



Adventist
MEN'S MINISTRIES

A Man's Connection to God: Growing and Safeguarding His Soul

Module #4

*Men's Ministries Training Program
for Local Church Leaders*



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Introduction

In this module we will examine some of the spiritual condition and spiritual needs of men. This may seem like something we know already, but let's find out just how much we are in touch with all the ins and outs of male spirituality.



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“But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.” John 2:23-25 ESV



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“He who seeks to transform humanity must himself understand humanity. **Only through sympathy, faith, and love can men be reached and uplifted.** Here Christ stands revealed as the master teacher; of all that ever dwelt on the earth, **He alone has perfect understanding of the human soul.**” Ellen White, Education, p 78.

Spiritual Assessment

The importance of spiritual measurement

A sense of being created by God

- i. The default mindset
- ii. God creates every man
- iii. Every man is dependent on God for life



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Spiritual Assessment

A sense of being loved by God

- I. God is love- 1 John 4:8,16.**
- II. Made us in his image out of a heart of love- Jeremiah 31:3.**
- III. Gave us freedom of choice so we could love – I love you, and you can choose to love me back.**
- IV. Jesus died to save us because God loves us- John 3:16.**



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Spiritual Assessment

A sense of our sin problem

- I. We have a built-in tendency to sin because of the fall in Eden – Isaiah 53:6, Romans 3:23.**
- II. Even so, God has not abandoned us- Luke 15:4-7.**
- III. He has a way of dealing with the sin problem.**



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Spiritual Assessment

A sense of repentance

- I. The spiritual condition of a man depends on his being conscious of the need to repent.**
- II. The religious leaders of Jesus' time refused to repent.**
- III. Each sinful man on earth is given the choice to let go of sin.**
- IV. A man's connection to God depends on his doing so.**



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Spiritual Assessment

A sense of being saved from sin

- I. A repentant person can live with the assurance that he is forgiven - Psalm 32:1-2, 1 John 1:9, Romans 5:1.**
- II. He has and is becoming a new creation. 2 Cor 5:17.**

Spiritual Assessment

The fruits of repentance and forgiveness

- I. A cleaned-up spirit.**
- II. A desire for good.**
- III. A new interest in God's ways.**



Discuss in Groups

- 1. What has your experience been with the fruits of repentance? big or small?**
- 2. How has your life changed since you met God and turned it over to him?**



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A sense of living in God's presence all the time

- I. The gift of the Holy Spirit.**
- II. John 14:16-17.**
- III. Ephesians 5:18.**



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Using these measures:

- I. Conduct an anonymous survey at one of your meetings.**

- II. Do a group discussion on these points.**



The Importance of What We Believe

Worldview: “A largely unconscious but generally coherent set of presuppositions and beliefs that every person has which shape how we make sense of the world and everything in it. This, in turn, influences such things as how we see ourselves as individuals, how we interpret our role in society, how we deal with social issues, and what we regard as truth.” Oxfordreference.com



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Worldview: “Your worldview is the set of beliefs about fundamental aspects of reality that ground and influence all your perceiving, thinking, knowing, and doing.”

College of Engineering, Oregon State University.

The Importance of What We Believe

Biblical Worldview- A George Barna survey

- 1. Absolute moral truth exists.**
- 2. The Bible is totally accurate in all the principles it teaches.**
- 3. Satan is a real being.**

The Importance of What We Believe

Biblical worldview

4. A person cannot earn their way into heaven.
5. Jesus lived a sinless life.
6. God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today.

The Importance of What We Believe

Biblical worldview

- ¹Barna found that nine percent of born-again Christians believe all of these points.
- ²“Only about 6 percent of Canadians are truly biblical in their Christian beliefs.” Is Canada a Christian Nation- Part 2, Craig Dockstader- toshiftanation.ca



The Importance of What We Believe

**The Biblical worldview of the
Seventh-day Adventist Church is stated
in our 28 Fundamental Beliefs.**

The Importance of What We Believe

Absolute truth vs. moral relativism

1. ³“A survey by the Barna organization found that 22% of Americans believe that there is absolute truth.”
2. According to the Institute for Family Studies,
⁴“Approximately 20% of Canadian men report having cheated on their spouse.”
<https://tinyurl.com/t3a9auuc>

The Importance of What We Believe

Feelings and actions

- **How does a man make moral and spiritual decisions in real-life situations?**
- **Our decisions are based significantly on our emotions.**

The Importance of What We Believe

Difficulties men face in spiritual life

- **Men want and need action. They want control. So, men are challenged to surrender to God.**

The Importance of What We Believe

Difficulties men face in spiritual life

- **Some men are disappointed with God.**
- **“Our plans are not always God's plans. He may see that it is best for us and for His cause to refuse our very best intentions,**

The Importance of What We Believe

Difficulties men face in spiritual life

In the future life, the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings.” Ellen G. White, MH, pp. 473-474.

Ideals and Goals

Man of God: The ideal

- **Knows that there is a great controversy.**
- **Is saved from sin.**
- **Knows the law of God.**
- **He is going through a cultivation of his character.**

Ideals and Goals

Man of God: The goals

- **Surrender**
- **Conviction**
- **Commitment**
- **Wisdom**
- **Victory**



Ideals and Goals

Teaching about the man of God

Ideals and Goals

What are the benefits of being in a relationship with God?

Ideals and Goals

The downside

- **“A 2002 study found that members of fundamentalist denominations experience slightly higher rates of depression.”**
- **Please be aware of this as you minister to men.**

Ideals and Goals

What you can do to minister to men.

- **Keep in mind the fundamental goals of men's ministries.**
- **In every gathering, focus the attention of the men on some aspect of their relationship with God.**

REFERENCES

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4. <https://discreetinvestigations.ca/infidelity-statistics-who-cheats-more-men-or-women/#:~:text=The%20Institute%20for%20Family%20Studies,their%20partner%20while%20still%20married.>