



Adventist

MEN'S MINISTRIES

North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists

Men's Ministries Sabbath

September 1, 2018

A Man's Man or God's Man?

by Pastor Gene Hall

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About the Author



Gene Hall, Associate Director
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Gene began his career as a Literature Evangelist in 1976. He worked for 21 years as a canvasser and district leader in the Detroit and southeastern Michigan area. In 1998 he was called into church ministry by the Indiana Conference and pastored 3 church districts in Indiana and Michigan over the next 19 years. During that time, he was a member of the NAD Ministerial Advisory Committee. For the past 2 years he has worked as associate director of Men's Ministry for the Michigan Conference. Gene is married to Ciliciana, his wife of 46 years, has 3 married children and 8 grandchildren.

Suggested Order of Service Men's Ministries Sabbath

September 1, 2018

Call to Worship/Opening

Prayer Opening Hymn

Offering

Children's Story

Scripture Reading -- 1 Kings 2:1-4

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Closing Prayer

Men's Ministries Day

Children's Story

Scriptural Focus: "...observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go..." (1 Kings 2:1-4, NIV).

Materials Needed:

- Fitness or Exercise Book/Manual
- Pillow

Good morning, girls and boys. Are you wide awake this morning? I'm still a little tired and you sound a little tired this morning too. So, why don't we all do some exercises. In fact, all of you in the congregation may join us in these exercises too because you all look a little tired!

OK, let's put our hands in the air and stretch. Wiggle your fingers and give them some exercise. Now, touch your toes. Run on the spot. Jump up and down. Whoa! That's hard work. Whew, let's sit down and get some rest. Exercise is hard work. There has to be an easier way!

I have an idea! (Hold up your fitness or exercise book) See this book, children. It's a book that tells about all kinds of exercises that can help you get in shape. Look! (Show some of the pictures) Now, here's my idea. Instead of doing all these hard exercises why don't I just take this exercise magazine and put it under my pillow at night when I go to bed. (Hold up the pillow and place the book underneath) That will be much easier than actually jogging or doing sit ups. Do you think that is a good idea? Do you think that will help me get in shape? No? It won't work? Why? (Interact with children)

That's right boys and girls. I wish that would work but I don't think it will. If I really want to get in shape it's not enough to put this book under my pillow or to simply think about doing exercises. I actually have to get out there and do the exercises if I want to get in shape or be an athlete.

That's what it's like being a disciple of Jesus. Being a true follower of Jesus Christ, a disciple, is not just about keeping our Bibles tucked away on a shelf. To be a disciple of Jesus we need to do read the Bible and be obedient to the things that God wants us to do.

We can't get in shape by just thinking about exercise and we can't be a disciple of Jesus by just thinking about it. We need to get out into the world and do what Jesus wants us to do. Then we will be a true disciple.

Prayer: Ask a child to pray to Jesus to ask that we all will be obedient to what He wants us to do

A Man's Man, or God's Man?

Scripture – 1 Kings 2:1-4

What is a man's man?

According to the website "Wise Geek," a man's man is a man who engages in activities that are traditionally viewed as masculine, and who earns the respect of other men. Such men may also be described as "manly," emphasizing their masculine personality. They tend to be domineering, confident, and bold, because these character traits are reinforced by traditional gender roles.

Activities that a man's man might enjoy include hunting, fishing, playing or watching sports, grilling, construction projects, camping, and equipment maintenance and repair. In the traditional framework of gender roles, such tasks are viewed as extremely masculine, and indeed they continue to be dominated by men, with a smaller number of women engaging in these activities as a general rule. A man may also distinguish himself from other men by proving that he has been engaging in these activities since childhood, rather than picking them up as a hobby later in life.

How does a "man's man" relate when it comes to involvement in a church? In his book, "Why Men Hate Going to Church," David Murrow shares some interesting statistics.

- The typical U.S. congregation draws an adult crowd that's 61 percent female and 39 percent male. This gender gap shows up in all age categories.
- On any given Sunday there are 13 million more adult women than men in America's churches.
- This Sunday almost 25 percent of married, churchgoing women will worship without their husbands.
- Midweek activities often draw 70 to 80 percent female participants.
- As many as 90 percent of the boys who are being raised in church will abandon it by their 20th birthday. Many of them will never return.
- More than 90 percent of American men believe in God, and five out of six call themselves Christians. But only two out of six attend church on any given Sunday. The average man accepts the reality of Jesus Christ, but fails to see any value in going to church.

It appears that most men have "checked out" when it comes to religion and church activities. What about other places where men have changed over the past 50 years?

"If you want to get to the core of who people really are, get them to start talking about their dad. Let them tell you what he said to them. How he treated them. Things he modeled for them. It will be very telling as to why they are who they are. And if they're being transparent, they will often be fighting back tears, either because they loved and admired their father so much or because he deeply wounded them in one or more ways."

"Regardless of age, everyone wants a good answer to the question, 'What does my dad really think about me?' Our hearts intrinsically long for his approval. And when we don't get it, we tend

to spend the rest of our lives working tirelessly to win the approval of others in an attempt to fill the intense void he has left. At the same time, when a man becomes bitter with his father, he can spend his whole life trying to prove his dad wrong. He'll say, 'I never want to be like my dad.' Either way, his dad becomes the focus of so much emotional energy in his life."

"But a lot of fathers don't realize their vital role, and their kids are destined to suffer for it. If you boil down many of the issues associated with today's detached, passive, or absentee dads, you discover this: fathers have lost their sense of purpose."

