

How the Christian Church in America is

FAILING

Men

*A **Wake-Up Call***

*that left untended will become a **Requiem***



How the Christian Church in America is Failing Men

A Wake-Up Call that left untended will become a Requiem

Part One — The Role of Senior Pastors

Introduction

“They aren’t strong enough!” was the response from a highly regarded author and senior pastor friend when I asked if the words in this title were too strong. “Fail” is a strong word—one neither lightly given nor received. We know there were seasons in the nation of Israel in which the Lord strongly called out the Israelites through the prophets and Jesus’ own words. So, the Christian church in America must be given similar admonitions. The question is will they be heard and received and, in so doing, effect the requisite change through repentance and obedience that alone can restore Christ-centric hope and healing and Holy Spirit power in the body of Christ.

A Story Too Often Told

Like many of you, I have witnessed firsthand, public and private, failures of pastors and church leaders. I recall one pastor friend with whom I was in an accountability group. He quit showing up for our meetings, and when we did see him, his appearance was gaunt and temperament uneasy. We ultimately learned he was having an affair with someone in the church. We know the hell that follows such exposure for those involved, perhaps even more so for their families, and the church. Every man reading this can throw similar stories on the heap—some their own.

Keenly aware many do not like reading statistics, it is mandatory I share a few to set the table for the main point of this article: **the Christian church in America is failing men.** I call your attention to these numbers that consist solely of Christian church men.

- 1) **Marriage Infidelity:** More than 30% of born-again married men admitted to having had an affair. As bad as that number is, it does not include the rest of us whose “affairs of the heart” leave us equally culpable in the eyes of God. (Reference Jesus’ words in Matthew 5: 28)

- 2) **Divorce:** 38% of people in church today have been divorced. Whether that figure is low or high is not the point. The point is God said, “I hate divorce” (Malachi 2: 16). Jesus had equally strong words on the subject in Matthew 19. God still loves divorced people—His steadfast love remains unconditional.
- 3) **Addictions** including alcohol, drugs, and sexual sin enslave Christian men and pastors. Sexual sins stand out in this category.
- 54% of pastors said they viewed pornography in the last year; 37% admit it is a current struggle.
 - 95% of Christian men admit having looked at porn; 54% do so with some regularity.
 - 18% of born-again Christian men admit to being addicted to pornography.

Consider millennial men—the first generation to come out of so many single-parent, absentee-dad homes. They provide a scary glimpse into the future if the church continues down its current failed path.

- 77% view pornography at least monthly; 36% do so daily; 32% admit having an addiction.

No greater need exists among men than in this young generation of husbands and fathers who are already floundering. If we fail to reach and disciple them in biblical manhood, we lose one of our largest and most needy demographics. Another generation of single-parent homes and children born out of marriage will be spawned—further confusing the issue of what real biblical manhood looks like.

This unexplained apathy toward (even Christian) men leads one to wonder how much time and attention these issues receive at denominational conventions and other Christian leadership meetings. As I gathered information and research over a number of months, I found the interest in discussing “man issues” and men’s ministry, in general, incredibly low in too many places—even among some high denominational levels and within churches of all sizes. This is not only unacceptable, it is appalling.

Worse than that, it breaks the heart of God. We are in a spiritual war that too many churches seem content to sit out or send men into battle ill-equipped to fight.

We don't need a roadmap out of this malaise. We need a battle plan!

Examining the "Fail"

No one likes to be associated with the word "fail"—nothing positive or redeeming in that. But **every man, from pastor to businessman to professional athlete, has failed at something and will again.** It is a fact and forgivable. What is not is denying the problem exists and/or deflecting the blame, which brings us to another contemptuous word—*blame*.

No one likes the word *blame* when it is being thrown in our direction.

Since this a wake-up call, I am going to call out failure and assign blame—there is plenty to go around.

Three people groups must stand up and give an account for contributions to this massive fail. We begin, as we should, at the top of the church food chain—*the senior pastor*.

Part One: How Senior Pastors are Failing the Church

*"and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men**, who will be able to teach others also."* (2 Timothy 2: 2 ESV)

No individual has a greater role and responsibility for the health and development of biblical Christian men than the senior pastor. Of course, none want to fail in any area of ministry. I know many pastors, at all levels, and each wants to serve God and tend His flock or execute his ministry well. Like their business counterparts, most maintain very full calendars. There is no challenge here to the work ethic or the hearts of men of God who have answered this high calling.

