



Articles and Sermons :: The Feminization of Christendom

The Feminization of Christendom, on: 2011/5/13 12:43

Love Songs and Feminine Spirituality

An example of the feminization of the church is its music. Typical praise songs refer to Jesus as a Christian's lover and praise his beauty and tenderness. Rarely do they praise his justice or strength, or refer to him as the head of an army leading his church into spiritual battle, like "Onward Christian Soldiers."

"There's definitely a trend toward a more intimate music style, like the music from the Vineyard," said Dr. Barry Liesch, a professor of music at Biola and author of *The New Worship* (Baker Books).

Feminized music concerns Steve Craig (2005), a graduate of Biola's degree completion program and the director of a men's ministry of over 400 men at Yorba Linda Friends Church in Yorba Linda, Calif.

"In our men's ministry, we're beginning to take out the flowery songs and replace them with the warrior-type lyrics and more masculine things that men identify with," Craig said.

Touchy-Feely Sermons

Another turn-off for men is touchy-feely sermons. Pearcey said the modern church stresses emotions and inner spiritual experiences while neglecting the intellectual side of the faith.

"The more traditionally masculine side of Christianity enjoys crossing swords with hostile secular worldviews. So, as long as Christianity appeals to the emotional, therapeutic, interpersonal, relational areas, it's not going to appeal to men as much as to women," Pearcey said.

Churches should engage men's intellects to help them see the relevance of Christianity to the "real" world of politics, industry and business, Pearcey said.

"We have to recover the notion that Christianity is true on all levels, not just for your emotional life or repairing relationships, as important as those things are," she said.

Many churches emphasize Jesus' softer teachings, like his love and his desire to save, and they ignore the doctrines of sin and hell, according to Podles. But men dislike liberal Christianity — "a mild religion of progress and enlightenment" as opposed to a battle between good and evil, Podles said.

Men want to expend their lives for a great cause, even if it involves risk, according to Murrow. He said that's why the U.S. military's "Army of One" campaign was effective. But American churches rarely teach about Christian suffering and martyrdom, Murrow said. Instead, today's Christianity is presented as an antidote to these things, he said.

"Men are more attracted to religion if it presented as a quest, an adventure, a heroic exploit," Pearcey said. "They want something challenging, bracing, demanding."

To reach men, churches should stress the cost and dangers of following Christ — including Christians' conflict with the world, the flesh and the devil, according to Podles.

Yet, men should be reminded that the sacrifice won't always be a "huge, glorious display like William Wallace stepping out on a battlefield," Erre said. Many times it will be staying in a troubled marriage, raising a handicapped child, or working a hated job to provide for a family, he said.

Girly-Men Pastors

Touchy-feely sermons come from touchy-feely pastors. A feminized church tends to attract more “gentle, sensitive, nurturing” leadership,” according to Pearcey.

“If religion is defined primarily in terms of emotional experience and is therapeutic, then who is it going to attract as ministers?” she said.

Pearcey said to consider a typical youth pastor.

“He’s really into relationships, very motivating, but is he teaching good apologetics? Is he teaching youth to use their minds and to understand deeper theological truths? At least the ones I’ve known haven’t,” she said. “Today, the common trajectory is for youth pastors to become senior pastors,” she added.

Murrow argues that the church needs strong, masculine leadership because men follow men. He said Jesus’ disciples are a prime example of this principle.

“Bold leadership attracts men. But even more attractive than a dynamic pastor is the sight of men in the pews who are true followers of Jesus Christ,” Murrow said in his book.

Morrow anticipates concern from some women that he is promoting unilateral male leadership. He said he is not seeking male dominance, but male resurgence.

Thoennes is also concerned about a lack of strong, male leadership in the church. But he said, if the church has become feminized, then he doesn’t see that as the fault of women or the church — but of men — who, he believes, have abdicated the involvement they should have.

“If the church doesn’t have enough strong male influence, that’s not a reason for men to stop going, but a great reason for them to go,” he said.

To help male Biola students become leaders, Student Ministries plans to launch a chapter of Men’s Fraternity next fall, led by Jonathan Morrow, a seminary student at Biola.

Yet, much of the church is seeking further feminization, through attempts to increase female clergy and to create gender-neutral Bibles and hymns. Many liberal seminaries now graduate equal numbers of women and men, or more women than men, like Yale Divinity School and Harvard Divinity School.

(Currently, Biola’s seminary, Talbot School of Theology, is about 76 percent men.)

Johnstone believes the feminist movement in mainline churches has contributed to the decline in male membership.

Restoring Balance

Murrow said churches that seek to reverse this feminization might face opposition, as the leaders in his church first did.

But he and other leaders in the men’s movement, like Gardner, believe a masculine spirit will bring men, and gender balance, to the church.

“Once you start attracting a man’s full heart, soul, mind and strength — and he sees that there are ways he can use all those in the church — then we’re going to start seeing a turnaround of the absent man,” Gardner said.

