



# MEN LIKE US

“So be strong, show yourself a Man”  
I Kings 2:2

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A Communication of Real Issues Ministries

## Where Are All the Men?



How did Christianity, founded by a man and his 12 male disciples, become the province of women? There is a pattern of feminization in Christianity going back at least 700 years, according to Dr. Leon Podles, author of *The Church Impotent: the Feminization of Christianity*. But the ball really got rolling in the 1800s. With the dawning of the industrial revolution, large numbers of men sought work in mines, mills and factories, far from home and familiar parish. Women stayed behind, and began remaking the church in their image. The Victorian era saw the rise of church nurs-

eries, Sunday schools, lay choirs, quilting circles, ladies' teas, soup kitchens, girls' societies, potluck dinners, etc. Soon, the very definition of a good Christian had changed: boldness and aggression were out; passivity and receptivity were in. Christians were to be gentle, sensitive and nurturing, focused on home and family rather than accomplishment and career. Believers were not supposed to like sex, tobacco, dancing or other worldly pleasures. The godly were always calm, polite and sociable. This feminine spirituality still dominates our churches. Those of us who grew up in church hardly notice it; we can't imagine things any other way. But a male visitor detects the feminine spirit the moment he walks in the sanctuary door. He may feel like Tom Sawyer in Aunt Polly's parlor; he must watch his language, mind his manners and be extra polite. It's hard for a man to be real in church because

he must squeeze himself into this feminine religious mold. Men, if you've felt out of place in church, it's not your fault. If you've tried and failed to get a men's ministry going in your church, it's not your fault. If you can't get your buddies interested in church, it's not your fault. The church system is getting the results it's designed to get. Until that system changes – radically – men will continue to perish, both inside and outside our congregations. Some of you don't know what I'm talking about. A feminized church? Some guys are happy with church just as it is, and see no need for change. Others are the sensitive type and actually like the macho-deficit. But try to see church through the eyes of a typical guy. It's intimidating for a man to hold hands in a circle, to cry in public, or to imagine falling deeply in love with another man (even if his name is Jesus). If we're going to be fishers

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## HOW DO WE INVOLVE MEN?

According to [churchformen.com](http://churchformen.com),

- A significant number of churchgoing men attend out of habit, 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 nothing during the week to grow their faith.

- Relatively few churches are able to establish or maintain a vibrant men's ministry.

Men are different. The common perception is men are self-reliant, don't feel, don't touch, don't need fellowship,

are too macho and are very competitive. Men see life as a puzzle. So how do we integrate men in and outside the church community?

Ask About

**CATALYST**  
Men's Ministry  
Fellowship and  
Discipleship

## MEN LIKE US

### Do My Decisions Really Matter to God? (Teen Advice)

God cares about what's going on in our hearts. In any decision we have the opportunity to choose who we will worship. Will we worship God or will we worship ourselves? God desires to be the highest priority in every part of our lives. In some areas of life it's clear that there are right decisions and wrong decisions—like the choice of whether to cheat on an exam. In other areas, we need to make choices between two good things—like making a decision between two great colleges. It's quite possible God would be present in and honored by either decision.

Other times the choice may have to do with a gray area—something that's not necessarily right or wrong. These are opportunities to practice wisdom. For example, spending a lot of time talking on the phone or texting friends may be a good thing. But if there's never any time when we are just quiet and still, it can be harder for us to be aware of God's presence. Being wise might mean turning the phone off from time to time to quiet your heart so you can be more attentive to the presence of God in everyday life.

Sometimes when we make decisions, it can seem like we're trying to work God into our life story. But really, we are part of God's story and God is delighted by our desire to live with that focus in mind.

*Dr. Jamie Noling  
Associate Campus Pastor  
at Azusa Pacific  
University (California)*

## Scriptures

Nutritional Products

<http://scriptures.cc/109188/>

## Men of Prayer

God's plan is to make much of the man, far more of him than of anything else. Men are God's method. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men...What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use, men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men, men of prayer.

