



Old Man New Man – Men, How About Church?

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns... On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Revelation 19:11-16 [NIV]

Cliff is a man’s man. On the job he’s known as a go-getter and a very hard worker. He’s a good provider who loves his wife and kids and is well respected by his neighbors. He drives a four-wheel-drive, owns a motorcycle and loves the outdoors. He is always he’s ready for a little hunting and fishing. Cliff enjoys a cold beer and an occasional dirty joke. He does not go to church and believes deep in his heart that church is something for women and children, not men. If you ask him why he doesn’t go to church he will offer up words like boring and irrelevant. He doesn’t know why he hates going to church. Can he offer a detailed explanation of his feelings? No. All he knows is that he hates going to church. Many men feel the way Cliff feels about church. Let’s get our tools out and figure this problem out.

1. A little TV trivia: What did you enjoy most about the TV series “Home Improvement?”
 - a. The main character is Tim the Tool Man Taylor.
 - b. Tim usually picked on Al because Al was different from the average guy.

Remember how he was different?

2. The church is generally perceived as a place for women. Thus often men feel out of place. There’s a lot of emphasis in being nice which is usually opposite to what men usually like to feel.

The church is mainly composed of women, at a rate of 60/40. As a consequence of it church is more tailored for women than for men.

- a. How has the church in general turned you off?
3. Men are often dragged to church by their female counterparts [mothers, wives, grandmas]. The lack of male-role models affects the young men in the church.
 - a. What could turn this around?

4. What do men think of when they think of Jesus? He may be portrayed as weak, sensitive, and at times a little “metro.” But that is not the Jesus of the New Testament.
 - a. With your group; select a bible narrative of Jesus and put together a manly description of Jesus.
5. Pastor Labrador said: “Men need to realize that there is more to church than sitting in a pew and being nice.” If you had an opportunity to sit in a church decor committee, what suggestions would you make to transform your church into a place more appealing to guys?
6. Read Luke 19:45-48. Describe Jesus’ actions and how they portray him as a man of action filled with valor and zealous for God’s Temple.
7. What kind of ministries would be more reflective of a manly attitude?
 - a. How can these ministries connect men with God while allowing them to feel good about their masculine spirit?
 - b. Jesus took action. Challenge yourself to be a man of action just like Jesus. Will you initiate a ministry that will be more inclusive of the male counterparts in your congregation?

God is all about love and forgiveness, but He’s also about action, sacrifice and warfare. Remember Exodus 15:3 says the Lord is a warrior; and in Revelation 19:11-16 Jesus is seen on a stallion coming to do battle. This is what it says, “He rides a white horse, the rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

This is Jesus riding in victory and it’s Jesus that invites you to be His Disciple and a soldier of His Kingdom. You may have run from Him or ignored Him in years past. But He wants you to follow Him. Would you accept Jesus today? He died for your sins. He paid the price for you to have forgiveness and eternal life. Do you accept the gift of salvation?

Resource: book titled “A Place for Us Guys,” by Charles Burkeen. Visit www.oldmannewman.com for more information and resources.