Full link.

<http://magazine.biola.edu/article/06-spring/the-feminization-of-the-church/>

A777

Re: The Feminization of Christianity - posted by StarofG0D (), on: 2011/5/13 12:53

Quote:
-----“Once you start attracting a man’s full heart, soul, mind and strength — and he sees that there are ways he can use all those in the church — then we’re going to start seeing a turnaround of the absent man,” Gardner said.

True. It is the lack of growth in the inner man that brings about the destruction of the church. If we follow a law of man made principles it WILL fall apart. It is self-seeking not self denying. If we seek full surrender to Him, to Christ and His will, it is then we will be fulfilled in Him, and will take our roles. It is when we take part in following ordinances of man, religious or otherwise, that the church falls/departs. Come back church!

Re: The Feminization of Christianity - posted by DEADn (), on: 2011/5/13 13:31

My OH My

This really answers why I find it hard many times to listen to any christian radio and feel confident in the church. I have sensed this alot in the church and do realize it when I have shaken hands and instead of a firm, rip the hand of grip, the handshake is one of a marshmellow. What’s up with that?

I also wonder this, when it comes to singing, does there really have to be a band to play? Why not have the congregation sing accapella?

My mind is exploding with comments to this post but I have to be silent and force my mind to be quiet lest I put my foot in my mouth somewhere along the line.

John

Re: Evidently European Men Have the Same Objections, on: 2011/5/13 14:14

Men Want More Anthems, Less Hugging in Church
By Anne Thomas|Christian Today Reporter

A new survey has suggested that men who go to church would like less hugging and holding hands and more singing of anthems and “proclamational” songs.

A survey of 400 readers of U.K’s Sorted, a Christian magazine for men, found that 60 percent of men did not like flowers and embroidered banners in church. Around 52 percent also said they were not too keen on dancing in church either.

The survey suggested that men were uncomfortable with physical contact such as holding hands and with activities such as sitting in circles to share their feelings.

Almost 60 percent of the respondents said they enjoyed singing in church, but many added comments saying they preferred anthemic or “proclamational” songs over emotional love songs.

Sermons and talks were popular with respondents, with 72 percent saying they were the best part of the service.

Sorted editor and publisher Steve Legg noted, “Jesus recruited a bunch of 12 ordinary blokes before He began his ministry proper. They spent three years together doing stuff. He sat down and ate with them and built relationships,” according to the Daily Mail.

“The comments at the end of the survey showed that what appeals to men is doing stuff together — sports teams, fishing, pub quizzes, paint-balling, DIY projects, curry nights, bowling, clay pigeon shooting and going out for a beer.”

The survey and its results will be discussed at next week’s Christian Resources Exhibition in Sandown Park.

Legg added, “I often walk into churches and they are like Laura Ashley showrooms with all these flowers and banners and tissues. Men just don’t feel comfortable with that.

“Certainly, with the singing, I am fed up with singing these sentimental lovey dovey songs. On the football terraces we are very passionate, chanting and cheering, and we want more songs like that. We want fewer girly songs.”

Sorted provided a list of ten hymns likely to prove a hit with male worshippers:

Onward Christian Soldiers
And Can It Be
Guide Me O Thy Great Redeemer
All People That On Earth Do Dwell
Be Thou My Vision
How Great Thou Art
Amazing Grace
Eternal Father, Strong To Save (For Those On Peril On The Sea)
Our God Reigns
Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind Forgive Our Foolish Ways

Re: - posted by StarofGOD (), on: 2011/5/13 14:21

Quote:
-----A new survey has suggested that men who go to church would like less hugging and holding hands and more singing of anthems and “proclamational” songs.

There are women that also want this. Why put a fork in the road?

Re: , on: 2011/5/13 14:38

I agree Star. Amen!

Would like to see real women and real men of God, today.

This feminist spirit is not what a true women of God should be, either. It has affected women, too.

I have actually read some articles by women online, decrying the girly songs. I will try to locate them and post them. I think there is a bigger impact when women are actually lamenting the superficiality of words today and the turning of Jesus into our "romantic lover".

A777

Re: The Feminization of Christianity - posted by ThyKingCome (), on: 2011/5/13 14:44

Thank you for sharing this article. I wholeheartedly agree that there is an absence of men in the Church today. Not only in numbers but in leadership.

Dr. Robert Morey addresses this dilemma in his book "Fearing God". It's a very timely trumpet blast for the church.

The breakdown in the Church lies largely with the men of the Church. Men are called to be the priests of their home and to represent Christ to their wives and children, but sadly, Many American Christian men are consumed in the rat race of life, building their own kingdoms, hobbies, video-games, sports, (Fantasy football), "having fun" rather than being occupied with God's Kingdom and God's business. If a marriage breaks down, then it splits the family, then if the family breaks down then it affects the Church. When the family's of the Church are suffering, then the church is suffering. What is a Church other than Men, Women and families? As Leonard Ravenhill so rightly proclaims, "forget getting Christ back into the schools, get Him back into the home...the Christian home". The health and spiritual condition of the Christian home determines what is brought to the house of worship when the Body comes together.

