

Ministry To Males
of the
Christian Methodist Episcopal
Church

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Department of Ministry to Men

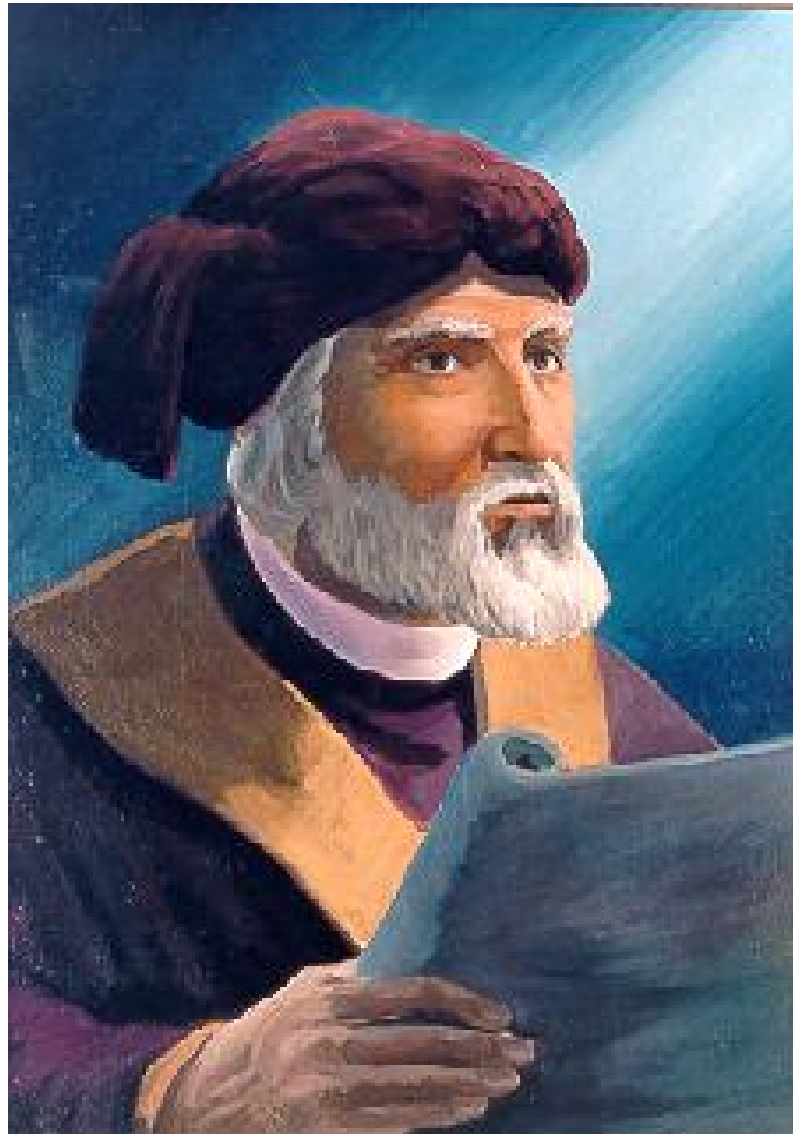
**21st Annual CME
Convocation
Las Vegas, Nevada**

**Tuesday Sept. 18th, 2007
Presenter / Leo Pinkett /
Reginald Williamson**

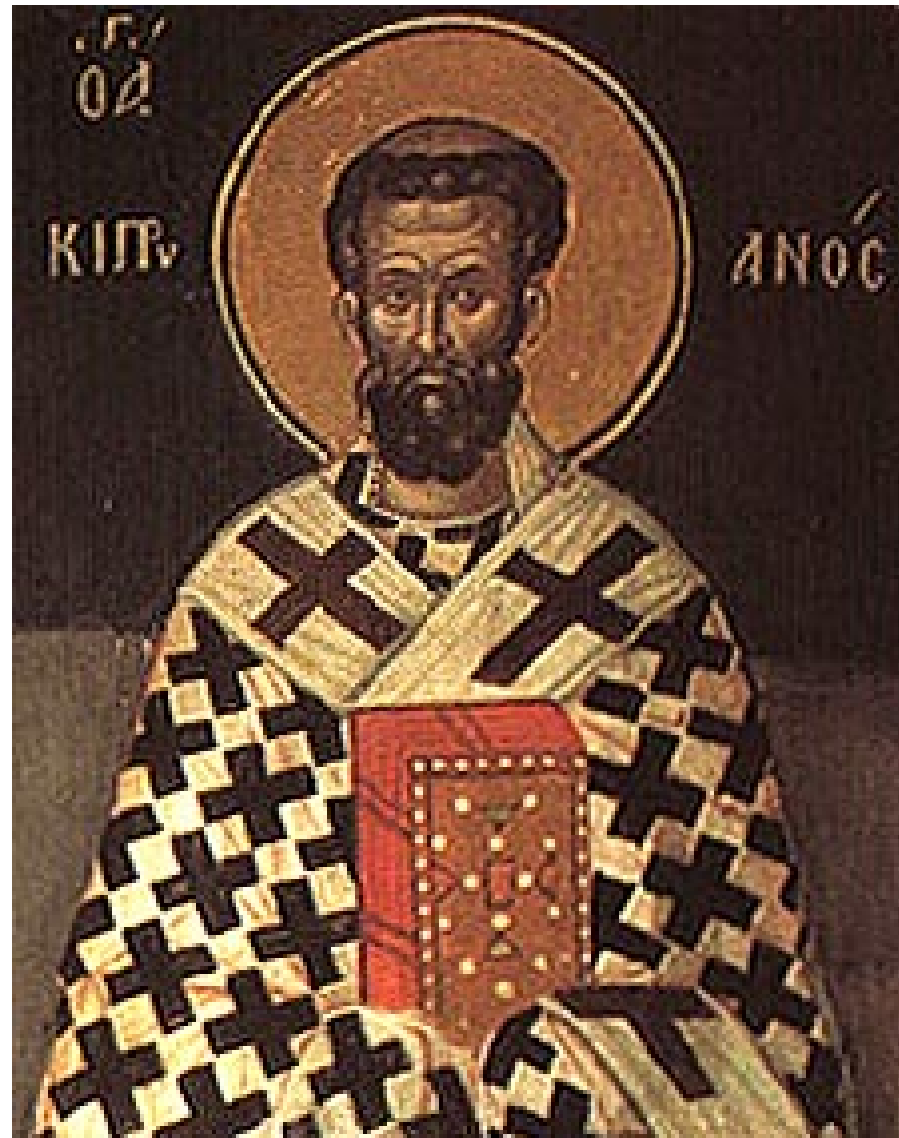
Why do black men come to church?

- In order to determine why black men come to church let's look back in history to see if there were black faces then associated with the church.
- During the time period 293-373 A.D. there were three founding fathers of Christianity who were black.
- Can you identify each?

