



*What*  
Men  
are Like  
*and what*  
*they*  
Need



# The world is not an easy place



1  
Post-industrial world  
of the 21<sup>st</sup> century



2  
Changing roles of  
men and women in  
society



3  
Technology has  
brought temptation  
much closer



4  
Family life is a minefield  
(divorce, single-parent  
homes) →



Men need help  
with life!!





# Who gets to define men?





God designed and  
created the male species

*we  
agree!*





# What goes into defining men?



# How much is shaped by

*genetics?*

*culture?*

*learning?*

*home  
life?*

*example?*

*family  
relationships?*

*biases?*





# Really?

# Gender Bias

Men and women have **similar amount** of built-in biases.

Both, men and women, are **biased in favor of men!!**





# Harvard University 2005 Gender Bias Study

Psychology professors were given 2 types of job information for a professor position: stand-out applicants and average applicants. The professors, naturally, chose the stand-out applicants above the others.

Professors also were asked to make a recommendation on hiring the stand-out applicants with tenure or hired at will.

## RESULTS

Professors recommended tenure

**70%**

when name on job information was male

of the time

---

**45%**

when name on job information was female

of the time

---

**=**

Both, male and female psychology professors, picked tenure at higher rates for males than females





# What are men like?





*let's talk  
about it*

- 1. Divide in small groups of 4-6.**
- 2. List general characteristics of men.**
- 3. Discuss until the group have a consensus list.**



## Here are some helpful questions:

- What characteristics distinguish male from female?
- In what ways do men think these are uniquely male?
- How do they deal with emotions?
- What do they want in life?
- What are their strengths and weaknesses?
- What are “manly” things to do?
- Why there are so many more men than women in prison?
- What characteristics God placed in men?
- What entrenched features of men were caused by sin? →



# Unspoken Subconscious Expectations

Men face high expectations on their behavior and contribution. They must be leaders, providers, protectors, good sons, husbands, fathers, and citizens.

Society pressures men to reach success, to live a life others approve of.

They also feel pressured to achieve the appearance of a good church member and family.

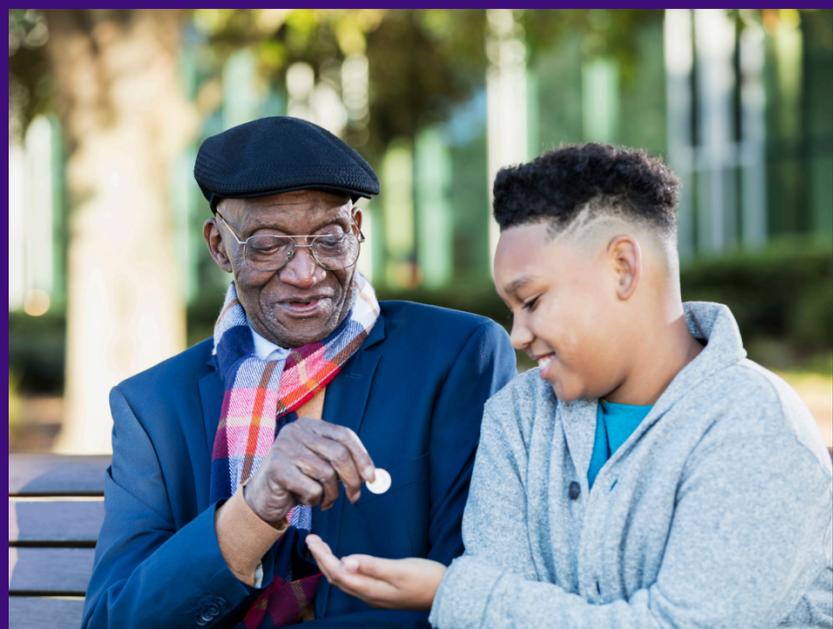


Never Go Away... →



# Generational Changes

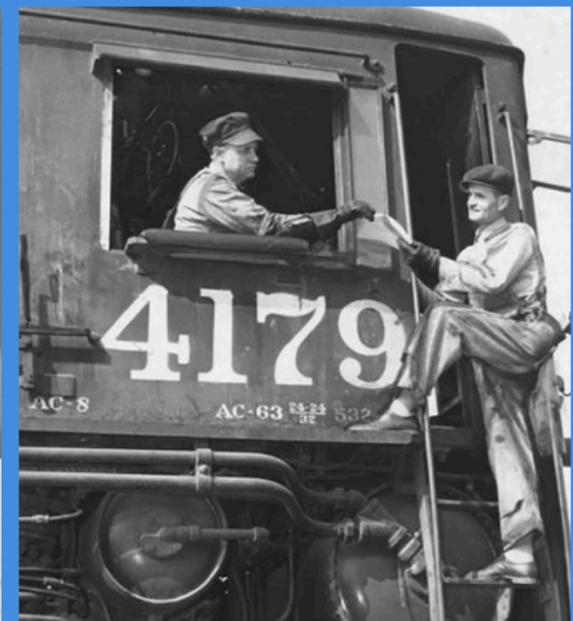
Different generations of men **think** AND **behave** differently.