Would to God that He would raise up men in this generation who are, forgive me, not "wild at heart" but "fervent in Spirit serving the Lord". We need men who will lift up holy hands everywhere in prayer without wrath and doubting. We need men who will pray and watch the gate of their homes without falling asleep. As Job watched over the spiritual condition of his family so to do we men need to do the same. We ought to be the last to bed and the first to rise in the home pleading for protection for our family and to keep the wicks trimmed and the oil running in our homes. The Christian home is meant to be a place of Light and Glory, where the presence of God dwells, a true tabernacle of praise, a house of prayer, a dwelling place of God in the Spirit! If the men of God become God-filled men who can wash their families with the Word of God and lead them as Christ leads Him, then the marriages of the Church will be restored, and the family crisis will be turned around. The Men are called to be the backbone and spine of the Church, and it starts in our homes. Who a man is in his home is who he is. Period. If a man is on fire for God the first beneficiary of that fire should be his wife and then his children, and then the local church. For the single men the call is the same: reach out to your neighbors and co-workers, and bring the flame into the Church!

Oh God, fill our men!!!

Re: , on: 2011/5/13 14:50

I appreciate what Dr. Morey says. Men's priorities are wrong. Yep, men have abdicated their responsibility in the home so how can you expect the church to reflect anything spiritually healthy.

It's not God's fault, He is calling and wanting to raise up men and desiring to fill men. But, He will not do it without a willingness and hunger and cooperation from men.

You know as well as I do what God's remedy for Israel was when they forsook the Lord. Suffering, judgement, chastening. It woke some of Israel out of their slumber, but not all. God's pleadings in the OT, basically bounced back to Him and they seem to be bouncing back to Him, today.

A777

Re: handshakes - posted by Lysa (), on: 2011/5/13 16:45

Quote:

-----and instead of a firm, rip the hand of grip, the handshake is one of a marshmallow. What's up with that?

You don't have to have gray hair to have arthritis in the hands and it hurts those who have it when someone comes up and grips their hand tightly. I'm not saying all have arthritis but a lot do.

I am a handshaker and I like a firm one but as I'm getting older, I don't want someone squeezing my knuckles together!

Just a thought!
God bless you,
Lisa

Re: The Feminization of Christianity - posted by Enochh (), on: 2011/5/13 17:05

Let me give you first hand account of how this effects.

I am married to a woman who has a daughter (my step daughter)

I have tried to lead. I have with absolutely no submission.

Example: I keep the family books. At this point in the month it was slim so I talked to my wife via cell phone and said I know you gals are going to the mall but its not in the budget right now to spend. We won't was my wifes response. they were at this point enroute to the mall. I later learned (by the transaction time) that when my wife was assuring me "we wont" they had already been to the bank and withdrawn shopping money. So my wife taught my step daughter 1) its ok to lie to your husband 2)its ok not to submit to his leadership. long story short the teen took control of the home and i live in a 1 bedroom apartment. every where i turned for counsel it was always "you just need to love her like Christ love the church".....where does submission come in. Christ never obligated himself to love any one who didn't submit to his head ship (LORD).

Women need to wake up.Lets us be men. Sarah went as far as calling Abraham lord. Talk that kind of submission in Am

erica and the milk toast preachers will console the feminist and tell them their man is being "controlling"
Now I sit in my apartment with my cat and wonder where to go next. Thanks spinless pastors....another family bites the dust

Re: - posted by Ovadia (), on: 2011/5/13 17:41

The fault is not with pastors it is in "The Failure of the Faith of our Fathers". Dad's don't teach their children like they did years ago. In that you can see our homes are not what they should be or once were...Guys it's not your fault or your dad's, but both. They may not have taught you leadership and if not than you should have learned leadership. Pastors are at fault to a degree, but please don't put the blame there...the Bible has not been taught from the pulpit by allot (not all) because the congregation does not what to hear the truth. So...read the Bible it is our instruction manual for all of life.

- B. Basic
- I. Instructions
- B. Before
- L. Leaving
- E. Earth

Besides all that...it has been women that have keep the doors open in the church since nearly the first century.

Another note...Love is the greatest command taught by Jesus.

Re: , on: 2011/5/13 18:11

Ovadia, there is usually a little more to a marriage than someone writing one paragraph in a forum.

Husband and wife must be in agreement and walking together in the Lord. If they put up a united front, then the children cannot use one against the other. What we have here is unequally yoked man and wife. Husband and wife mutually submit to one another in love. But if they are not in agreement how can they walk together in the Lord and lead the children?

Husbands don't order wives around like drill sergeants, either. Wives are heirs of life together with husbands and are sisters in the Lord, too.