Tertullian



Cyprian

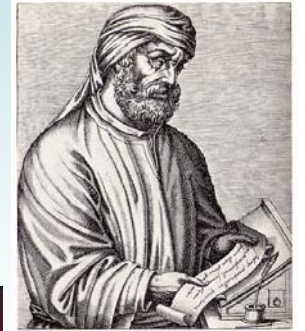


St. Augustine

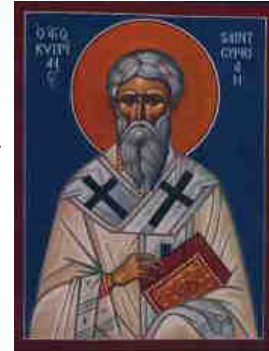


Black Christian Founding Fathers

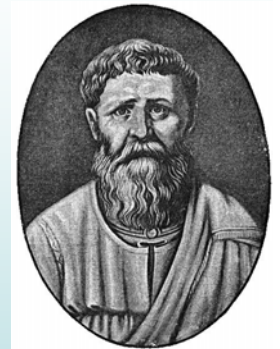
1. **Tertullian** – First of church fathers who made Latin the language of Christianity.



2. **Cyprian** – Bishop and martyr



3. **St. Augustine** – One of the most famous “Fathers of the Church”



Black men have always gone to church

- Males who attend church regularly tend to fall into two categories;
 - under 14 years old
 - or over 60.
- **Boys** come because their mothers make them attend
- and **older men** often establish church membership when their health begins to fail



- **Adult men in their 20s, 30s and 40s who are active in black churches also tend to be involved in a variety of other activities in the community and, as a result, are often over-committed.**



- **In addition, their congregations often rely heavily on these men -- who are relatively few in number -- for volunteer activities within the church and in the surrounding community, leaving them little time for other volunteer tasks.**

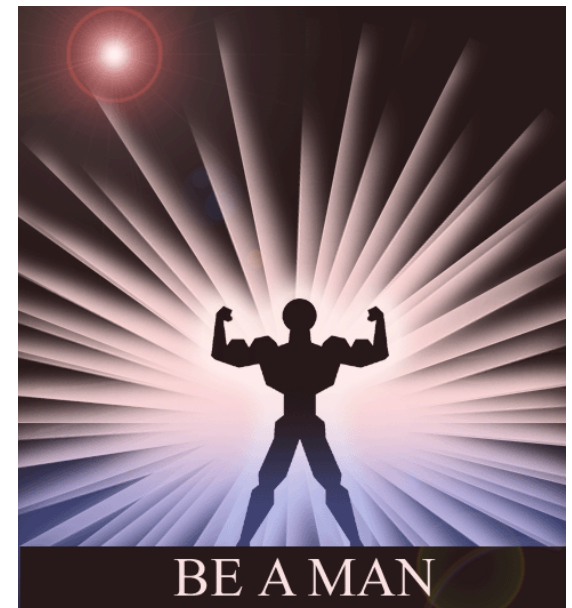
- Adult women, particularly those over 40, form the backbone of many churches



- **Black men who attend church know the best way to destroy a black family is to destroy a black man.**



- **Black men go to church because young black males are looking for Black men who are man enough to tell them what is right to do.**



- And finally, one of the most known highlights why black men come to church is that one-third of the black men in the United States are in the penal system.

- This is why many believe churches should become more involved in jail and prison ministries.



- **Why go to church – because “ God commands it” in**

- Hebrews 10:25

- **Why go to church – To engage in Public Worship**

- Psalm 122:1

- **Why go to church – To hear God’s Word Preached**

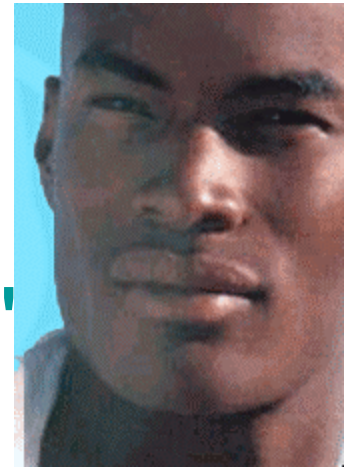
- Act 10:33

- **Why go to church – To Fellowship with Christ**

- Ephesians 3:21



- **Young black males are looking for African-American men who are "man enough to tell us what to do"**
- **and young women reared by their mothers are longing for positive father figures.**



- **"How can a 16-year-old girl choose the right man if she has never seen one?"**



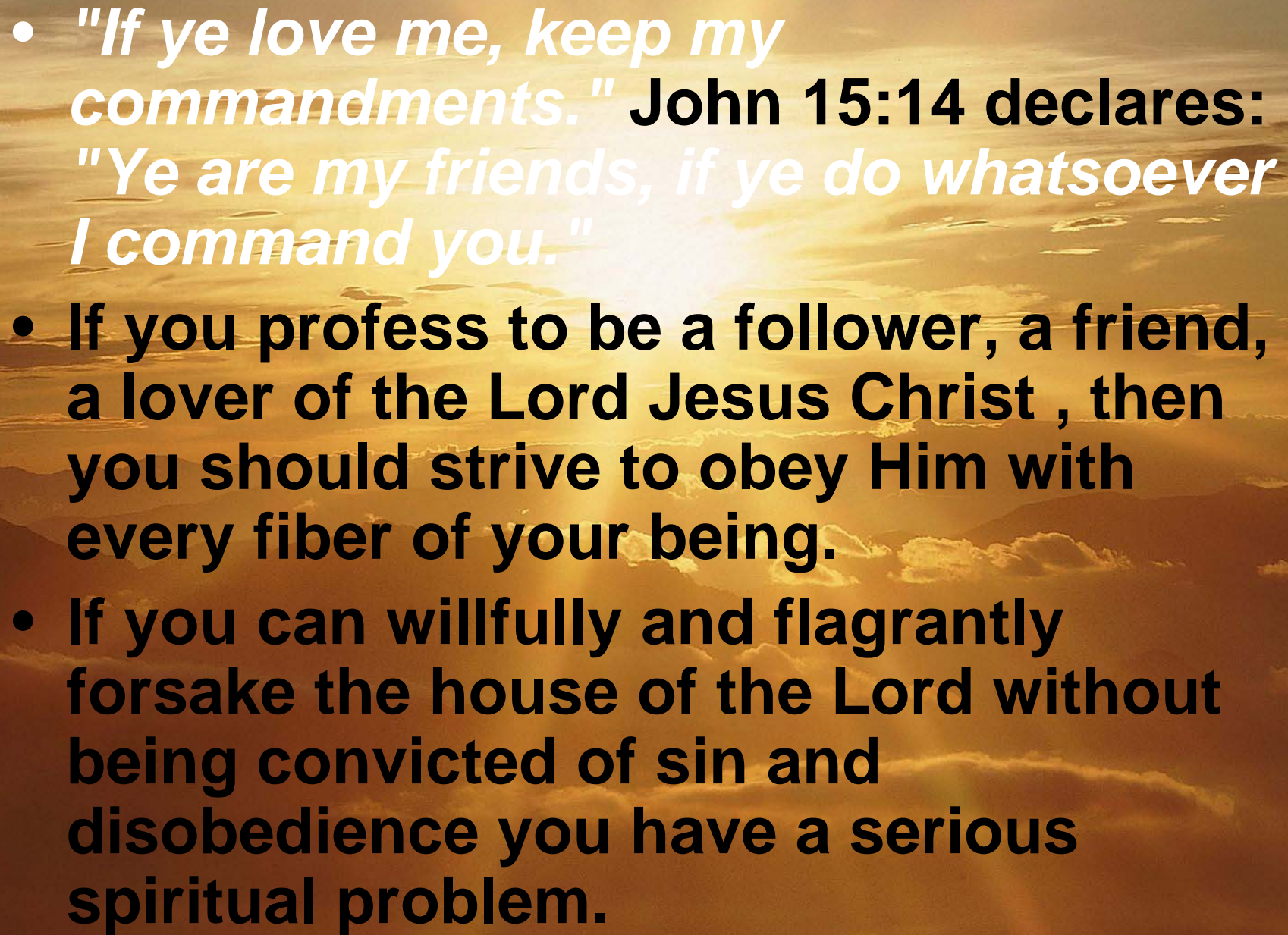
- There seems to be a growing indifference and apathy among God's people towards church attendance and public worship.
- As I visit door to door in our community I hear many people saying: "I don't believe you have to go to church to be a Christian", or "I can worship God in my own way at home just as well as I can at church."
- Going to church never made anyone a Christian, but if you don't go to church faithfully you will never be a successful Christian.
- You can and should worship God privately in your own home, but you are disobeying God and robbing yourself of manifold blessings if you refuse to assemble with the Lord's people in public worship.

BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENCE MADE IN SALVATION

- If you are a child of God who has been born of the Spirit, washed in the blood of the Lamb, and are on your way to Heaven you ought to want to assemble with the Lord's people.
- II Corinthians 5:17 declares: *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away all things are become new."*

BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS IT

- **Ecclesiastes 12:13 declares:** *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."*
- **You go to work faithfully because it is your responsibility to do so, not because you feel like going.**
- **In like manner you should go to church not because you feel like it, but because God has commanded it and you are responsible to obey Him!**

- 
- *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* **John 15:14 declares:**
"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."
 - **If you profess to be a follower, a friend, a lover of the Lord Jesus Christ , then you should strive to obey Him with every fiber of your being.**
 - **If you can willfully and flagrantly forsake the house of the Lord without being convicted of sin and disobedience you have a serious spiritual problem.**

TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

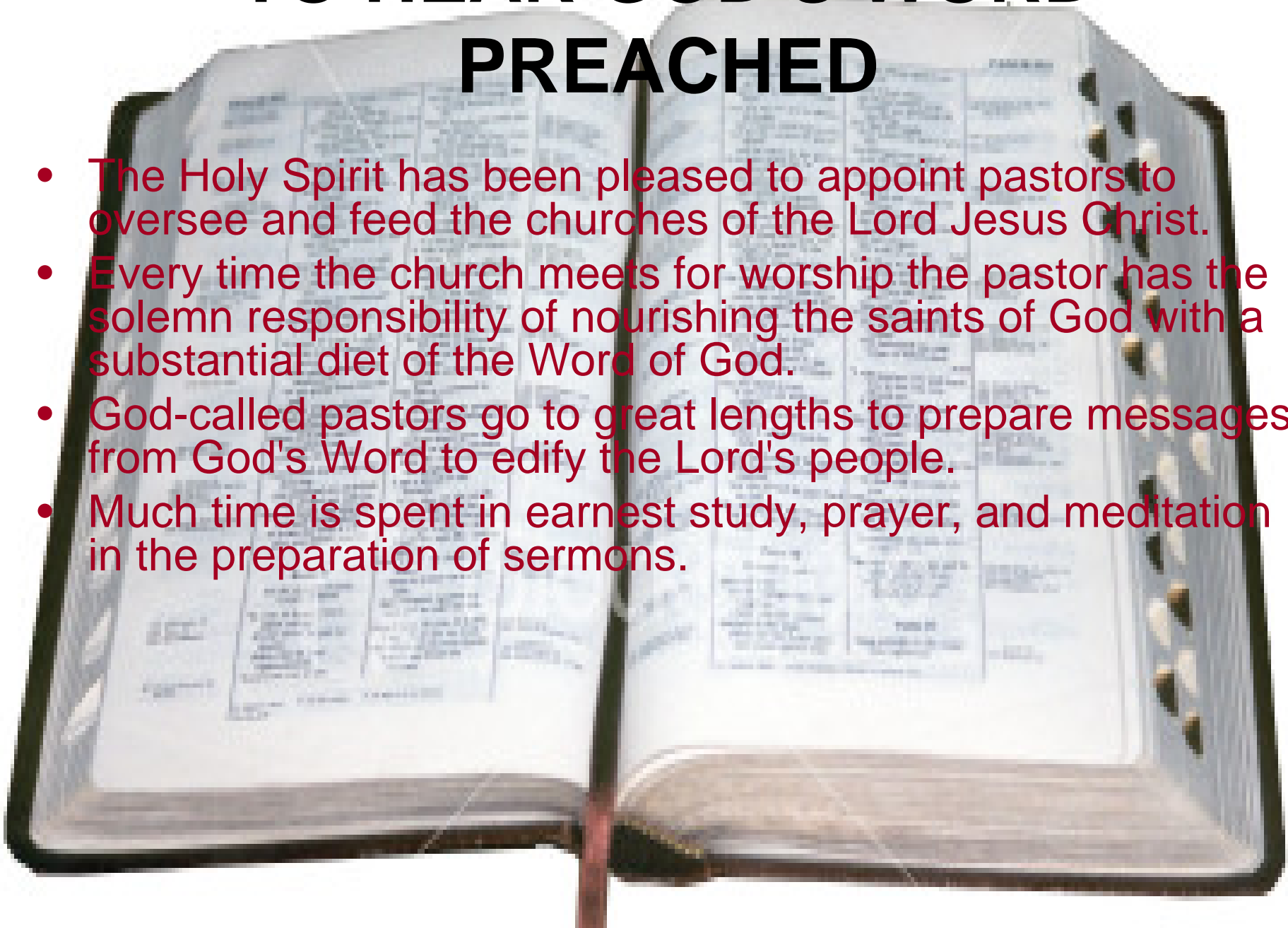
- In worship we are expressing our love and gratitude to God for who He is and what He has done in our lives.
- When we engage in public worship we are manifesting to other believers as well as the lost world at large that our Lord is worthy of our highest praise and dedication.

