

Why do you think women tend to outnumber men in church?

Do you think our church “feels” more masculine or feminine?

Harvest is a church that is committed to building a church that men love to attend. What evidence do you see in our church that we are committed to building, honoring, encouraging, and depending on godly men? How are you personally building, honoring, encouraging, and depending on men?

Men who aren’t taught their God ordained role tend to default into one of two damaging behaviors.

- Passivity – escaping responsibility; failing to lead
- Brutality – overly controlling; use and abuse women for their own selfish pleasure

Which are most prone to? Describe how your life has been affected by men in each of these categories.

What evidence do you see in our culture that men are in crisis?

1) A praying man surrenders to God’s control.

Lifting holy hands is not so much a statement about holy posture as it is about being a holy person.

- His hands are up.

Read Psalm 134:1-2. Are you comfortable lifting your hands in worship? Describe a recent time of worship where you found yourself physically moved.

Read Psalm 28:2. How does having your hands in the air demonstrate surrender? Have you ever felt like you were out of options or had lost all control over a situation? Is your pattern to turn to God in prayer in those times?

- His hands are clean.

Read James 4:8. Read 24:3-4. What is the connection between a holy life and power in prayer?

- His hands are powerful.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. It is a man’s responsibility to pray for and with those he is leading.

Do you pray together as husband and wife?

Do you pray before meals?

Do you pray together as a family?

Do you pray individually with your children?

2) A praying man releases his anger about things outside of his control.

Anger is a symptom of prayerlessness. Describe the circumstances that led to the last time you were angry.

Read James 1:19. What is the difference between the anger that produces the righteousness of God and the anger that does not?

Behind anger is fear and behind fear is a desire for control. How have you seen this in your life?

How does a prayer deflate the pressure of anger? How does prayer give you a better grip on situations outside of your control?

Describe how a praying man takes his complaints and arguments to God.

3) A praying man refuses to quarrel with others for control.

Read James 4:1-3 and Matt. 18:19. What affect does a contentious spirit have on our prayers?

Read 1Peter 3:7. What happens to a husband's prayers who neglects to shower his wife with honor? Is this the reason your prayers have been hindered?

Additional Scripture

- 2Corinthians 7:1
- 1Peter 1:13-17
- Ecclesiastes 7:9
- Proverbs 14:29
- Proverbs 22:24
- Proverbs 15:18