A777

Re: The Feminization of Christianity, on: 2011/5/13 19:30

Even as a woman I hate how feminized the churches have become, and how passive the male membership. It's not just men who desire masculinity back in the church it is also the women. One cannot even find a real man to marry anymore.

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2011/5/13 19:47

Quote:
-----One cannot even find a real man to marry anymore.

They're out there, but they're just as uncommon as real women. It's a double edged sword. Unfortunately in my life I've met more of the former than the latter...

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2011/5/13 19:56

Quote:
-----...where does submission come in.

Submission is her job. Loving her unconditionally no matter how much she submits or doesn't submit is yours. You do what Christ commanded you to do as a husband, and let Him sort her out for what she has to be doing. We were given a

command without an exception, there's no disclaimer after "love her like Christ loves the church".

Colossians 3:19

Husbands, love your wives AND DO NOT BE EMBITTERED AGAINST THEM.

Quote:

-----Christ never obligated himself to love any one who didn't submit to his headship (LORD)

You won't find that in the Bible, so I'm not sure where you're getting it from.

Mark 10:20-22

And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven ; and come, follow Me." But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.

You think it's possible that Jesus didn't know that the young man wouldn't submit to His Lordship before He felt a love for him?

Re: - posted by Enochh (), on: 2011/5/13 20:39

I'm not gonna split hairs with ya EverestoSama, obviously Jesus knew his heart, (church lore has it that this was Barnabas) but my Bible says is Psalm 5:5 God hates all who do iniquity. I think that not submitting to His Lordship would fall in that category.so i guess you can retrack this statement "You won't find that in the Bible, so I'm not sure where you're getting it from"

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2011/5/13 21:01

Nice dodge. In that respect then, God hated you too until you found Christ, yet it says in Romans 5:8 that He showed His LOVE for us that while we were YET sinners, Christ died for us. You can sit in your apartment and feel as right and as justified as you want, but the fact is you still have an unconditional command from Christ concerning your wife that you're not holding up your end of. You're not splitting hairs with me, you're splitting hairs with the Word of God.

You were quick to point out Sarah calling Abraham my lord, but you should pay even closer attention to the verse after it

1 Peter 3:7

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Are God's covenants based on our faithfulness, or on His? Be like Christ dude. If this is a conversation about the masculine aspects of Christianity, then don't mind me speaking to you like a man. Man up to your role. No matter if she holds up her end or not, that's not on your head before God.

Re: - posted by Enochh (), on: 2011/5/13 21:06

yes it says we were enemys....what version do you read? Its nice of you to assume how I feel..."right and justified". Must make you feel good.

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2011/5/13 21:16

The reason I assume you feel right and justified, is because that's what you're fighting for right now. The "rightness" and the justification of your position. You can go ad hominem on this if you want to, but that's the first sign that you can't refute what's being said.

You have yet to deal with any of the unconditional commands of Scripture. You can continue to take more potshots at me, but that won't help the issue much. I'm not saying this to tear you down, I'm saying this because you have a chance to resolve it. It's an awesome thing to be a husband. It's not an easy thing, but it's an awesome thing. Despite your arguments, you know what the Word says, and you know your role to play. Sometimes it's a bummer hand, but that's between you and God. You can make the right choice, bro. It's not easy, but it's right, and you can do it!

Re: The Feminization of Christianity, on: 2011/5/13 21:18

Hi Everest

Quote:

-----Christ never obligated himself to love any one who didn't submit to his headship (LORD)

You won't find that in the Bible, so I'm not sure where you're getting it from.

Just for the record - John 2:24 But Jesus did not commit Himself unto them, because He knew all men.

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2011/5/13 21:20

Quote:

-----But Jesus did not commit Himself unto them, because He knew all men.

Where does it say in that passage that He was their husband, and that they were the church? Or that He didn't love them? Even still, it didn't prevent Him from taking on a fate worse than death itself on their behalf, even though He didn't entrust Himself to them.

Re: , on: 2011/5/13 23:29

One feeds the other; the lack of masculinity can result in women in the church taking up the roles meant for men. Men become so passive that women begin to take up the reins and end up wearing the pants (speaking figuratively). Thereby women become less feminine. Whenever I find a woman who is domineering, controlling, it is almost always the case that her husband is also passive. Like Ahab. Of course, it is not always clear which came first, his passivity or her domineering.

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2011/5/14 0:00

Quote:

-----Of course, it is not always clear which came first, his passivity or her domineering.

That's a good point. On a similar note, I heard a study one time saying many times when premarital fornication is at play in a relationship, it will create a role reversal in the relationship after marriage. I'm not saying this is the case with everyone mind you, but the way things are getting, even with those who take on the name of Christ, it wouldn't surprise me to see

see this potentially being the case many a time.

Re: The Feminization of Christianity - posted by sonsigns (), on: 2011/5/14 0:58

Here we go... Here is a prime example of division among the church. The true church of Jesus Christ, is going to preach Jesus and him crucified.