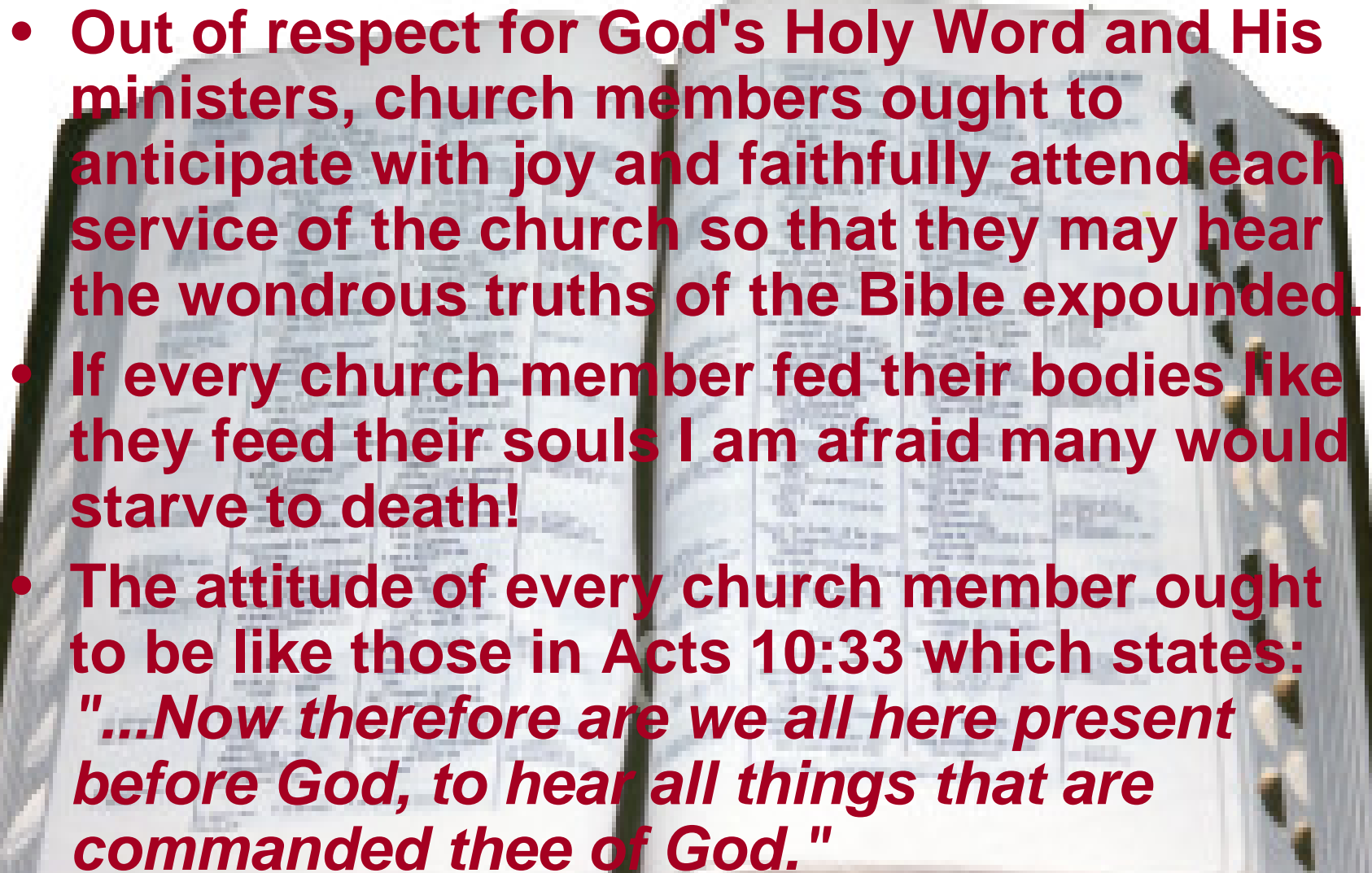
TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

- During the earthly life of Jesus Christ, He faithfully attended the synagogue, which was the place of public worship for the Jews. They would gather to read the law, and have one of the teachers expound the truths of the Old Testament. Luke 4:16 states:
 - *"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, AS HIS CUSTOM WAS, HE WENT INTO THE SYNAGOGUE ON THE SABBATH DAY, and stood up for to read."*

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD PREACHED

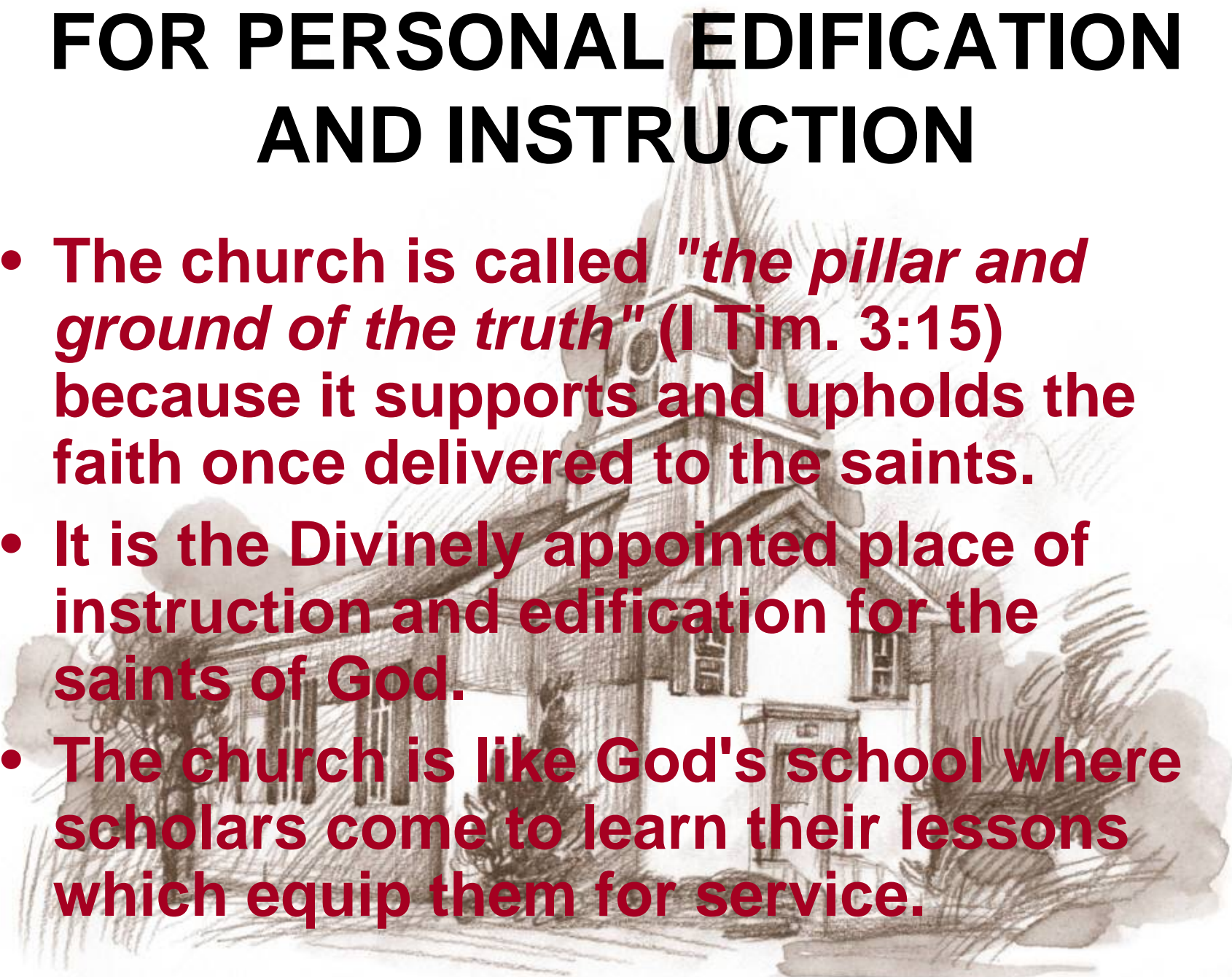
- The Holy Spirit has been pleased to appoint pastors to oversee and feed the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Every time the church meets for worship the pastor has the solemn responsibility of nourishing the saints of God with a substantial diet of the Word of God.
- God-called pastors go to great lengths to prepare messages from God's Word to edify the Lord's people.
- Much time is spent in earnest study, prayer, and meditation in the preparation of sermons.



