

4 HOW TO ATTRACT MEN TO CHURCH

By Chuck Loftis

What can we do to attract men to our increasingly feminine congregations? Are men really “spiritually challenged” or could our services and programs be partly to blame for their lack of interest? We will hear from one “man’s man” – an outdoorsman, master fly fisherman, and wilderness expedition enthusiast.

6 SOFT ON SIN

By Rich Kopp

Recalling Open Bible’s forefathers as “manly men,” unafraid to challenge sinners with the truth about sin and death, and grace and forgiveness, Rich calls on modern-day pastors to do the same.

7 A LIFE TRANSFORMED

By Roger Skierka

After being introduced to a God he had classified as only for the “weak and confused,” Roger’s view of life is turned upside down.

8 MISSIONARY COMPOSITE

A well-seasoned missionary returned from one of his many mission trips tired and discouraged; his wife ill. He then realized his church had failed to pray for him in his absence, leaving him without a prayer covering. When our missionaries willingly go to the front lines we MUST give them the resources they need – especially our prayers.

Plus Much More!

It Takes Courage



ANDREA JOHNSON/Editor

Women comprise more than 60 percent of a typical worship service. They often do the majority of teaching and serving in the church. Statistics

show that when a mom attends church, there’s a 15 percent chance her family will attend. Yet if a man comes to church, 90 percent of the time the family will follow his lead. So why do men comprise less than 40 percent of the congregation? Are they spiritually uninterested or just unchallenged and uncomfortable?

Unlike many males, I’m not a football fan. However, this past year when one of our youth was a starting defensive tackle for the team that eventually won the state title, I attended as many games as possible. Of course I don’t really “get” football. Why would anyone purposely run directly into the path of 250 pounds of solid muscle?

I also attended my first wrestling meet. Twin brothers in our youth group, from Liberia, were competing in their first year of high school wrestling. I was elated and proud that both won their matches – yet still felt a twinge of sympathy for the guys they pinned so easily. My husband laughs at me, but every time I watch a sporting event I feel sorry for the losers. Needless to say I don’t watch a lot of sports!

It’s okay for guys and girls to be different from each other. That’s part of the mystery of the opposite sex and the reason we need each other. When my oldest son was handed a baby doll for the first time as a toddler, he tried to punt it like he would his soccer ball. When we handed one to my daughter she clutched it to her chest and cradled it. Yet where would we be without

someone willing to do battle – physically – when needed? And what would we do without our nurturing mothers?

Too often we try to make guys act like girls. Schools’ block scheduling forces children to sit still for long periods of time. We then wonder why boys’ grades are not as high as girls’. In church we make men sing love songs to their Heavenly Father and wonder why they are not all comfortable with that. Notice how many men “happen” to walk in late to service just as the worship portion ends. My oldest son prefers hymns to most contemporary worship music for that reason.

The guys in our youth group don’t care too much about what we do, as long as it is in the form of a competition or hands-on participation with other youth. The girls love to chat – with me, with each other, with the whole class. Obviously all generalities have exceptions. One of our young ladies loves to challenge the boys – and usually wins.

It may be time, however, to reevaluate our adult programs and ministries – even our church décor. As churches cater a little more to guys as well as gals, we will also meet the needs of the girl who is not a typical “girly-girl” and the guy not into “blood and guts.”

Men, you are still not off the hook. If your church is too “feminine” for you, suggest changes to your leadership. Your ideas may be just what the church needs to attract other males. And remember: The majority of pastors and senior leadership teams are male. Have the courage to lead with other men in mind.

Andrea

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