

The Role of Men in the Church

Many have commented that the number one problem faced by the church as we enter the 21st century is the absence of male spiritual leadership. Yet the church faces an even deeper problem – the relative absence of men from all spiritual activities in the church and the home. In our class on the role of women in the church, we focused upon the scriptural basis for including or excluding women from leadership positions, activities during worship, and responsibilities in the church. In our class on the role of men in the church, we will focus on the failure of men to fill positions of leadership, to participate in worship, and to accept responsibility in the church. A central premise of this class is that “masculine” characteristics of our faith, such as discipline, struggle and responsibility in caretaking, have been neglected by the latter 20th century church. Though these characteristics are relevant to both men and women, their neglect has been especially detrimental to men. Though these characteristics should be expressed by both men and women, they urgently need cultivation by men in the 21st century church. These characteristics include, among others, taking on the role of soldier, caretaker and worker. Men described in the scriptures will serve as examples of these characteristics. A list of topics for the class is provided below.

Session 1 Challenges to Men in Society – Challenges to Men in the Church.

Session 2 The Feminization of the 21st Century Church.

Session 3 Man as Initiated and Purified. Abraham (II Tim 2:21; Jas. 4:8; Acts 2:38)

Session 4 Man as Worker. Adam (Genesis 1-3)

Session 5 Man as Disciplined. Daniel (Daniel 1:8; Prov. 6:16)

Session 6 Man as Set Apart. Noah (Genesis 6)

Session 7 Man as Sexually Pure. Uriah (II Sam. 11; I Cor. 6:12 – 20; 7:1)

Session 8 Man as Teacher. Moses (I Peter 4:11)

Session 9 Man as Caretaker. Joshua (Joshua 24)

Session 10 Man as Soldier. David (Ephesians 6)

Session 11 Man as Struggler. Job (Job, Chapters 2, 38-42)

Session 12 Man as Practicing Brotherly Love. John (I John 3:11-24)

Session 13 Man as Husband. Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:22-33)

Session 14 Man as Father. The Father of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15, Deut. 6:7, II Cor. 12:14; Eph. 6:4; Prov. 19:18)

Session 15 Man as Saint. Paul (Acts 22:1-21; I Peter 1:2)

Session 16 Summary and Discussion