- 
- Out of respect for God's Holy Word and His ministers, church members ought to anticipate with joy and faithfully attend each service of the church so that they may hear the wondrous truths of the Bible expounded.
 - If every church member fed their bodies like they feed their souls I am afraid many would starve to death!
 - The attitude of every church member ought to be like those in Acts 10:33 which states: *"...Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God."*

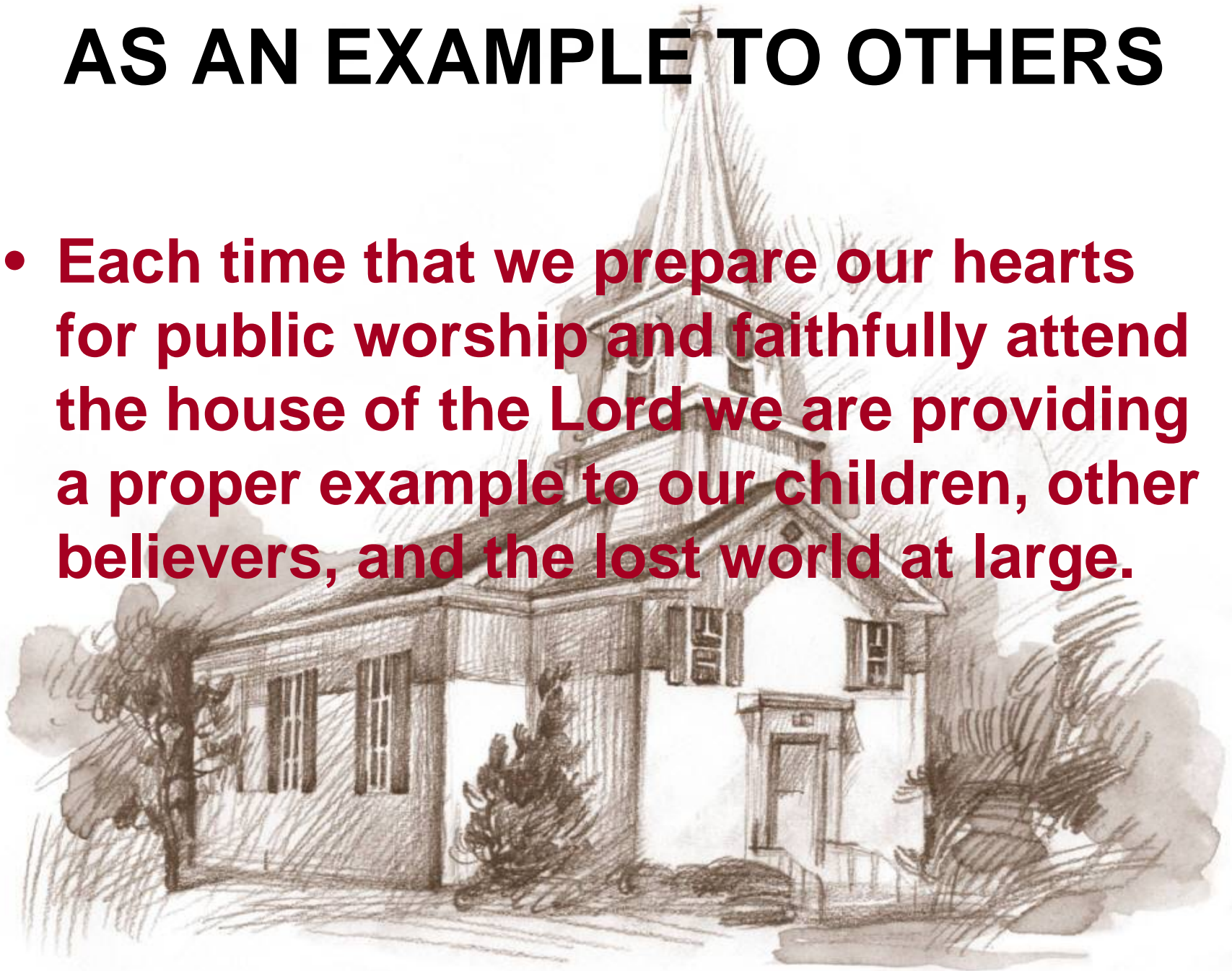
FOR PERSONAL EDIFICATION AND INSTRUCTION

- The church is called "*the pillar and ground of the truth*" (1 Tim. 3:15) because it supports and upholds the faith once delivered to the saints.
- It is the Divinely appointed place of instruction and edification for the saints of God.
- The church is like God's school where scholars come to learn their lessons which equip them for service.



AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS

- Each time that we prepare our hearts for public worship and faithfully attend the house of the Lord we are providing a proper example to our children, other believers, and the lost world at large.



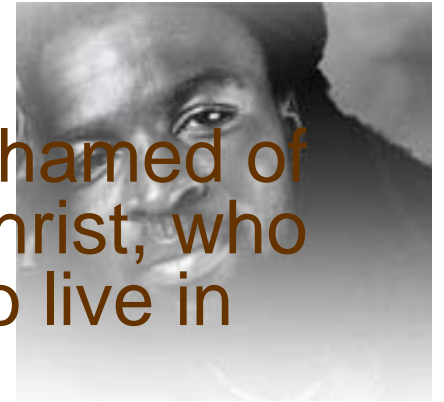
TO FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST

- Jesus Christ is the Head and Lawgiver of His churches, and as **such He is** in attendance every time the **church assembles**.
- He walks in the **midst of His** churches.
- He has deposited **His glory in** His church according to **Ephesians 3:21** which states: "Unto him be **glory in the church** by Christ Jesus through **all ages, world** without end. Amen."
- Matthew 18:20 declares: *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*

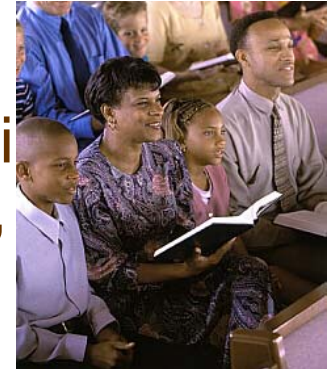


- **If God has dealt with you and convicted you of willful neglect of His ways then please repent and seek to do God's will.**
- **Ask Him for grace to faithfully attend His church every time you are physically able.**
- **Carefully consider your ways and then solemnly vow to God that you will be faithful and consistent in church attendance.**
- **Then pay your vows to God by doing what you promised you would do.**

- *In Church are the men ...* who are unashamed of their love and personal faith in Jesus Christ, who know His voice, and who are learning to live in the world but not be of the world?
- *In Church are the men ...* who are no longer isolated but who are living life deeply and authentically connected with a few other brothers in Christ, knowing they need each other to remain faithful to God and those they love?
- *In Church are the men ...* who are honest about their own battles and temptations and sincere in their pursuit of ethical, sexual, moral and spiritual integrity?