# Silent Generation

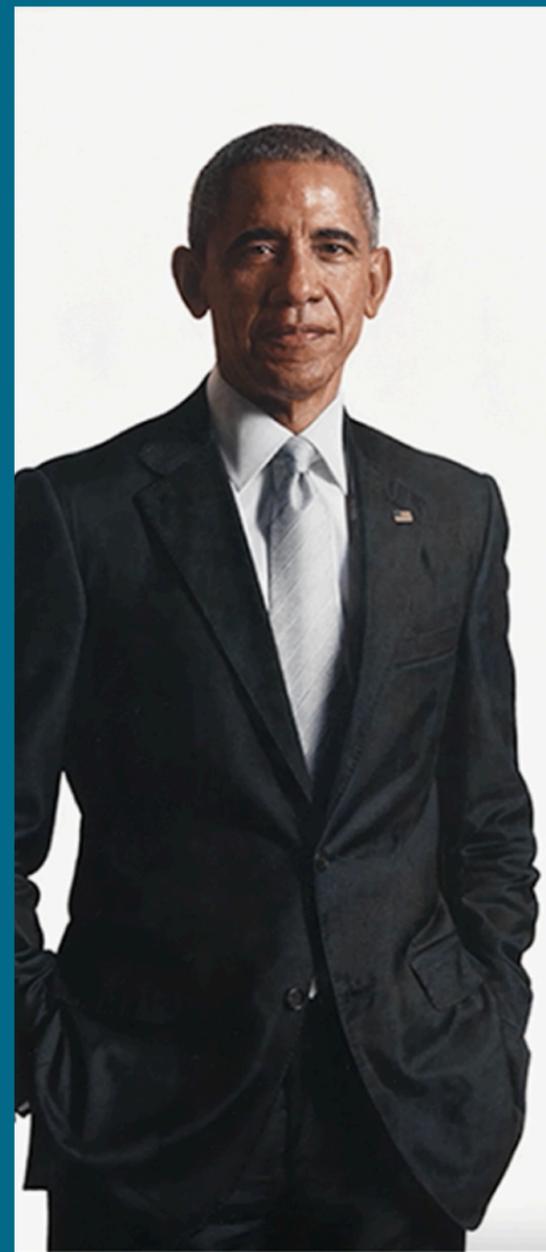
- **Years:** born 1928 – 1945; great depression, WWII
- **Attitudes:** duty, loyalty, hard work, patriotism, emotional restraint.
- **Known for:** doing their duty without making a lot of noise about it.
- **Defined by:** work + leadership.
- **Type of Work:** factories/manual labor.
- **Gender roles:** clearly defined and very different from women's roles.