But when we step back and assess the state of our world, nation, and churches from a biblical Christian worldview, and in light of those statistics, one conclusion stands out: ***the Christian church in America is failing men.***

Too many senior pastors have been looking upward at the “big picture” or perhaps consumed by dodging the visible portions of icebergs in their path and failed to account for the massive part below. As we saw with the mighty, *unsinkable* Titanic, the damage caused by *invisible workings of Satan* can sink even the largest mega-churches, not to mention smaller ones, sucking down many men in the wake of its death-spiral toward the ocean floor. Those men populate the statistics I shared.

This begs the question,

Why aren't more senior pastors invested in taking up this mandate to produce an army of biblical Christian men befitting our King and executing His commission?

I noted in the full version of this article months of preparation and investment of time listening and seeking input from both senior pastors and leaders of men's ministry. The following summarizes some of those thoughts and comments.

- 1) **“All men are desperate whether they admit it or not.”** That includes pastors. Some come to their ministries with baggage they should have unpacked before or during seminary. Referring to the title of my book (this heading), one senior pastor said, “They haven't dealt with their own ‘desperate man’ issues. How can they call out or lead other men from desperate places with which they still struggle?” The sad, sobering statistics on pastors bears this out.
- 2) **Not in community with other men.** This could be a subset of the first. Accountability is built in small communities of men. Senior pastors are not going to usher other men into communities, large or small, if they are not there themselves or comfortable being there.

- 3) **Fear.** This is one of Satan's most powerful weapons wielded against men of God. One such example is fear of exposure of aforementioned issues and the consequences—humiliation, loss of a job, even ministry. Senior pastors clothed in invisible garments of fear will not lead men into community, much less war. It has often been said, “churches rush quickly to shoot their wounded.”

- 4) **Lack of church support for ministry to men.** There are few “squeaky wheels” crying out for men's ministry in our churches. The flawed thinking is men are strong and taking care of themselves. Really? We already noted examples of failed pastors, elders, and deacons. Investing in building biblical Christian men pays dividends in many ways. Consider how many other ministry needs would diminish if we build healthy, biblical Christian men who step up and into our God-appointed roles. Senior pastors must run point and take the lead in their churches if this is going to happen.

- 5) **Time.** We are too busy. Most senior pastors will tell you they are too busy to take on another ministry or activity. They are. The question is one of priority. Time management, for all of us, is as much a *heart issue* as it is one of priorities. We do what matters most to us, despite what we say. Until the church, under the leadership of the senior pastor, makes the decision that building biblical Christian men is of great value to the kingdom (which it obviously is) and makes it a priority, it will not get traction and has no chance to succeed.

Numbers matter. During my inquiries about the state of the ministry to men in their churches, some suggested it was good, even vibrant. I guess that depends on how you define those words. I ask three questions that can be met with defensiveness, but they get to the heart of the matter.

- 1) How many men are in your church?
- 2) How many are engaged in small or large groups/communities?
- 3) How many are you discipling? (Jesus had twelve in His small group.)

Do not include men who attend Sunday School classes or community groups with their wives. That is great, but not specific to this issue.

One fallback answer is, “Numbers don’t really matter.” That is not only wrong, it is also hypocritical. Numbers matter in every other area of church life—we count heads in every service, take roll in every class, track the number of conversions, baptisms, visitors, money collected...numbers matter a lot. **“Man” numbers matter because they matter to God.**

Here are three questions every senior pastor needs to ask himself and leadership team.

- 1) What is your vision for the men of the church?
- 2) Have you communicated/transferred ownership of that vision to the church body?
- 3) Do you have a **“a man plan”**?

Jesus, the Carpenter, built men after His own heart. He invested in them in every format—small group, medium-sized groups, and large crowds. He was intentional and direct because He “knew what was in the hearts of men.” Every senior pastor reading this knows in their hearts the truths of this article and which ones they need to own and commit to change.

If we want to see our world impacted by the love, life, and saving grace of Christ, our nation turned back to the biblical principles upon which it was founded, husbands who love and remain faithful to their wives, and dads who stay home and set an example for their kids, the best place to begin is leading and teaching men how to biblical Christian men after God's own heart. The vision and motivation for that flows from the heart of the senior pastors of the Christian church.

On to Part Two—***How Christian Men are Failing the Church in America***

How the Christian Church in America is Failing Men

A Wake-Up Call that left untended will become a Requiem

Part One Review — The Role of Senior Pastors

To begin this strong message, we looked at sobering statistics of Christian church men.