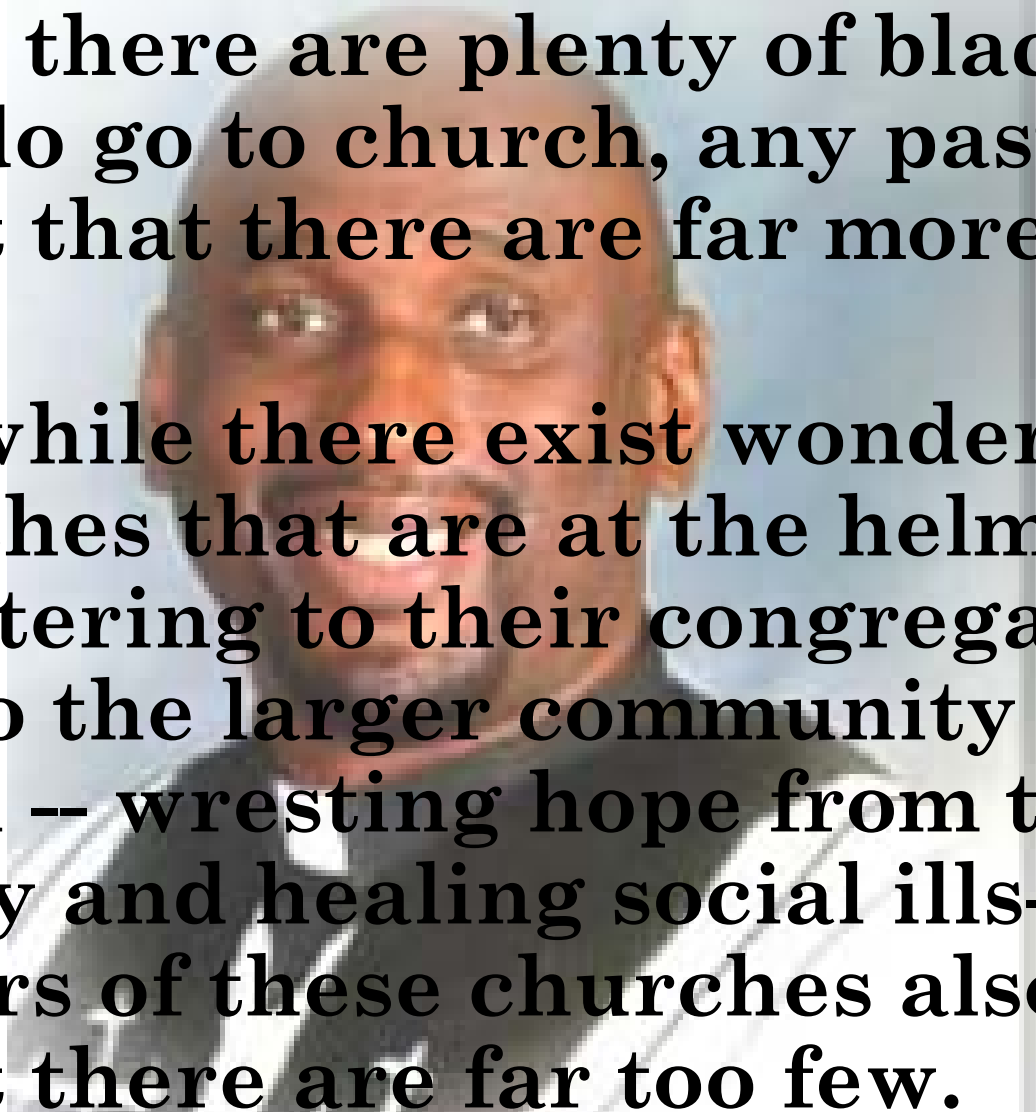


- *In Church are the men ...* who champion their families helping it thrive through the biblical values of love, respect, honor, patience, sacrifice, and service?



- *In Church are the men ...* who love the body of Christ and who willingly offer their God-given talents and gifts to serve others and advance the mission of their church?
- *In Church are the men ...* who champion the unity of God's family and who are more passionate about God's Kingdom than about their denomination or ethnicity?
- *In Church are the men ...* who make it their sole aim in life to expand Christ's Kingdom by demonstrating and sharing the love of God with other people in regular and practical ways and practically in daily life?



- 
- While there are plenty of black men who do go to church, any pastor will admit that there are far more that don't.
 - And while there exist wonderful churches that are at the helm of ministering to their congregations and to the larger community and world -- wresting hope from the enemy and healing social ills--the pastors of these churches also will admit there are far too few.

Reasons and excuses
why black men have difficulties
with being
in church every Sunday.

The Personal Reasons

You Can't Preach



- The low quality of the oration of some of the preachers out there.
- How many times have we heard ministers drone on and on about Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus and how we must make our own transformations and leave our prior lives behind?
- How many times have we heard ministers talk about their own temptations and how they were worthless sinners and skirt chasers and how all us men are dogs like they used to be?
- How many times have I had to sit through the junior minister stumbling or the guest pastor from out of town.

It's My Money



- “God doesn't need my money. The Church needs my money. They've always needed my money and they've always tried to convince me that God wants me to give it to them.”
 - I've been praying to Jesus since I was 8 years old and never once has He told me, "can you help a brotha out?"
 - I don't mind supporting ministries, but I've got my priorities.

Economics



- Black men are suspicious of pastors who ask them to tithe but never report income and expenditures to their churches.
- They also are reluctant to support churches that fail to patronize businesses owned and operated by African-Americans in their own communities.



It's My Day Off



- A brother works hard all week long. Now if I could go to Church at 10am and be done at 11am, I'd be fine. But you know and I know some ministers act like we have nothing else to do *all day* Sunday.
- OK I understand that you slaved over a hot desk working on that sermon all week and you just can't wait to rock our worlds with your message, but uhm... some of us are just checking in.





Church is Just Church



- And I've got options.
- If I were in a situation where I really didn't have to work and had a lot of time on my hand, then I could be involved in church 24-7. But ...
- I actually do have a busy life to enjoy, that centers around my family and community, not church. I got places to go and things to do.



WHERE ARE THE MANLY MEN?

- Although males have not completely abandoned the church, *manly* men have all but disappeared.
- Tough, earthy, working guys rarely come to church.
- High achievers, alpha males, risk takers, and visionaries are in short supply.
- Fun-lovers and adventurers are also underrepresented in church.
- These rough-and-tumble men don't fit in with the quiet, introspective gentlemen who populate the church today.