# Baby Boomers

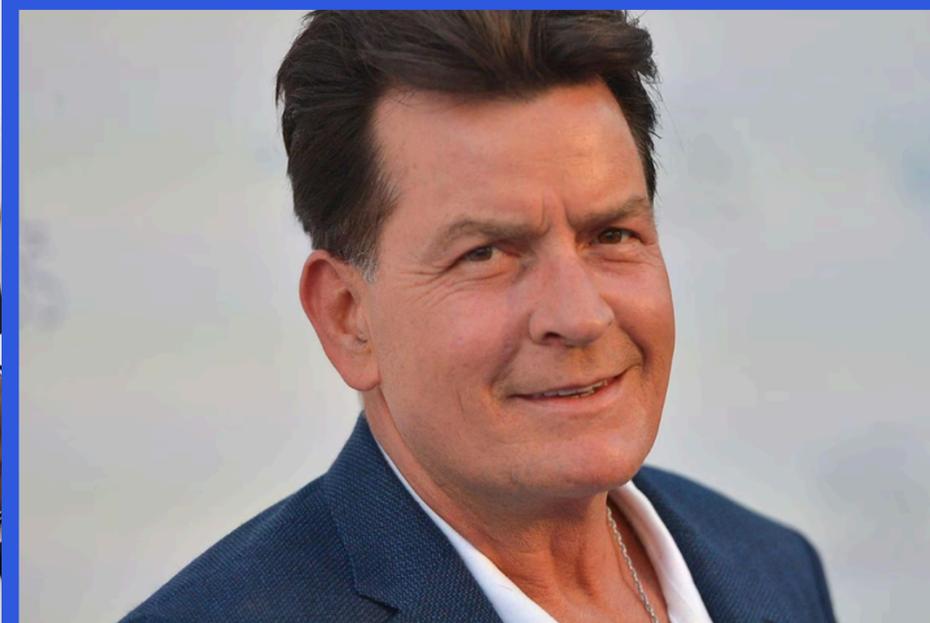
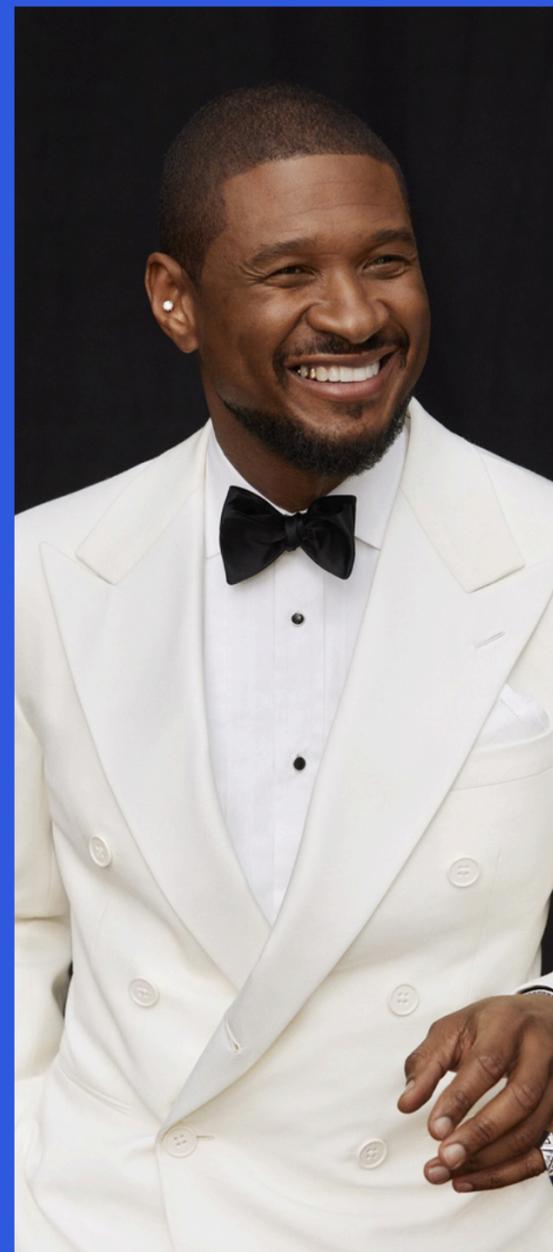
- **Years:** born 1946 – 1964.
- **Attitudes:** rebellion against their elders, their norms and morals.
- **Known as:** “yuppies” male professionals that went after money, advancement, and a new BMW.
- **Defined by:** ambition; a craving for the respect and affirmation they always wanted from work.
- **Gender roles:** the idea that women can do anything they want surges.





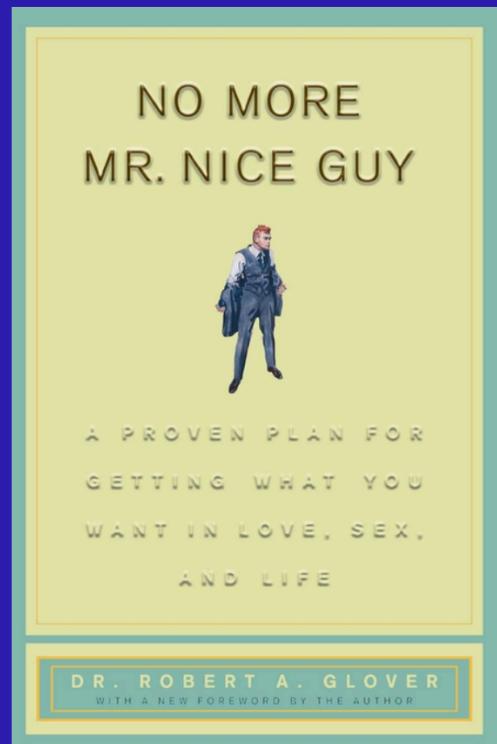
# Generation X

- **Years:** born 1965–1982.
- **Attitudes:** more interested in fun, punk music, short-term gratification.
- **Known for:** picking a career based on interest rather than material gain.
- **Gender Roles:** male/female get married much later or not at all, and divorce quickly. Male roles **less** clearly defined by traditional masculinity.





# Mr. Nice Guy Factor



01

Gen X men felt trapped in this role in response to a strong wife who was running the show at home.

---

02

Gen X men were trying very hard to do the right thing but felt desperately unhappy & trapped.

---

03

Gen X men had little conscious idea of their role as male of the species. They only knew they were trapped in a role they didn't understand and that did not fit them.