- 1) **Marriage Infidelity:** 30+% of born-again married men admitted to having affairs.
- 2) **Divorce:** 38% of people in church today have been divorced.
- 3) **Addictions:** 54% of pastors viewed pornography in the last year; 37% admit it is a current struggle. 95% of Christian men looked at porn; 54% do so with regularity. 18% of born-again Christian men admit addiction to porn. It gets worse with millennials: 77% view at least monthly; 36% daily; 32% admit having an addiction.

Conclusions and Questions:

- 1) We don't need a roadmap out of this malaise. We need a battle plan!
- 2) No individual has a greater role and responsibility for the health and development of biblical Christian men than the senior pastor.
- 3) Numbers matter. A challenge was issued to do an analysis of the total number men in their churches, the number engaged in "man communities", and those being disciplined by the pastor.
- 4) Why aren't more senior pastors invested in taking up this mandate to produce an army of biblical Christian men befitting our King and executing His commission?
Five reasons were cited.

- Personal Issues that are not being adequately or appropriately dealt with.
- Not themselves in community with other men.
- Fear of being caught and the consequences.
- Lack of church support for ministry to men.
- Time. Not a good excuse, but the most popular reason.

Now it is time to examine this fail from the point of view of church men like me and my brothers, who too often point the finger elsewhere or simply fail to engage on any level.

Part Two – How Christian Men are Failing the Church

What Would You Do?

Suppose you went to church one Sunday after severe storms brought heavy rains that caused a lot of damage and power outages in your area. The storms have passed, so as usual the church is full of worshippers and attenders. You arrive late and, on your way in, notice the roof of the church appears to be sagging and unstable in a few places.

Fearing it might even collapse, you head straight in and warn those in leadership about the situation. All in the building are asked to leave quickly and orderly. You call on some men to warn those in other areas of the church about the imminent danger. Finally, you enlist other men to come alongside to help put up braces to prevent such a collapse if possible.

Every Christian man I know would take action without pause in a situation like this. My dear brothers, that is the state of too many Christian churches today. This is not an imminent physical collapse—it is much worse. It is a spiritual one. Based on my experience and research, this describes too many Christian churches today when it comes to investing in and building the lives of biblical Christian men who attend.

I hate the word *fail*, and any assignment pointed my way as much as you do. But it is past time to get over that and get real. We need real honesty with ourselves about how, for decades, church men have failed when it comes engaging in God’s mandate to build and equip men for spiritual warfare and actively fulfill our roles as servants in our marriages, as dads, and to the body of Christ.

Two truths stand out as we seek to own, understand, and correct our part of this failure.

- 1) **God is calling us out!** The “man side” of this problem is not new—quite the opposite. Men have, at times throughout our history, failed to step up. It began in the Garden in the first encounter with our fierce enemy, Satan. You should recall Adam took the low road, blaming Eve for his sin. From that, excuse-making and marital conflict were born.

In the sixth century B.C., we read perhaps the most indicting words God ever spoke concerning His men. They find as much application today as they did when the prophet Ezekiel spoke/wrote them.

*"I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and **stand in the gap before Me** for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but **I found no one.**" (Ezekiel 22: 30 NASB)*

Not one man among the remaining half of the kingdom of Israel was committed enough to stand up and be counted for the Lord against sin. You know the rest of the story. It did not end well. God finally had enough. Like their northern kingdom brethren, He allowed them to be overrun by their enemies—even destroying His temple. Only a fool would think God looks at His men any differently today in light of where we stand (rather sit on our thumbs) in this nation—especially in His church.

- 2) **The Passivity of Christian Men.** Sadly, some Christian men of the church are more bored than bothered by the statistics I shared earlier concerning the dire condition of Christian men in our country. The other tack would be to invite you to raise your head, look outside yourself, and view the carnage firsthand. Some of you have been part of that—and even now you are trying to get your lives back on track.

We know in our hearts these observations and assertions are true in too many churches today—even our own. We just do not want to go there. Like the Wizard of Oz, we prefer to stay behind the curtain. Recall the real wizard turned out to be a very ordinary man with no superpowers—just like you and me. While the following may not be said aloud, some men (and pastors) think things like this,

"Leave me alone. Next, you'll be talking about uncomfortable stuff like transparency and accountability. If no one calls me out, I can stay where I am (behind the curtain) no matter how much it hurts me, my family, or the body of Christ."