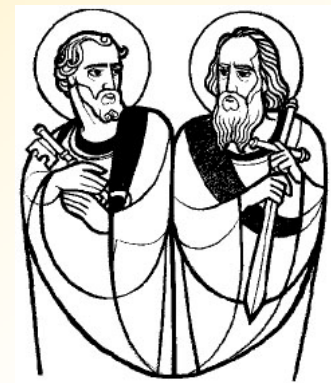
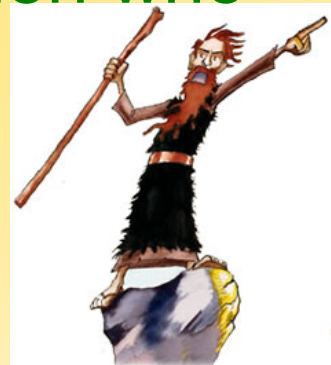


- The truth is, most men in the pews grew up in church.
- Many of these lifers come not because they desire to be transformed by Christ but because they enjoy participating in comforting rituals that have changed little since their childhood.
- There are also millions of men who attend services under duress, dragged by a mother, wife, or girlfriend.
- Today's churchgoing man is humble, tidy, dutiful, and above all, nice.

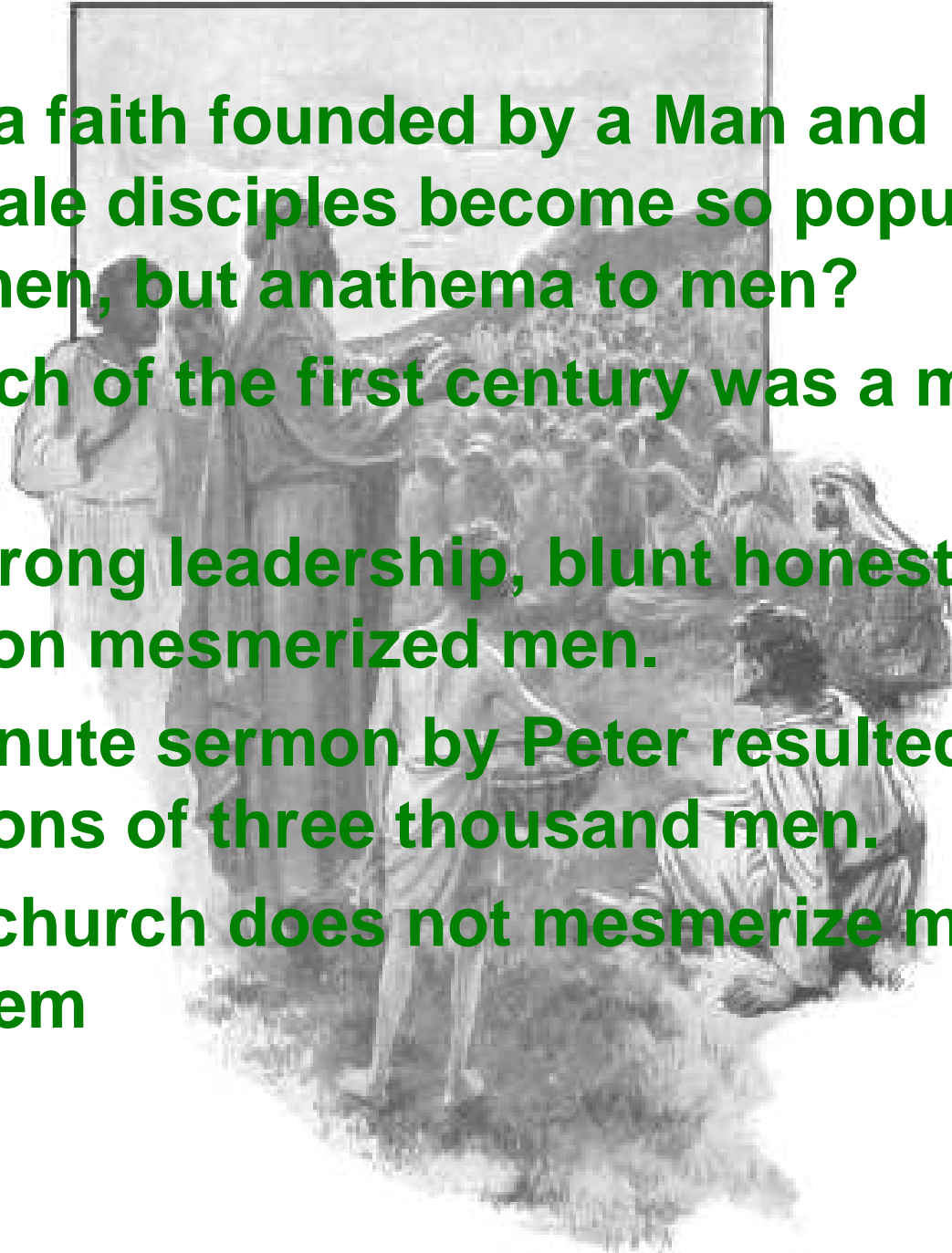




- What a contrast to the **men of the Bible!**
 - Think of Moses and Elijah, David and Daniel, Peter and Paul.
 - They were lions, not lambs—take charge men who risked everything in service to God.
 - They fought valiantly and spilled blood.
 - They spoke their minds and stepped on the toes of religious people.
 - They were true leaders, tough guys who were feared and respected by the community.
 - All of these men had two things in common:
 - they had an intense commitment to God,
 - and they weren't what you'd call saintly.
- Such men seldom go to church today.



- **How did a faith founded by a Man and His twelve male disciples become so popular with women, but anathema to men?**
- **The church of the first century was a magnet to males.**
- **Jesus' strong leadership, blunt honesty, and bold action mesmerized men.**
- **A five-minute sermon by Peter resulted in the conversions of three thousand men.**
- **Today's church does not mesmerize men; it repels them**



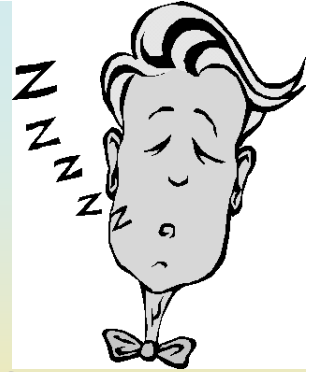
- Today's church has developed a culture that is driving men away. Almost every man in America has tried church, but two-thirds find it unworthy of a couple of hours once a week.
- When men need spiritual sustenance, they go to the wilderness, the workplace, the garage, or the corner bar. They watch their heroes in the stadium or on the racetrack. They plunge into a novel or sneak off to a movie. Church is one of the last places men look for God.

- 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 a given Sunday. The average man accepts the reality of Jesus Christ, but fails to see any value in going to church.
- What is it about modern Christianity that is driving men away?

- I don't think men "hate" the church per se. I think they get tired of going, tired of women "pickin" with them, and they get tired of the rig-a-ma-role that has to be done before they can go to "church"
 1. Haircut
 2. New/freshly cleaned/dated suit
 3. New Shoes
 4. Shined shoes
 5. Clean car
 6. "Shined" car (detailed)
 7. Cologne
 8. "Must" have offering
 9. "Must" have "correct" version of BIBLE
 10. "Must" have "correct" pitch in singing.....