# Features of Mr. Nice Guy Syndrome



*Makes = or < money than wife*

*Has = or < education than wife*

*Expected to care for children & home*

*Allowed to make few or no decisions*

*Tries hard to meet wife's expectations*





*Tries hard to find a sense of his own utility and significance at home*

*Does not get respect, appreciation, or sex in return for his efforts*

*Subject to unspoken, unwritten contracts & expectations set without his knowledge*

*men don't like this!!*





# Ineffective Man Phenomenon



*is widespread in the  
middle class  
and in this century.*





Adventist  
MENS MINISTRIES

# Why?

Women spend  
400% more time  
with children  
than men do.





# and...

*Many men have not had a model of what it means to be a man in life and in marriage.*

***Fatherless homes have tripled since 1960.***





# Generation Y Millennials/Mossaics

- **Years:** born in the late 1980s and 1990s.
- **Attitudes:** less religious, less concerned with race and class.
- **Known for:** have not lived in a world without cell phones, computers, internet, video games, movies.
- **Gender Roles:** females are more interested in rules, structure, education. Vast numbers of boys labeled as "behaviorally challenged" or ADHD.
- **Trend:** males have had more contact with women than males in day care, school and the prevalence of mother-only households. Most gender role expectations come from women.

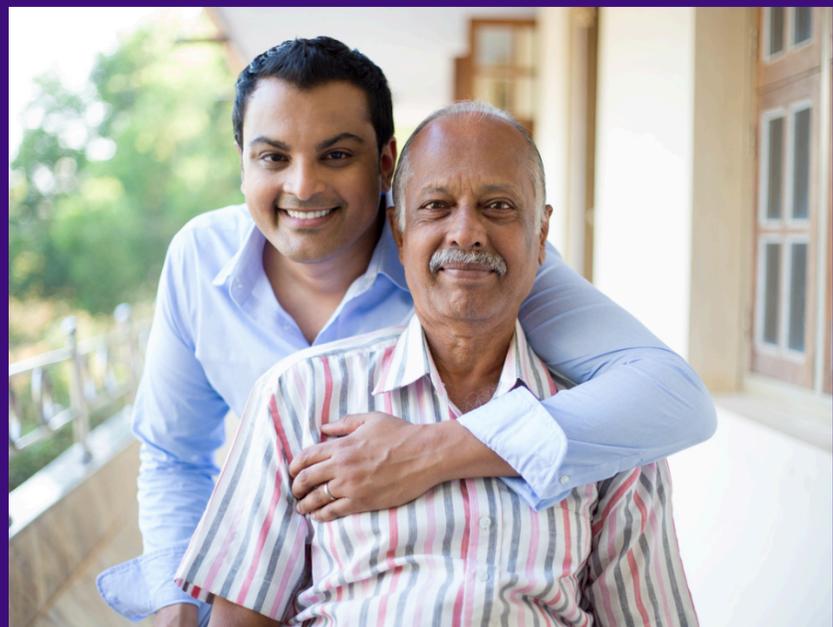




# Be Prepared to Minister to All Generations

**Older men** are struggling to find/keep their role in this changing world.

**Younger men** are struggling to find a sense of manhood in a somewhat feminized culture.





# Work settings have CHANGED





# In the 1970s...

more women went  
to work after  
raising  
their children.





In the 1980s and  
1990s...

women went to  
work while their  
children were small.





Since 1945  
men's share of the labor  
force in the USA has  
declined from 70% to 50%.  
Many workplaces were  
once male dominated;  
not so today.





# *The Information Age*

shifted large portions  
of the economy  
from industry & manufacturing  
to services & finance jobs.