*Preacher and Prayer, E. M. Bounds, 1907, pp. 5,*

## Your Daughter An On-Line Prostitute?

Pornography is a filthy, disgusting habit that should bring shame to your heart. This fact especially holds true to you married husbands and fathers out there. There is a new dangerous trend called 'cam-whoring' that is sweeping across our teenage female cohort at an alarming rate. If your teen daughter is on the internet, unsupervised, and has a web-camera studies show that there is a 66% chance that she has been approached by a male seeking online sexual favors. ) More than half of the time, your teenage daughter will comply. The most common request is for a young woman to 'strip' her clothes off in very suggestive fashion and masturbate for the pervert on the other end. Such a request is usually built up to, with a series of smaller but dangerously more lude requests, over a period of time. Sometimes the sexual predators use the guise of befriending your daughter on line social sites such as

Facebook or Myspace, oft times even trying to start a romantic 'e-relation'. After they finally seduce your daughter into creating a perverted video, they then sell the footage to internet pornography sites for thousands of dollars. Congratulations, your daughter has now been traumatized for life and is an online prostitute. It's as simple as that and that's why there are millions of pornography sites. Imagine the disgusted guilt in your heart if you let Satan convince you to sneak and then pay for an online subscription to one of these filthy sites, then you click play on a video and see your daughter dancing around in her bedroom, rubbing her erogenous areas in all sorts of sick, life threatening ways. You would never forgive yourself, especially since you couldn't admit what you had done or seen and had to watch her continue to live a life that leads to disease, prostitution and then death. Fathers, this happens too often and don't let it happen to you.

Any father who looks at pornography should have double the shame in his heart. It is drugs for the mind and a family is only as strong as its leader.

If you are not willing to sell your daughter on a Hollywood street corner (and if you are, you deserve to be stoned), don't let some stranger sell another man's daughter online.

Stand up and be a man. Do not succumb to online perversion. If you have fallen victim, admit it to your pastor and figure out how to confess to your family after visiting a trained Christian counselor. Confession and realization leads to actualization of goals, and the goal if you are caught in this lifestyle is restoring morality.

*Amber*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Saturday, August 22, 10am-1pm The Dimensions of a Godly Parent: Parenting Workshop**  
Location: TBA
- **Saturday, August 29, 9am-10:30am "Catalyst" Men's Fellowship Service**
- **Saturday, Sept. 19, 9am-10:30am "Catalyst" Men's Fellowship Service**
- **Saturday, Sept. Date and time: TBA**  
**Breaking Free! Overcoming Pornography and Sexual Addiction**  
Higher Living Community Church

**Christian Men and the Battles In Life (Inspiration for Singles)**

Christian men have it tough, and the only other people who **really** appreciate just how tough it is are other Christian men.

You may wonder why you often feel frustrated. You may have nagging doubts or suppressed anger. You may look at your life and be deeply depressed about your prospects.

The workplace is a never ending source of dissatisfaction. You want to advance. You want to make more money, rise higher in your company, but **you don't want to do the things that will take you there.**

You're shocked at the cheating and lying that goes on. You may be pegged as unambitious or not a team player because your [Christian ethics](#) won't let you walk all over people. If you're stuck, you may become angry at God because following his laws doesn't seem to be getting you anywhere. In fact, they seem to hold you back.

**What? A problem with women?**

Then there's the problem of women. Ha! It **is** a problem, isn't it? Christian women lament the fact that they can't find any decent single Christian men. And you feel the same way about women.

You don't want to date a nonbeliever. You don't want to sleep around, but you **do** have strong desires and needs, too. Our culture tells you that it's all right, that it's the thing to do. Men's magazines turn it into a game. But you know better. You know the Truth.

If Jesus' original apostles were fishers of men, then we 21st century Christian men are fish out of water. Our faith in Jesus Christ brings



us deep loneliness, and **it hurts.** We never talk about it to anyone, even our best friend or our pastor, because that would be a sign of weakness. God forbid we should show any sign of weakness!

My Aunt Mary made a profound statement several years ago: "**I never knew men could get hurt until I had sons of my own.**"

We **do** get hurt. So what are single Christian men to do? Should we compromise? Should we lower our ethics at work, hoping God will understand? Should we follow the urgings of our flesh and lower our standards there, too? What should we do? What should we **do**?

**Okay, you be the judge**

Since I'm probably older than you, let me tell you what I did in **my** life and you be the judge of whether it would make sense for you.

I've always been something of a Puritan. I've never had a drink of alcohol, never smoked a cigarette, and have never taken any kind of illegal drugs. Lest you think I sound arrogant, I've always had a problem with my language, and now, in middle age, I'm finally getting it under control, but not without a lifetime of struggle and help from God. But I'll be completely honest with you: My Christian ethics have often made me stick out like a sore thumb.

I missed promotions at work because I refused to com-

promise. I didn't make as much money as I could have because I tried to put God and his ways first, not my job. I try to be open minded and respect other people's opinions, but when it comes to choosing between the world's way and God's way, I have tried to walk with God. Looking back on my life, I regret the times I chose the world's ways over God's. I have often known pain, loneliness, rejection, and frustration. It hasn't been an easy life. But I can tell you this:

**I have never regretted following God.**

In my life I have experienced miracles so stunning that they have made me weep at the depth of God's love for me. He has pulled me out of jams when I thought the situation was hopeless. He has **always** been with me through the heartaches and doubts, and he has rewarded my obedience with [incredible joy](#).