Men Don't Like Church

- Generally speaking, men don't like going to church.
- "Women go to church, men go to football games"
- fact: Men don't care much for church (I would add, unless somehow they get to be in charge!).
- It has become proverbial that men go to church because of pressure from their families, while at every stage in life they would rather be watching or playing some sport.



- In fact, men despise their passive role in the church, whether they have been able to label their frustration or not.
- No wonder men would rather fish, or hunt, or watch the game! These activities provide a small measure of purpose, of action, and of accomplishment, even if that means yelling for your team while you sit in your favorite chair.
- In short, a person stands a much better chance to **FUNCTION**

What Is Your "Calling"?

- So what is a man to do who burns with a desire to contribute something to the life of the church?
- He can become a minister. That is his only choice.
- a very large portion of men (and women) in the ministry pursued this avenue because it was the only option available for anyone who wants to participate in the functioning of the church.



A Man's Gotta Do . . .



- In fact, men despise their passive role in the church, whether they have been able to label their frustration or not.
 - Indeed there is something emasculating about just sitting, listening, and then going home.
- No wonder men would rather fish, or hunt, or watch the game!
 - These activities provide a small measure of purpose, of action, and of accomplishment, even if that means yelling for your team while you sit in your favorite chair.



A Man Must Matter

- A man is driven by a desire to "matter" in the world, to make a difference. He needs his life to have some significance, some higher purpose that draws him out of himself. Notice how intrinsically men of differing cultures share a principle of self-sacrifice for the larger good of their tribes or nations.
- During peacetime men turn to sports (and work) to satisfy this urge for sacrifice. It is through sports that a boy becomes a man, and when a man becomes too old to play the game, he learns to live vicariously through the sport of others.
- Whatever his occupation in life, he will completely draw his identity from whatever "battleground" he chooses.

- The typical church environment does not provide any opportunity for the kind of significant war for which men seek.
- Western civilization grew increasingly individualistic, turning our eyes inward upon ourselves and our own "personal growth."
- Modern spirituality seldom rises above introspective "navel-gazing," and private religion holds little appeal for the man who needs to leave his mark on the world behind him.
- [it] has laid emphasis on man's side, the saving of his own soul"
- Men need a purpose larger than themselves. What man doesn't want to "save the world" in some form or another? Men will not frequent a church which exists within the myopic rat-race of individual self-fulfillment.

The Need for Brotherhood

- A man will seek a brotherhood in which he may forge his significance.
- The church in which a man feels at home will have brothers whose relations with each other go deeper than theological discussions over coffee and doughnuts.
- Notice man's compulsion to join groups of men with a common identity, and to endure hardship or death for the good of the group.
- Early American settlers joined with the masons. Modern men link themselves together in gangs, fraternities, clubs, and teams of every kind.



- Men enter these groups with the expectation (or even the prerequisite) that they suffer together to form a bond of brotherhood stronger than all other ties in life.
- "You have to endure something together, sweat together, bleed together, cry together"
- Somehow the element of war lays the foundation for brotherhood.
- "Men often begin a friendship with a fight".
- Stated succinctly, men need brothers with whom they may fight.



- Whatever the reason, men need a place to fight.
- They will seek a place where they can speak and act with honesty, sincerity, and where they can live consistently with their convictions.
- We must provide the soil in which true brotherhood can grow.
- *Men must have a voice in the church, and they must use it.*
- If they do not, they will find something outside of the church to satisfy this need.
- A real and potent brotherhood can satisfy this longing within men.

NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS

- Can the church turn the tide with men? Yes! It not only can, but it must.
- Jesus built His church on twelve Spirit-filled men who changed the world.
- We must do the same: *you cannot have a thriving church without a core of men who are true followers of Christ.*
- If the men are dead, the church is dead.



- Men's disinterest in Christianity is so consistent around the world, it can't be explained by pride, father issues, sin, or distraction.
- Neither can we say, "Well, men are just less religious," because this is untrue.
- Male and female participation are roughly equal in Judaism, Buddhism, and Hinduism.
- In the Islamic world men are publicly and unashamedly religious—often more so than women.
- Of the world's great religions, only Christianity has a consistent, nagging shortage of male practitioners. What is it about modern Christianity that is driving men away?

ABOVE ALL, DON'T DESPAIR!

- Our job is to confront the current gender gap for what it is: a strategy of the evil one to weaken the church.
- We need to understand what causes the gap and have the courage to remove the barriers that discourage and demoralize men.
- God will call men back to Himself. Will the church be ready?

- Dream for a moment.
- What would church be like if the majority of the worshippers were men?
- Not just males taking up pew space, but strong, earthy men who were truly alive in Christ.
- Men who were there not just to please their wives, to fulfill religious tradition, or to go on a power trip, but men who were there to rock their world.
- Can you even imagine what that would feel like? Imagine what such a church could accomplish for the kingdom of God!
- Impossible you say? Just read the book of Acts.
- The church was like this once; it can be so again.



- It's designed to give you insight into men's hearts, to illuminate the chasm between men's needs and the ministry of the local church.
- I'll give you the straight story on men, and as you listen and interact, resist the urge to utter the phrase, "Well, men should just . . ."
- This is not about what men should be.
- If we can't start with men *as they are*, we'll never reach them.

- Will we allow men to take risks, dream big, and push the envelope within your local church?
- God made men for adventure, achievement, and challenge, and if they can't find those things in church, they're going to find them somewhere else.
- But if you allow your church to embark on a great adventure, the men will return.
- Slowly but surely, they will return.



The Return of Men in the Church

- These are the ingredients for the church where men are men.
 - A man has a need to act with freedom and determination.
 - He must function where he is in order to satisfy his need to *do* something other than just sitting and listening.
 - He also must serve an overarching purpose which gives meaning to his day-to-day existence.
 - He will search for significance in his life until he finds something that lifts him out of himself.



- **The church he seeks does something of eternal significance.**
- In the process, he will find a brotherhood to which he may belong and from which he may draw his identity.
- **He needs men who know him well, who will fight with him, and who can be his comrades along the journey he is on.**
- And finally, through various and often unexpected means, the Church will be a place where the sacrificial dying of Jesus can manifest itself for the sake of His Bride.
- **When a man has found Her, he will suffer the loss of everything for Her just as Christ did in the beginning. Man, this is what you want.**



The challenge is to become

- a place where everyone significantly contributes to the meetings, the planning, and the "ministering" of the church.
- a place where there is a brotherhood of men who are truly involved in one another's lives.
- a place where the Lord's cross is meaningful beyond the mere forgiveness of sins, and where the Lord's house means more than anyone's personal agenda.

True manhood will only be found inside the Body of that One New Man, Jesus Christ.

CME

- Homosexuality is the orientation and practice of God's created gift of sexuality between persons of the same sex – man with man and woman with woman. The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church holds that the practice homosexuality, as such, is contrary to God's creative intention, violates the explicit mandates of the Bible setting forth moral behavior required by God and is, therefore, sin in the sight of God.