*Brains  
over muscles.*

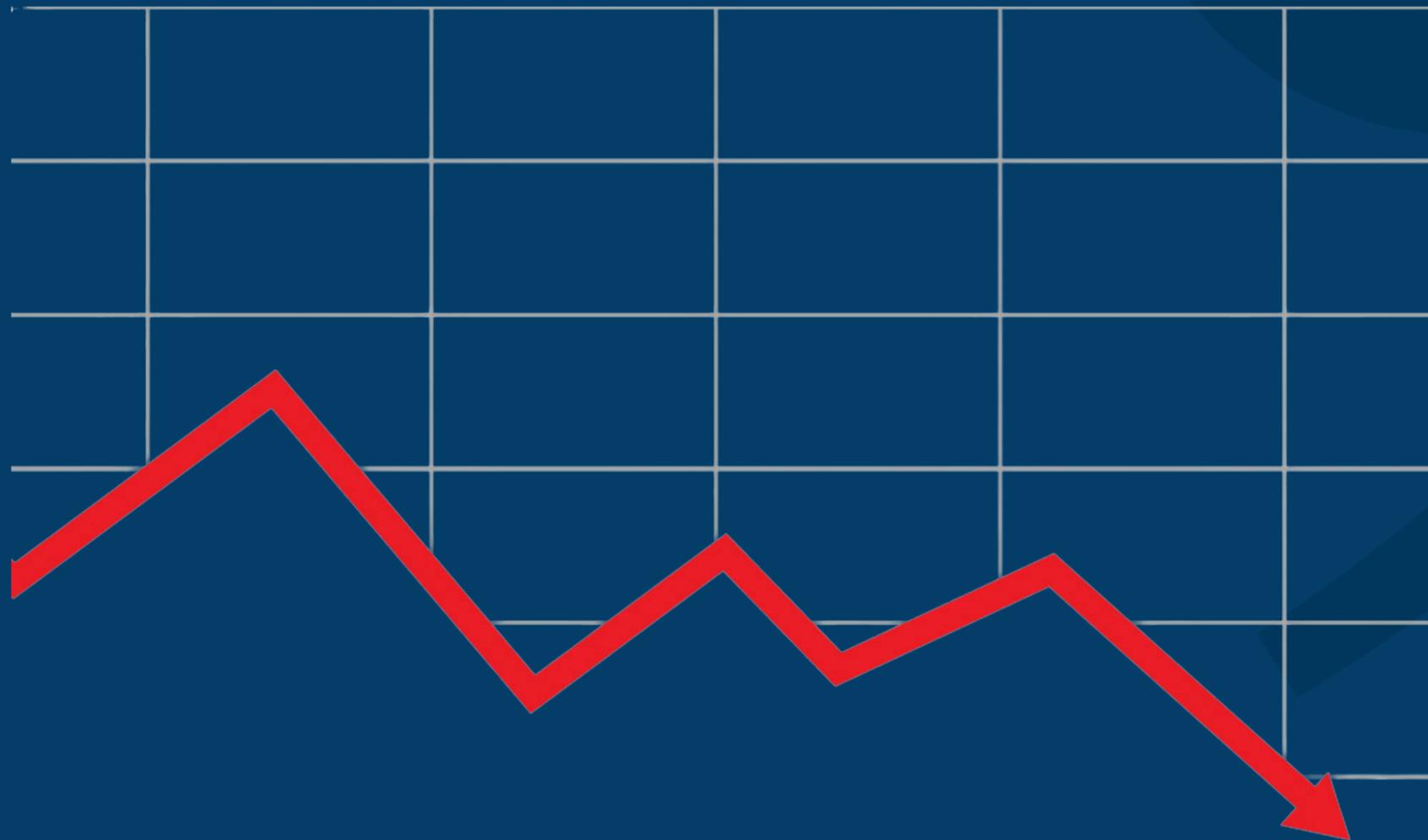




# High unemployment

- *Many jobs are moving to developing countries.*
- *Recession is eliminating jobs as well.*

offshoring  
outsourcing





# “The End of Men”

“What if the modern, postindustrial economy is simply more congenial to women than to men?” Hanna Rosin

- Today there are **more female than men managers.**
- Women have gone from fighting for equality to (in some cases) defining its future.
- **Young urban professional women earn 8% more than their male counterparts.**
- But generally, men still make more \$ than women.





# Higher Levels of Power

- *Politics*
- *Business*
- *Finance*

*Still dominated by men  
but women are steadily  
making inroads.*





# Education

Women are winning the education war.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time since 1970s, more men than women hold only a high school diploma.



- *A Bachelor's degree is required for middle class jobs.*
- *More women than men go to college.*

Women get  
**60%**

Batchelor's and Masters degrees

Women get  
**50%**

Law and Medicine degrees

Women get  
**42%**

MBA degrees





# Worrisome Statistics

**Generation Y** men and boys are ...

- **Unfocused**
- **Unmotivated**
- **Destined to a poorer life** than past generations
- Clearly at a disadvantage compared to Gen Y women.
- For older Gen Y men, well-educated women are a stiff competition.
- **Quitting their job search** are content with doing pizza delivery and unemployment checks.
- **Not retraining** in college as opposed to women.
- **Quitting high school** 5-10% more than girls.





# Men face a confusing picture



Ensure you understand the facts on the ground and minister to them where they are.





But we are not  
hopeless.



**God is our ever-present  
help and guide.  
HE never changes.**





# What Men **NEED**...





# GOD

## What Men Need

- Men need to be reminded that they came from God and they are His sons and subjects.
- **Men who are ignoring God**, or pushing Him away, or pretending they don't need Him, **become consumed by what they try to put in God's place.**



## Here are some helpful questions:

- In what ways do men inadvertently fill their lives when they don't address their need of God?
- In what ways do we need God?
- When did you first become aware of your need of God in your life? What did you do about it?