Most of us will argue we would never say such things or risk the consequences. But actions—better said, *inactions*—speak volumes. Standing pat is no more an answer than staying behind the curtain.

The greatest “man issue” facing the Christian church today is passivity.

As we did with our senior pastor brothers, let’s ask ourselves two hard questions.

- 1) **Why aren’t you doing some *calling out of your own*?** For Christian men who understand and own these “man issues”, and those laid out in the Part One related to senior pastors, we have an obligation to call on and call out leadership in our churches for Christ’s sake, the sake of our marriages and families, and the overall well-being of the body of Christ. Look where failure to do so has landed us. We are not afraid to call out national leaders. Why we would we draw back in an area so much more important from an eternal perspective?

This obviously must be done with the love and respect leaders deserve, knowing they have a lot of other issues, personally and within the church. But that cannot deter us from the call out and task at hand—building and equipping an army of biblical Christian men. It did not stop Jesus or the Apostle Paul. Healthy biblical churches are built on the firm foundation of Christ our King and His Word. They only remain healthy when we engage and do our part in service to Him and His church.

Solomon said, “*Where there is no vision, the people perish (cast off restraint).*” Every senior pastor should have a vision for the development of the men under his shepherding. As Christian men of the church, we have an obligation to know what that is, share in it, and be part of helping make it happen. It is the old adage—*being part of the solution not the problem*. Do you have any idea if there is a vision or plan for the men of your church?

- 2) **What is preventing you from actively engaging in this process?** Three answers cover most bases for Christian men. **Time. Fear. Pride.**

Time. Picture many church men standing before the Lord, as they give an account of their lives, telling Him they wanted to engage, but there simply were not enough hours in the day. Bad news. The Creator of time is not going to be very sensitive to that excuse. He will restate what He taught here on earth. **One relationship matters above all others—that with our Father God.** All others flow or clog depending on how much time we spend developing our relationship with Him.

We work to build father-son or father-daughter relationships with our kids, but not this one? We find time to slip out to the club and hit a bag of balls, spend hours on fantasy leagues, get a beer with the boys. But no time for God? What's up with that? Here's what's up with that. It is a matter of priorities—wrong ones!

This reality check reveals it is not really a *time* issue—it is a *heart* issue.

Fear. As brave as we want our wives and kids to think we are, men know fear. We experience it in different ways, but at the root of some issues lies the simple fact we are afraid. When it comes to this kind of callout and getting men into community with other men, *fear* often blocks the path.

We fear getting overexposed because we want others to see and know only what we control. Although true, it is a bit comical because we all stand naked before God. If I let someone peek behind the curtain or pull off the mask, my weaknesses may be exposed. That not only scares men, it leads to the third reason...

Pride. The Bible is replete with verses about the untoward effects of this known destroyer of men. "*Pride goes before destruction.*" "*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*" There are many others. Despite that, pride of Christian men still gets in the way of humble transparency taught in the Word of God.

There are some prideful Christian men who think being in community with other believing men is for those who have "issues." More bad news. You have issues too—and one of them is pride. You know such men, and perhaps you are one.

Christian men of the church be warned that *pride* among us and our pastors has crippled the body of Christ, rendering it impotent in the work He has called us to carry out: ***be the mouthpieces, hands, and feet of Jesus to bring hope and light into a hopeless and dark world.***

My dear brothers, the good news is this. God redeems our failures, turning them into some of the greatest successes the world and church have ever seen or experience. My prayer is the Holy Spirit will use this wake-up call to do just that—wake up His men to the great need before us: *Build biblical Christian men who will engage in doing our part to accomplish His agenda and purposes while it is still called today.*

Once you have taken some time to digest these challenges to us as Christian men, I hope you will continue to the third, and final, part—

How Christian Women are Failing the Church in America

How the Christian Church in America is Failing Men

A Wake-Up Call that left untended will become a Requiem

Part One Review — The Role of Senior Pastors

To begin this strong message, we looked at sobering statistics of Christian church men.

- 1) **Marriage Infidelity:** 30+% of born-again married men admitted to having affairs.
- 2) **Divorce:** 38% of people in church today have been divorced.
- 3) **Addictions:** 54% of pastors viewed pornography in the last year; 37% admit it is a current struggle. 95% of Christian men looked at porn; 54% do so with regularity. 18% of born-again Christian men admit addiction to porn. It gets worse with millennials: 77% view at least monthly; 36% daily; 32% admit having an addiction.