Let's talk about worship for a moment, a lot of churches are getting away from opening a hymnal. Instead they are playing music that will draw more kids into the building. There is no problem with this however, is it Holy, edifying to the body of believers ie, older folks over forty?

Our worship service resembles more of a concert than true worship in the house of God.

Now onto sermons. When was the last time you heard a sermon on the Judgement seat of Christ? there is a good one on this site by Leonard Ravenhill, go listen to it.

How about a teaching on evangelism? When was the last time you help bring in a lost soul from the clutches of this world? Have you ever?

I see a lot of these mega churches promoting concerts over the meat of the word and a lot of smaller churches closing their doors because the congregation are moving from church to church because of signs, wonders and what they call Holy Spirit anointed concerts.

I have never attended a church that had over 200 members. I have seen these mega churches on my way to Branson MO and in larger cities. They look more like theaters than a church.

I wonder if you have to purchase a ticket before the entertainment begins?

Just remember when you pass a church that has closed its doors, that "no one worships here any more". Why? Lack of Prayer, lack of evangelism, lack of faith? Yes, all of that and maybe because the worship service wasn't replaced with the top 10 billboard songs and the preaching was too harsh and crushed to many toes for the more humanistic christian.

P.S. This is not about feminism or maleism, this is pure humanism! Listen to Paris Reidhead's sermon 10 shekles and a shirt. Then get alone with God and get to know him on a personal level. Live Matthew chapter 5,6&7.

do it today or you may go astray.

Re: The Feminization of Christianity - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/5/14 1:19

Insightful article.

After I read it I wondered how this feminization began. I do not think it began suddenly but occurred over a period of time. As I think about this I conclude it must have begun when the family moved from countryside to the city. In the country the dad worked hard to provide for the family with all the children chipping in to help. Among other things the boys were hunters - they hunted animals for food, dressed it for human consumption. They got up with the sun because there were chores to be done before they could go to school. Children knew their own well-being depended on their contribution to the work being done on time AND in cooperation with the rest of the family. The family worked together hard and played hard. And stayed together. In the midst of all this, dad was taking charge and leading the family in delegating responsibilities.

Children worked with dad. Children learned there are dangerous machinery to be dealt with and that one needed to be careful, be responsible. Children also learned there are animals that can get get after you and injure you. Life on the farm was dangerous, at times. But we all took it in stride, girls as well as boys. Life was tough and rough.

In the mid 1900s the family abandoned the farm for the city. Boys no longer were taught to work hard physically and instead sat around the house and imbibed too much of the feminine that is inherent in women. Mothers work to protect her brood and as a result their male tendencies to play rough and tough were thwarted. Except for football. But this consists of a small part in ones daily routine.

When I became a mom it was a real challenge to teach my boys to not be wimps, to be adventuresome and take risks that are normal for males. Let them climb trees, get dirty, do dangerous things (not foolish things), let them learn to be tough.

Too many moms are working so hard to protect their children from the consequences of hard play and work that it is working to destroy survival instincts. It is making wimps out of the boys and the girls are not learning how to manage the household, either. Too many are couch potatoes, lazy....

This is the practical and what I have seen happen in life, in culture. What happens on the practical level will also impact the church level as well.

The solution, in my opinion, is to move out into the country, get a few acres and some animals. Make the children assume responsibility for the animals. Let the boys get guns and go hunting for food; buy fishing equipment and let them fish for food. And in the meantime, show them how wonderful God made the world and his creation. There will be many opportunities to do so. Do not shield your children from the cycle of birth, life and death. Powerful lessons to be learned there.

...

My understanding for whatever it is worth.

Re: , on: 2011/5/14 1:26

Lot of good stuff there, Ginny.

Don't forget the TV (Terribly Vulgar).

Fathers camp out in front of it on weekends. They are AWOL. Absent without leave.

Sons mimic them and play video games all day.

Everybody wants their entertainment (which feeds the feminine spirit) and at the same time use entertainment as a baby sitter for their kids.

There is no relationship building or getting out of the living room and exploring life.

No time for TV in the country.

Satan has strategies and plans against the Church and executes them.

A777

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/5/14 6:51

Quote:

-----Satan has strategies and plans against the Church and executes them.

Does he ever! He is content to do it by degrees, ever so slowly, so slow it is almost imperceptible. If he would move faster folks would get alarmed and work to correct it before it got too bad.

You are ever so correct about the influence of the idiot box on children...after it came the video games with all its cousins. To women it is the cell phone...too many have it glued to their ear. People are suffering from electronic addiction...husbands, children are ignored because mom is on the phone yapping or texting or checking out the latest...oh it just gets worse.

I do wonder what kind of catastrophic event - apart from Jesus second coming - it would take to destroy people's love affair and dependence on electronics?

Re: marriage and would-be marriage counsellors - posted by savannah, on: 2011/5/14 7:26

Hi Enochh,

May God strengthen you at this time.
May God teach you at this time.
May God draw you closer to Him at this time.