*let's talk  
about it*





# RESPECT & VALIDATION

## What Men Need



- Men often say they should get more respect and women say they would get it. IF they earned it.
- The truth, a man needs respect simply for being the man he is not, just for what he does.
- **Men need respect in order to be good men.** A man “needs to be held in esteem and to be shown consideration and appreciation—even when he makes mistakes. He want to be seen as a hero, especially in the eyes of his bride.” Mark Gungor *Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage*.
- **Men have a great need for respect in all areas of their lives, and from all the people they come in contact with.**





# ACCOMPLISHMENT & ACHIEVEMENT

## What Men Need

- Men have a need to feel significant, necessary, and accomplished in some way, big or small.
- God gave Adam a job because he would find satisfaction in working and seeing the results.
- Think about a work task or activity in your life that you most like to do, whether you get paid for it or not. How did you feel last time you spent significant time involved in it and felt that you made good progress?
- **Validation--Men need to feel that their very existence as a man is worthwhile and significant.**

*let's talk  
about it*





# INTIMACY & SEX

## What Men Need



- Billy Crystal said that women need a reason for sex and men just need a place.
- The need for sex is like the need for food, a basic need in men that cannot be ignored.
- Men have a strong need for physical intimacy but it should be met in ways that satisfy the needs of the man & woman God has brought together in marriage.
- **Men are not emotionless sex machines.** Most men need and want to be close to their spouse in a variety of ways. **Men are not likely to want to talk through feelings and situations as much as women do.**





# FRIENDSHIP & BELONGING

## What Men Need

- Many men have acquaintances, activities buddies, guys they talk sports with, or co-workers they talk to.
- “Americans have been suffering a loss of both, quantity and quality of friends.” (American Sociological Review)
- A **Person's Discussion Network**: declined from 3 to 2 people
- More and more, men only confide in a spouse & parents.





# RATIONAL ANSWERS

## What Men Need

- Men are often misunderstood when they want to know “why”. For some religious people, the “why” questions may be troubling, and a sign of doubt or rebellion.
- When men face a dilemma, they tend to process it in their own mind. Women prefer a conversation as the context for figuring out something they want to solve.
- Men’s Ministries can be an opportunity to let men bring out their question and dilemmas in a safe environment and find the answers they are looking for.





# CONTROLLING PEOPLE/SITUATIONS

## False Needs

- Men and women in relationships are always working on the balance of power between them.
- Men who try to control the actions of others have an unhealthy compulsion, not a need.
- Unnatural controlling can appear in any relationship be it friendship, romantic, family or work. But it shows up more in male/female relationships.





# Controllers operate according to a pattern

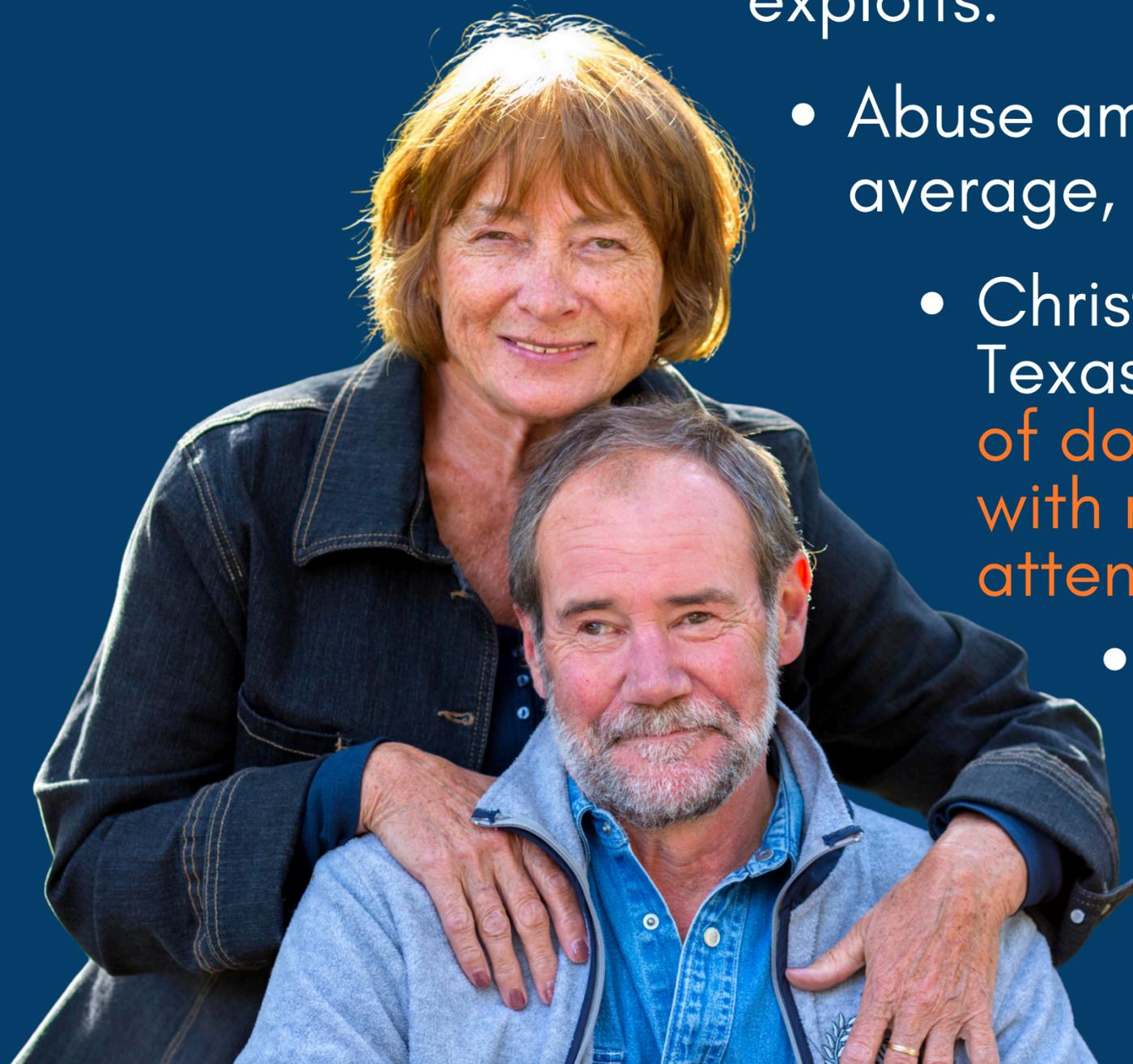
- A shallow emotional connection to the other person.
- At first, they attach too quickly.
- Then just as quickly, the controller begins doing destructive things depriving the other person of freedoms, speaking criticism and insults, intimidation, and intentional hurting, physical roughness, violent outbursts of temper, blaming, paranoia.
- The controller's maladjusted mindset causes him to think he has a right to control the other person with these tactics.