Conclusions and Questions:

- 1) We don't need a roadmap out of this malaise. We need a battle plan!
- 2) No individual has a greater role and responsibility for the health and development of biblical Christian men than the senior pastor.
- 3) Numbers matter. A challenge was issued to do an analysis of the total number men in their churches, the number engaged in "man communities", and those being disciplined by the pastor.
- 4) We listed five reasons more senior pastors are not fully invested in taking up this mandate to produce an army of biblical Christian men befitting our King and executing His commission?

Part Two Review – How Christian Men are Failing the Church

Two truths stand out as we seek to own, understand, and correct our part of this failure.

- 1) God is calling out His men today just as He did the prophet Ezekiel's time.
- 2) The greatest "man issue" facing the Christian church today is passivity.

We noted that men need to be involved in doing some calling out of our own to pastors and church leaders and three reasons we do not engage: **Time. Fear. Pride.**

Part Three – The Vital Role of Christian Women in the Church

A Story Too Often **Untold**

She had no idea what the aftermath of her divorce would bring for herself and her children. Wounded and wondering, she did her best to put on a good face for the children and the church. But serious heart issues - hurt, confusion, and anger - left her mind vulnerable with no capacity to battle thoughts that, heretofore, would never have found a place to land.

For the first time since she became a Christian, doubts began to trickle in—doubts about the goodness of God and value of her life spent in church. And what of her ten-year old son? How would he respond to his dad's departure and the new family arrangement? As he moves into manhood, will he turn to or from the Lord?

A “good Christian man” was how most described her husband—a part he played well for years. But like too many “Christian” church men, spiritually he was a mile wide and an inch deep. He had no community with other Christian men in his life nor any idea what accountability meant. So, he donned the mask and played the role—even serving in various roles of leadership on occasion.

Like too many “Christian” men, he chose to go solo and naked, feigning the full armor of God—verses he knew well. And, as he frequently does, our fierce, stealth enemy, Satan, patiently bided his time until just the right moment of weakness. Like the house built on sand Jesus described in Matthew 7: 27, “great was its (his) fall. “

Humpty Dumpty fell off the wall and broke into pieces. O that fallen men would suffer only such a fate. But when a “Christian” man falls like this, more than his shell is broken. He breaks his covenant with God, his vow to his wife, and damages his relationship with his children.

Too many Christian women in churches in America have found themselves in this or similar places asking questions. Questions of themselves. Questions of the church.

The message of this article is a wake-up call out to the church for the ongoing failure to be more intentional in having a vision for and executing plans that hold to the biblical mandate to ***build Christian men according to God's design, plan, and purpose.***

The responsibilities of senior pastors and men in this fail were discussed in Part One and Two, respectively. It may seem odd to include Christian women in the church as culpable in this fail, but they also share part of the blame.

Before diving into the specifics, I felt led to add this brief note of assurance and affirmation. Nothing in this article should in any way be construed as sexist or ignoring the incredible value and esteem God placed on women throughout biblical history that continues today.

Women were also created in His image, our equal in His sight—unique in design and purpose as described throughout His Word. As a man who has been married to the same amazing woman for thirty-four years and dad to an incredible daughter, I have done my best to hold that biblical view with love, honor, and respect.

Having only been married thirty-four years, I make no claim as an expert on my wife or women, in general. Most wives will attest, and I admit on behalf of men, we are slow learners. But I have learned a few things about the spiritual heart of my wife and other Christian women I can discuss with a high degree of certainty.

My wife values godliness—in her life, the lives of our children, and, of course, me. She has depended on me all these years to be the spiritual leader of our family—stand in the gap for her and our kids in terms of prayer, provision, and protection.

To effectively do that, she knows I need to make time to build and maintain a relationship with the Lord. She also desires the fellowship of a healthy community of believers (church). And, while this goes mostly unspoken, she hopes I will continue to grow in Christ as a man, teach and lead our sons into biblical manhood, and be personally accountable.

My wife is no exception in her views and the desires of her heart for the men in her life. I do not know a Christian woman, wife, or mother who does not long for the “boys to men” in her life to be trained and equipped in what it means to be biblical Christian men.

Hard to argue with any of that, so where does the “fail” aspect enter this discussion? First, let me say it has nothing to do with what Christian church women are *doing* in their roles as wives, moms, or concerned church members. It is what you are NOT doing that contributes to and feeds the problem.