I offer you no cliches nor do I throw scripture upon your head.

May God lead you on now as to "...where to go next."

Too many are too quick to give two cents when too young and too inexperienced.

Case in point:

EverestoSama

- 1) he's young
- 2) he's single
- 3) he's inexperienced

he ignorantly says, "It's an awesome thing to be a husband."
But he isn't one. As true as that statement is in itself.

Again EverestoSama insensitively and unsympathetically says,

"You can sit in your apartment and feel as right and as justified as you want..."

It's obvious EverestoSama has much to learn. Methinks he may have had more to say to Job than all of Job's other comforters. And maybe more to say than even Job's wife.

May God speak to you through these verses.

Jer 3:1 "If a man divorces his wife and she goes from him and becomes another man's wife, will he return to her? Would not that land be greatly polluted? You have played the whore with many lovers; and would you return to me? declares the LORD.

Jer. 3:8 And I watched. When for all the causes for which the apostate Israel committed adultery, I sent her away and I gave the writ of her divorce to her. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she also went and fornicated.

Jer 3:20 Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD.

Hosea 2:1-3 Say to your brothers, Ammi, and to your sisters, Ruhamah." Contend with your mother, contend, for she is not My wife, and I am not her husband. And she shall take away the signs of her prostitutions from her face, and of her adulteries from between her breasts, lest I should strip her naked and put her forth as on the day of her birth and make her as a wilderness and set her as an arid land and put her to death with thirst.

Lest any accuse me of promoting or implying divorce for any cause, be it known that I in no wise am doing so by presenting these verses. I do so for you Enochh, that you might know God's compassion in your distress. As you can see, God explicitly expresses his disfavor with unlawfully unsubmitive behavior. Do not think it is a sin to express your displeasure with your wife's unlawfully unsubmitive behavior.

And I do not say that for you to dismiss grace toward her, but rather that you may be strengthened in all grace, and that grace may abound in you more and more.

If you've never watched Tim Conway's address to mostly men in a home Bible study called "Choosing A Wife", I'd encourage

rage you to do so. He speaks with passionate understanding, experience and wisdom.

Below is a link to view it:

<http://illbehonest.com/Choosing-a-Wife-Beauty-is-Vain-Tim-Conway>

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take to you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph 6:10-13

Re: The Feminization of Christianity, on: 2011/5/14 8:20

Hi Everest,

Quote:
-----Where does it say in that passage that He was their husband, and that they were the church? Or that He didn't love them? Even still, it didn't prevent Him from taking on a fate worse than death itself on their behalf, even though He didn't entrust Himself to them.

I agree, He didn't. But He isn't espoused to be married to those for whom He died, who do not accept the implications of His Headship. Unless they WANT to come under His Headship, He will not be an HUSBAND to them. Even those who proclaim themselves espoused must show themselves separated unto no other loves, or they will not be at the great consummation.

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2011/5/14 9:03

Deleted. Solomon got to me.

Re: The Feminization of Christianity, on: 2011/5/14 9:37

Is it possible that we could discuss the issues arising from personal contributions (like Enoch's) without losing focus on the topic?

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2011/5/14 9:43

Fair enough. I stand by the words I've written, but I apologize if I've been misunderstood for lacking grace and understanding.

Re: The Feminization of Christianity - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/5/14 10:34

I always enjoy reading the opinions of men...

edited

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2011/5/14 10:37

Quote:
-----I always enjoy reading the opinions of me...

Haha, you're in good company. You'd better bring enough tissue for The Notebook this Tuesday. I'm tired of always having to use the hem of my lacy shirt when we run out.

Re: The Feminization of Christianity, on: 2011/5/14 10:52

Hi Everest,

Quote:
-----Fair enough. I stand by the words I've written, but I apologize if I've been misunderstood for lacking grace and understanding.

I don't know that you have. I just don't want to see a worthy discussion head for lock-down, just because we haven't taken time to rearrange what we want to say into a passive style, which provokes less offence even though it be ever so strongly worded.

I mean, we can quite easily discuss whether there is a limit to the accountability a man has to suffer for his wife's excesses, just as we could discuss why it is that women leave men who have emptied her bank accounts, ruined her good name and reputation, and included her in debts she had nothing to do with raising. Thankfully, we are no longer sent to prison until we have paid all that we owe.

Re: , on: 2011/5/14 11:17

This topic is about the feminization of men.

This makes the second story this week where men have left 'their own home' because of some over-powered women.

Everest is right to side against any man that's letting Women Chase You Out of Your Own Home. That's number one.

On the other forum where just this last week I read a very similar situation. One of the brothers was wise enough to inform the man who left his home because his wife believed and followed some of the well known false-prophets against his will - that he may lose everything he worked for because she could claim "abandonment" - but that part is not the main point.