We Christian men have an absolutely faithful helper in the Holy Spirit. We have God's Word, the Bible, to guide us in making right decisions. We have the support of our pastor, our parents, and our church family. And we have Jesus. **Nobody understands like Jesus.** His life on earth was the model for all Christian men. He will give you the courage to lead it. He hears your prayers and knows exactly what you're going through. I want to encourage you today to keep on keeping on. Stay faithful. Stay honest. Stay pure. We are the elite. We are called by God as his chosen people. It **is** all worth it. So hang in there, Buddy. We're all praying for you.

## PORNOGRAPHY: An Assault on Marriage

Betrayed, rejected, disgusted, and devastated. These were all words Dianne used to describe her feelings when she found her husband had been spending hours every night viewing pornography on the Internet, and having sexually explicit conversations with complete strangers in chat rooms all over the world. She knew that before they married Ed had "looked" at some adult magazines. She found them when she was cleaning his apartment prior to his return from a long business trip. She confronted him, but he brushed it off as "something single men do on occasion." But Ed was married now and, she thought, happily.

Dianne isn't the only woman who has experienced such betrayal. According to a Zogby survey conducted for Focus on the Family in 2002, 17.8 percent of all "born again" Christian adults (in America) have visited sexually-oriented Web sites. Additionally, 63 percent of men attending "Men, Romance & Integrity Seminars" admit to struggling with porn in the past year, with two-thirds in church leadership, 10 percent being pastors. Further research shows that 1 in 7 calls to Focus' Pastoral Care Line is about Internet pornography.

Pornography is described as a sexual addiction that creates an enslaving dependence upon erotic excitement through images or words, fantasized or real, and has infiltrated our world through a variety of sources: advertisements, adult bookstores, movies, music, literature, television, telephone sex lines, the Internet, and more. Regardless of the conduit by which it enters the marital relationship, it robs the union of intimacy, trust,

purity, and emotional and physical passion. And for some women, the discovery of pornography in their husband's life is equal to infidelity.

However, there is good news. Men caught in the web of sexual addiction can be set free. Psalm 25:15 says, "My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only He will release my feet from the snare." This is an important verse to understand for the wife whose husband is in the snare of pornography. It clearly identifies that the Lord who sets the individual free from the trap — not the spouse. Too often women believe that they have this responsibility, growing more and more frustrated when their mate continues in their addiction. In truth, wives have the responsibility to confront their husbands in love. Having brought it to their mate's attention, wives can leave the results to the Lord, focusing their own energy on the process of forgiving their husbands.

Overall, sexual sin of any kind is one of the most damaging betrayals to a marriage, giving full meaning to 1 Peter 5:8: "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings." Dependence upon Christ is a sure way to demonstrate the healing power of restoration to Satan, whose purpose is to destroy, not rebuild. Do not grow weary in the battle, but instead, keep your eyes on God, who will reward your faithfulness.

## RADICAL JOURNEYS

**"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," 2 Cor 6:17**

Wherever Jesus traveled, sinners were permanently and radically impacted by Him. Gang, when you walk into places where worldly stuff is going on, if people start turning to God and repenting from their sin, go for it! This of course assumes that you are truly impacting the place you are in. However; if the place is impacting you and causing your own spirit to sag, get out, pull away and back off immediately. Oh, you may say that "I'm mature in the Lord and it is OK for me to go into this business venture even though my partners are unbelievers..." And you may say "I'm strong in the Lord" and not give your actions a

second thought.

One of the greatest men in history was a uniquely blessed man by the name of Jehoshaphat. Wherever he went revivals broke out and blessings flowed. Jehoshaphat was self assured of his blessings from God. As he grew older, Jehoshaphat the king of Judah joined forces with the wicked king Ahaziah in order to get ships to Tarshish. But as we read in 2 Chronicles, the ungodly shipping venture sank!

Chosen people; you might be one that has walked with the Lord for 30, 40 or more years. Don't be like Jehoshaphat in saying: "This might not be God's best for me – but I know my ship will come in eventually..." You might think and

and believe you can become financially rich by joining in a venture with an unbeliever. Don't be fooled, God is not mocked. Don't be yoked with unbelievers in any endeavor which will cause your to sink spiritually.

**Thought to Ponder** "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36

Thomas Neely

### Cat-a-lyst

**Pronunciation:** 'ka-te-lest  
**noun**

**2. an agent that provokes or speeds significant change**