One of my personal failures as a young husband and dad was not listening well to the heart of my wife in our early years. Eventually, the Holy Spirit taught me the incredible value of seeking her input to the point that I have vetted nearly everything in my life with her since those woodshed moments. Perhaps in those early days she was not more proactive in letting her heart and mind be known in such matters because she thought I did not care or would not value it or both. My stupidity-my loss!

I share that personal story because I fear that Christian church women may have similar feelings when it comes to speaking up and out on issues of such great importance to their families and the body of Christ—especially those related to men. Maybe they think the senior pastor or church leaders, perhaps even their husbands, are not interested or would not heed their input or opinions. The truth is that this completely depends on the level of biblical, Spirit-filled leadership in your home or church. Wise men not only listen, but seek out such input.

Another factor that keeps Christian women from engaging in such a process is they have been wounded by church men who said all the right things, but when it came to *walking the talk*, they were struggling with their own issues and too embarrassed to admit it. Too many church men have no idea what a biblical Christian man really looks like—how we are supposed to live and love. The statistics I shared, and the even more horrifying ones on spousal abuse, not only speak to this problem...**they shout it!**

So, my dear sisters in Christ, here is my call-out to you.

You have failed in not standing up and speaking out to make your feelings known and voices heard in such a serious matter that affects current and future generations of men.

Questions Christian church women should ask senior pastors and church leadership:

- What are we doing in our church to build biblical Christian boys and men?
- Ask the questions I suggested senior pastors ask themselves.
 - Do you have a vision for men in this church?
 - Do we have a “man plan” that begins with our boys?
- Can I trust the development of my husband and, equally importantly, my sons to this church?

While I know the following may be more difficult in some homes, the following questions should be asked of husbands and sons in your life.

- What are they are doing to grow their relationship with the Lord and, in particular, the “man” areas.
- Are they in community with other Christian men?
- Is anyone holding them accountable to the above? This is not a good responsibility for a wife or mom. Another man or men best serve this role—“iron sharpens iron” kind of thing.

Single Moms and the Church. I also have a word for single moms in the church. You absolutely have the right to expect biblical Christian men in your church to step up and into the life of your son to help him grow and understand biblical manhood. The issues created by absentee dads are huge. I deal with the aftermath of that all the time in my ministry to men at missions and prisons.

My dear sisters in Christ, what are you waiting on? The body of Christ is incomplete without you and less served when you remain silent on what I consider a serious crisis in the Christian church today—*building biblical Christian men who understand what it means to love and live as Jesus did. That includes your husbands, sons, and grandsons.*

Walter

www.desperatemen.org

How the Christian Church in America is Failing Men

A Wake-Up Call that left untended will become a Requiem

Part One Review — The Role of Senior Pastors

(Link to full message - [How the Christian Church in America is Failing Men - The Role of the Senior Pastor](#))

To begin this strong message, we looked at sobering statistics of Christian church men.

- 1) **Marriage Infidelity:** 30+% of born-again married men admitted to having affairs.
- 2) **Divorce:** 38% of people in church today have been divorced.
- 3) **Addictions:** 54% of pastors viewed pornography in the last year; 37% admit it is a current struggle. 95% of Christian men looked at porn; 54% do so with regularity. 18% of born-again Christian men admit addiction to porn. It gets worse with millennials: 77% view at least monthly; 36% daily; 32% admit having an addiction.

Conclusions:

- 1) We don't need a roadmap out of this malaise. We need a battle plan!
- 2) No individual has a greater role and responsibility for the health and development of biblical Christian men than the senior pastor.
- 3) Numbers matter. A challenge was issued to do an analysis of the total number men in their churches, the number engaged in "man communities", and those being disciplined by the pastor.
- 4) Five reasons were given to help explain why more senior pastors are not fully invested in building an army of biblical Christian men according to God's Word and plan.

Part Two Review – The Role of Christian Men in the Church

(Link to full message: [How the Christian Church in America is Failing Men \(Part Two\) - The Role of Church Men](#))

The following summarizes the truths associated with our part of this failure—presented solely for the purpose of helping us own, understand, and correct our part.