"Dads used to be very intentional about fathering their children. They knew how pivotal their influence was. But because so many fathers today don't know who they are or what they are doing, they end up doing very little. And because they are not training their sons how to be responsible men, the culture is stepping in and subtly emasculating them."

"This current generation of young men doesn't know what it means to be a man. Or to be a mature, responsible leader. Or to be a strong and engaged father one day. Society is guiding boys to remain boys as long as possible – extending childhood into their thirties – while forcing girls to become women long before they are ready."

"Instead of growing up, getting married, and courageously raising up the next generation, millions of young men are staying single, remaining emotionally and directionally dependent on their mothers while becoming addicted to entertainment, pornography, and video games. They want the privileges and rewards of manhood but only the responsibilities and moral requirements of boys. So, when they become fathers themselves, they don't know what to do, and they feel extremely ill-equipped."

"Young women, likewise, are entering life without a deep sense of value and worth. Rather than displaying feminine charm, modesty, and grace, many have become nearly (if not equally) as rude and unrestrained as the stereotypical guy. They are told to act like and outdo men as much as possible. Flirty, immodest, and aggressive, they stay on a constant search for acceptance and attention – things they haven't been freely given by the one man in their life whose love and approval they really want. And so millions of teenage girls auction away their priceless virginity every year for a pizza, a movie, and some on the spot flattery. Each of them hopes that being held for a few minutes by a teenage boy with raging hormones will somehow fill the dark canyon of love that her disengaged father has left aching inside her heart. And it never does. The consistently missing piece of the puzzle? Fathers."

"When a father disconnects, leaves, or dies too soon, so does a part of his child's heart. At the point a child gets detached from his or her father, it creates a massive vacuum of unmet needs in all the key areas for which the father is responsible."

"More and more kids are going to bed at night without their father in their home. The physical absence of fathers is now considered the most significant family and social problem facing America."

The research is staggering. Prisoners, drug users, dropouts, runaways, and rapists all share something in common. The overwhelming majority of them come from homes without a father. Fatherless homes produce more than half of all youth suicides, as well as the majority of kids with behavior disorders. Kids are twenty times more likely to end up in prison if their dad is not involved in their lives."

"Fatherlessness also affects kid's physical health. Those living without their dads have a much higher rate of asthma, headaches, anxiety, depression, and behavior problems. They are significantly more likely to use drugs and become suicidal."(Alex Kendrick, from his book; The Resolution)

We know what society considers a man's man. But what are the characteristics of God's man?

There are 43 biblical references to "mighty men of valor." Valor means "strength of mind or spirit that enables a person to encounter danger with firmness; personal bravery."

Judges 6:12 refers to Gideon as a mighty man of valor. What did Gideon do? He stood valiantly for God against seemingly impossible odds. And the results were incredible.

Abraham was also a might man of valor. He saved Lot and his friends when they were kidnapped. He interceded for Lot and the inhabitants of Sodom when God planned to destroy them. He graciously returned the spoils to the freed captives, and he faithfully returned a tithe to God on the portions that were his own. But he was also a man of valor in his household. Notice Genesis 18:19 (Read)

What does God expect of fathers?

1. Teach God's Laws.

- Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Read

The father, as the head of his own household, should understand how to train his children for usefulness and duty. This is his special work, above every other. During the first few years of a child's life the molding of the disposition is committed principally to the mother; but she should ever feel that in her work she has the co-operation of the father. If he is engaged in business which almost wholly closes the door of usefulness to his family, he should seek other employment which will not prevent him from devoting some time to his children. If he neglects them, he is unfaithful to the trust committed to him of God. {AH 221.1}

The father may exert an influence over his children which shall be stronger than the allurements of the world. He should study the disposition and character of the members of his little circle, that he may understand their needs and their dangers and thus be prepared to repress the wrong and encourage the right. {AH 221.2}

2. Pray for his children
 - Lamentations 2:19 (Read)
3. Discipline
 - Proverbs 19:18 (Read)
4. Keep under control – responsible for behavior
 - 1 Timothy 3:4 (Read)
5. Deal firmly, but gently. Don't provoke to anger
 - Colossians 3:21 (Read)

Do not permit your actions and your words to be of a nature that your children will be provoked to wrath. Yet they must be faithfully disciplined and corrected when they do wrong, but never in anger. --

(Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 2, pg. 518)

Never should they [the children] be allowed to show their parents disrespect. Self-will should never be permitted to go unrebuked. The future well-being of the child requires kindly, loving, but firm discipline. {Child Guidance, pg. 83.1}

6. Teach them to know God.
 - Isaiah 38:19 (Read)
 - Ephesians 6:4 (Read)
7. Provide for physical needs
 - 2 Corinthians 12:14 (Read)

One post from the "God's man blog" summed it up this way:

- *One man forever seeking for the Heart of God. One husband forever loving his wife. One father forever shaping the lives of his children. One teacher forever equipping the lives of people.*

Perhaps the book "Education" says it best. What is a God's Man?

The greatest want of the world is the want of men, --men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall. --Education, p. 57.

Appeal

Men of the Church, what kind of man will you be? Will you strive to be the macho man of the world? Or will you be a mighty man of valor? Will you call sin by its right name? Will you be true and honest? Will you stand for the right though the heavens fall?

With God's help you can be His Man. But you have to make the choice. If you would like to make a public commitment to be God's Man, would you stand?

Prayer of commitment

** You can make your own appeal. This is just one option.