that our Lord is looking for men who have placed their trust in Him for salvation, but what else is He looking for? Well let's take a look at what the scriptures say.

First there are three internal qualities.

1. He is looking for a man who commits to following a greater authority. – Luke 9:59-62

[Jesus] said, "Follow me." But the man said, "Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ Jesus said, "Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God."

⁶¹ And another also said, "Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house." ⁶² And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

2. He is looking for a man who commits to sacrifice all else in the shadow of discipleship.

"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26)

3. He is looking for a man who commits to being joyful and obedient even when he does not understand all the Lord is doing.

“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. ⁶⁷ Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? ⁶⁸ Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. (John 6:66–69)

There are six external outcomes that are manifested from the former internal commitments.

1. He commits to spiritual discipline.

“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.” (Mark 1:35)

2. He commits to abide in the word of truth.

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:31–32)

3. He commits to growth and production, especially spiritual fruit.

“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.” (John 15:8)

4. He commits to carry out God’s mission.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19–20)

5. He commits to love others faithfully.

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵ By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:34–35)

6. He commits to brotherhood and community.

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24–25)