A man should Never let some rebellious woman or two, run him out of his own home. This happens a lot and if we're talking about "Men Being Men" - how does this represent the Thread Topic if women can out-power and run a man out of his own home - even if he leaves willingly of his own accord - how is that Scriptural???

Doesn't say much for this topic we're on here.

Jesus gave little reason to leave one's spouse.

Some would break up a home rather liberally.

The Feminization of Christianity is the Topic here.

Leaving women who are over-powering their men would definitely fall under this category.

I say Amen to Everest who sees that we don't break up marriages for any old reason we choose and according to the topic at hand - we sure as life don't let females be the cause of a grown man to run.

Get these topics Scriptural and you'll see where Everest - though single is right on target about "marriage and men".

Re: , on: 2011/5/14 11:42

.... and, I saw this teaching come into the Church when some began to twist Ephesians 5. I've even seen this twisted version of Eph 5 posted here within this last week as well.

Here it is - Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church

From Ephesians 5:21 and up from that verse, Paul is speaking to The Church and THEN goes on in Verse 22 to talk to Husbands and Wives.

The teaching that has feminized men came in with the WOF movement. I watched it come into a excellent AoG Church that I was a member of back in 1979.

My Pastor got it out straight-ways, once he saw how many were trying to push WOF on others in our Church.

Those from the WOF told the men that they had to submit to their wives because of that one verse 21 that was aimed by Paul to The Church.

That men could not rule their household unless they came to a consensus with their wives.

Poppycock and a twisting/wresting of Scripture!

There are so many verses, through-out GOD's WORD that plainly say that even in the Church - Men are over women and Husbands over their wives.

And single women ought to watch how they post to this topic because it's "women taking authority over men" that is the "other half of this story" of the Feminization of Men in The Church.

Prove your points out Sola Scriptura or just leave it until you can!

Re: The Feminization of Christianity, on: 2011/5/14 13:42

Everest, hello,

I had another thought. Previously when posting today, I deleted part of a post because it was getting too detailed and dragging on! But, there is one thing to bring to attention, namely, that Paul did counsel not to be 'yoked' with unbelievers in marriage. Even Christians contemplating marriage ought to consider whether they are, primarily, 'yoked with Christ'. This is an important part of God's design for order within a marriage.

Re: , on: 2011/5/14 15:12

This is a tough topic. There's a tremendous amount of pressure put on men to be men in this sinful world, but I believe that is why GOD chose Paul to be the Main man in our New Testament.

Paul was only 5 feet tall or less. He was not much to look at and especially not pleasant to look at after all the floggings, beatings, eye-problems and so forth that he received. He even mentions that when he was present at times with the church, that he's not very impressive, but we all know how truly bold Paul was and the power of GOD that was on that man. Blinding one guy and be such a threat to the heretics and pharisees.

We also know that he was very tender toward women, yet wrote the most of a women's limits. We know that women traveled with him and ministered the Gospel with him, so to me, Paul is the #2 Image of the Perfect man - or a true man's man, as some would say -- Second only to the Example of Jesus Himself - the Perfect man and our main example of what a man should aim for.

But yes - Paul as well, as he said, "Follow me as I follow Christ".

Paul's my hero and we could all pray for one another, that GOD show us the Perfect balance.

Even if a woman is a prophetess, she's only to speak up - but not continue on once told to be quiet by a head of that particular church and just to leave if he goes over-board with his authority and she needs to know 'when' and 'where' to speak up, in a Church setting - moment by moment and situation by situation, as the Spirit of Christ leads.

Men know by the example of all that Paul wrote about women, of how they are to treat women.

Neither gender should gain-say over the other and I suppose that's the bottomline.

We've been praying that this topic would come up.

Both men and women in Christ, need to be set free from the world's standards and know how to be mighty in Him without going over any of the perimeters from His Word to both genders.

Men are to protect the Church from sin and anything false.

We as women are built to want to be protected. Amen!

And if Paul, as non-impressive as he 'looked' could protect every Church he ever visited, plus more, by his letters written from prison, etc - than any man can protect GOD's Sheep, as David protected his father's sheep - then went and killed Goliath as just a lad who had faith in his GOD.

Protecting was Deborah's job as well, but that should not have to become a standard. To my understanding, she was appointed Judge - but didn't 'covet' that position and may have had it handed to her because there wasn't a man to do the job. A very rare case. Very rare.

A judgment from GOD from His Word is when "women shall rule over you and children be your oppressors." Isa 3:12

Re: , on: 2011/5/15 13:13

Ok, I just wanted to get back just a bit to the Feminization of Christianity.

C. H. Spurgeon complained that "There has got abroad a notion, somehow, that if you become a Christian you must sink your manliness and turn milksop."

Jesus is not really presented as a warrior these days. Jesus did real battle in the flesh against the Devil and expects us to do the same.

1Jn 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Yet, today, He is portrayed as a lover. He has traded His sword for a daisy.

Today, we preach a "personal relationship with Jesus", instead of repentance and a relationship with the Father.