# Controllers operate according to a pattern

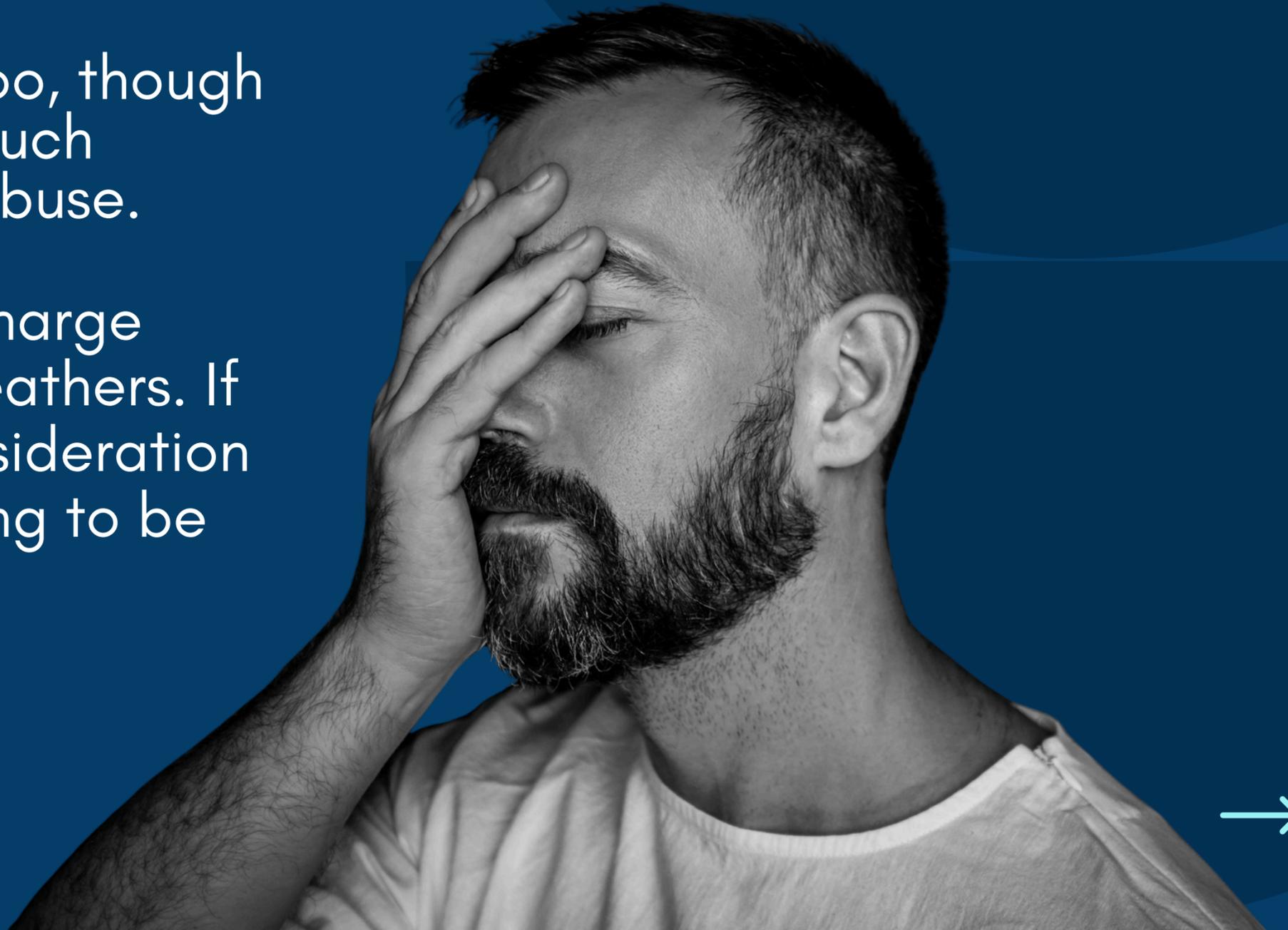
- The problem is not obvious to everyone when it is happening.
  - Because the controller is devious and hides his exploits.
  - Abuse among conservative Christians is not higher than average, as some have claimed.
  - Christopher Ellison, researcher at the University of Texas at Austin, found in a 2007 study that **the rate of domestic violence is lower than average in families with religious involvement, and frequent church attendance.**
  - Studies have shown that **moderately religious men**, the ones who go to church because they think they ought to, rather than because they love God, **are more likely to be abusive than other men.** →