- 1) God is calling out His men today just as He did the prophet Ezekiel's time.
- 2) The greatest "man issue" facing the Christian church today is passivity.
- 3) Church men need to do some calling out of our own to pastors and church leaders to get serious about building and equipping men.
- 4) We listed three reasons church men do not engage: **Time. Fear. Pride.**

Part Three Review – The Vital Role of Christian Women in the Church

(Link to full message: [How the Christian Church in America is Failing Men \(Part Three\) - The Role of Church Women](#))

This strong appeal began with recognizing and esteeming Christian women in the church for the vitally important role they play in the lives of the “boys to men” of the church. The call-out focused on the need to hear their voices raised on these critical issues with men. They were challenged to consider and ask questions such as these.

- What are we doing in our church to build biblical Christian boys and men?
- Ask the questions I suggested senior pastors ask themselves.
 - Do you have a vision for men in this church?
 - Do we have a “man plan” that begins with our boys?
- Can I trust the development of my husband and, equally importantly, my sons to this church?

Closing – Biblical Context and Words of Grace

As this letter was being developed and written, I sat before the Lord in one of my quiet times and asked very directly, *“How do I close this lengthy, difficult text?”* He led me to a verse that has a lot of meaning for the church and communication among believers—Ephesians 4:29. That powerful verse gives three conditions. As the Holy Spirit bears witness, I did my best to be faithful to them. I close with three points.

† Edification. No new information was communicated here. Every fact was garnered from public information available to everyone—some in places most would never search. My hope is it was assembled and presented such that it serves as a strong admonition and reminder of one vital segment of our churches that has been, at best, underserved—men.

Every senior pastor, Christian man, and Christian woman reading this knows these truths in their hearts. If you get real honest with yourselves, many will agree with whatever part of this failure they must own and commit to change. Clearly, that is a work of the Holy Spirit and will only be wrought in the hearts of men and women of God who come before Him in humility and contrition. (Psalm 51: 17-18)

If we want to see (1) our world impacted by the love, life, and saving grace of Christ; (2) our nation turned back to the biblical principles upon which it was founded; (3) husbands who love and remain faithful to their wives; and (4) dads who stay home and set an example for their kids, the best place to begin is reaching men and teaching them how to biblical Christian men after God’s own heart.

We learned to read by learning our ABC’s and putting them together to form words. Then we used words to form sentences, and sentences to make paragraphs. We learned to multiply and divide only after learning what numbers represent and first how to add and subtract them.

Building biblical Christian men is also a process to which men like me have been called to spend our lives exhorting the church and encouraging and equipping men. We need

your commitment to engage and do your part. Prophets carry God's messages of warning to His people. It was and is incumbent upon the people to repent and change.

† Timely (according to the need of the moment). I really do not need to say much about this provision. The need could not be any clearer than watching local, national, and international news or absorbing some of the Christian man statistics I shared at the beginning of this message. In addition, you may want to read those I cited in my book regarding the numbers of men in prison, trapped in addiction, and committing suicide. The need is great—the time is NOW.

† Gives grace to the hearer. By now, most have concluded not much grace was afforded in this wake-up call. I understand that, so to be true to the entirety of the instruction in this verse, I close with this covering of grace.

- Senior Pastors. Most are committed men of God who serve and honor Him by giving their best in all they do in their service to the body of Christ. Their platters and calendars are as full as any of ours. The demands of needy church people can be a heavy burden for them and their families. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for their service. Those of us in the church need to do a better job of helping bear that burden and affording them much grace along the way.

That includes stepping up in this “man issue.” Senior pastors are the key to success in most cases, but they are not the *de facto* men's pastors on top of everything else. A wise church leadership team will figure out how to best resource this vital position, measure success, and be held accountable for the results.

- Christian men and women in the church. The same may be said of us. We need all the grace the Lord affords us that we sometimes fail to give each other or ourselves. The Lord knows we bring a lot of baggage to the table—in this case, to His church. He knows many of us have made ourselves slaves to calendars and the tyranny of what we deem urgent. He does not want us to remain there.

God's grace alone can bring the covering of peace in our hearts we so desperately seek when we lay our burdens – no matter what they are – at His feet. Only then will we be able to lift our eyes to see compelling needs such as this one. Only then will we, with glad hearts, engage in finding the answers God has for those who seek Him with all our hearts.

To God be the glory, great things He has done. I am believing Him for the “greater works” Jesus spoke of—things He will accomplish in and through the hearts and lives of humble, holy biblical Christian men and women who understand what it looks like to love and live like Jesus. Amen.

Walter Spires

Messenger, Missionary, and Minister to Men

Founder, Desperate Men Ministry

www.desperatemen.org