# Controllers operate according to a pattern

- A “false religion of works and coercion” seems to be related to higher incidence of domestic abuse.
- Women can be controlling too, though perhaps it may not show in such extreme ways as domestic abuse.
- Some people have a take-charge personality that can ruffle feathers. If this person has genuine consideration for others, he/she is not going to be mistaken for a control freak.





# PRIDE, MACHISMO & SOCIAL STATUS

## False Needs

- In some cultural settings catching a man doing domestic chores or taking care of a child, would be a great violation of male pride.
- The difficulty is not so much with changing rules and responsibilities but with their stunted sense of their own manhood.
- Men do not need to protect their pride, puff up their ego, or act macho to define themselves as manly.
- Men do not need to steer clear of laundry and diapers to protect their status.





# INDEPENDENCE & ISOLATION

## False Needs

- There may be some truth to the stereotypes that men keep their troubles and emotions to themselves.
- For some men, the mere suggestion of sharing anything personal seems either unmanly or threatening.
- One of our goals is to create situations where men come together, trust each other, share and offer moral support to each other.





# DEFINED BY WORK

## False Needs

- We often start conversations by asking others “What do you do?” How is work?”
- Because we tend to define people and judge their value by their work. Men judge their value the same way.
- When men believe that working very hard to have achievements and/or financial gain, will define who they are, they will generate some problems.





# MATERIAL POSSESSIONS

## False Needs

- Someone asked John D. Rockefeller how much money is enough. He replied "Just one more dollar."
- Almost all material gain has nothing to do with needs. It is all just wants.

**"The love of money  
is the root  
of all evil."**





# BEING MOTHERED & LOOKED AFTER

## False Needs

- Many men expect their wife to act like a mother and constantly take care of them.
- Some have never gotten past being cared for by their own mother.
- This is a false need characteristic of men who have not matured out of childhood and may benefit from professional help.
- Some men always want to be helped. They have a false sense of how much responsibility they must take in life.





# ADDICTIONS

## False Needs

- Addictions represent the most radical form of false need.
- Addicts deserve compassion for their state of bondage. They cannot alter their mental state on their own.
- Fixing an addiction is not a solo job. It will require the support of the family system.





# THE STATE OF PLAY

## Areas Where You Can Minister

- **We live in a changing world**, more conducive to the female of the species.
- **Younger men** have trouble understanding what it means to be a man and lack permission to be the man they really are. They lack focus and are doing too little with their vast possibilities.
- **Older men** still want to fit into traditional roles from the past rather than take the roles defined by the newer, somewhat feminized society.





Deep breath,  
you've got this





# Jesus is the answer!

Try pushing D on your keyboard when presenting



# let's talk about it

1. Go to your small groups of 4-6 men.
2. Use the list of general characteristics of men.
3. Write a list of needs that could be addressed by men's ministries activities and events.
4. Rearrange the list of needs in order of priority.



## What is the best order for meeting those needs?

1. Needs to be met through relationship building:  
Social ground-breaking | Food | Learning to Trust
2. Needs to be met through instruction (early stages)  
Finding purpose | Defining manhood
3. Needs to be met through developing friendships  
Social gathering (movie nights, etc.)  
Personal sharing and discussion | Defining priorities in life
4. Needs to be met through spiritual instruction  
Stronger & more deliberate relationship with God  
Godly marriage | Godly fathering  
Character building | Personal accountability
5. Needs to be met through community service  
Belonging | Sense of responsibility for others  
Strong friendships | Use of one's talents
6. Needs to be met through evangelism  
Certainty of one's faith | Certainty of one's beliefs  
Teamwork and belonging | Sense of accomplishment