What man does not want a relationship with his Father?

Here is a quote from Deborah Gyapong.

"But many Christian leaders still don't get it. As David Morrow points out in *Why Men Hate Going to Church*, many of the songs now sung in church "have the same breathless feel as top forty love songs." In addition, women are now encouraged by some Christian pastors and writers to think of Jesus in frankly romantic terms. Naturally enough, such forms of piety tend to create psychological barriers for men. The idea of Christ as our brother challenges a man to become a better man, but the idea of Christ as boyfriend is challenging in a different sense."

"Onward Christian Soldiers" is passe in most churches.

Praise music has accelerated this trend. Not only are the lyrics of many songs quite romantic.

"Hold me close, let your love surround me. Bring me near, draw me to your side."

"I'm desperate for you, I'm lost without you."

"Let my words be few. Jesus I am so in love with you."

"You're altogether lovely...altogether wonderful to me."

"Oh, Lord, you're beautiful. Your face is all I see."

"You are beautiful, my sweet, sweet song."

Think of the mental gymnastics that must take place inside a man's subconscious mind as he sings lyrics like these. He's trying to express his love to Jesus, a man who lives today, using words no man would dare say to another, set to music that sounds like the love songs his wife listens to in the car."

David expressed his love to God quite well in the Psalms. There, men will find a good example of a man expressing his love to God.

The "Feminization of Christianity" has been going on for a long time. This is not a recent strategy of Satan. Leon Podles actually wrote a book called "The Feminization of Christianity" and although Catholic, his research covers 19th century Protestantism and earlier where he shows roots that the "Feminization of Christianity" began quite some time ago. He reveals some keen insights into this phenomenon.

Here is an excerpt of his first chapter, Armies of Women.

DESPITE THE CONSTANT COMPLAINTS OF FEMINISTS about the patriarchal tendencies of Christianity, men are largely absent from the Christian churches of the modern Western world. Women go to church; men go to football games. Lay men attend church activities because a wife, mother, or girlfriend has pressured them. As Tom Forrest, a priest active in international evangelization, points out, only 25 percent of the participants in Catholic gatherings he has attended are men, and "when men do come, they are often brought along with some resistance by their wives."

The strategy of American revivalists in the Second Great Awakening in the age in private religious activities far less often. British sociologists Michael Argyle and Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi have observed that "the sex ratio is consistently greater for saying daily prayers than for church attendance or membership. The latter are again more under the influence of social pressures, while prayers are a private matter and reflect more spontaneous religious concerns. This suggests that the larger sex ratios should be taken more seriously than the smaller one."

The lack of commitment by men to the practice of the Christian religion is even more pronounced than the statistics for membership and external practice suggest.

In general, men who have a strong connection with the feminine through a close relationship with a wife, mother, or girlfriend are more likely to be involved in Christian activities than men who do not. If a man goes to church, he goes because a woman has wheedled him into what he would normally consider unmanly behavior. But if he goes voluntarily, he suffers suspicions about his masculinity. John K. White summarizes the popular attitude: "A devastating criticism of Christianity is many men see it as not only irrelevant, but as effeminate."

Words and phrases such as "unmanly," "for women and kids," "wimps," and "they can't make it so they hide behind God" are common.⁴ Writing from his experience of charismatic communities, Stephen Clark laments that "Contemporary Christians often lack an ideal of manly character, and they do not value some of the character traits that ought to be prominent in a man

The contemporary picture of Christian character is all too often feminine, and the Victorian notion of femininity at that."

The Religious Male The clergy have long had the reputation of not being very masculine. The mainline, liberal Protestant minister in the early twentieth century had a reputation for being soft and working best with women. This reputation provided fuel for fundamentalists, who denounced liberals as "little infidel preacherettes" in sermons with such titles as "She-Men, or How to Become Sissies." But all clergy were open to attack, all had to face the "popular stereotype that men of the cloth were neither male nor female." The clergy were seen as exempt from masculine trials and agonies; they were part of the safe world of women. As one layman put it, "life is a football game, with the men fighting it out on the gridiron, while the minister is up in the grandstand, explaining it to the ladies."

In nineteenth-century New England, ministers of the most important churches were "hesitant promulgators of female virtues in an era of militant masculinity." But the dominant churches of nineteenth-century New England had long been feminized. Not only was the proportion of women in the churches extremely high, both the milieu and the ministers of the church were far more feminine than masculine.

Businessmen disdained the clergy as "people halfway between men and women." Ministers found the most congenial environment, not in businesses, political clubs, or saloons, but "in the Sunday school, the parlor, the library, among women and those who flattered and resembled them." Moreover, they were typically recruited from the ranks of weak, sickly boys with indoor tastes who stayed at home with their mothers and came to identify with the feminine world of religion. The popular mind often joined "the idea of ill health with the clerical image."

In the vision of Unitarian minister Charles Fenton (1796-1842), playing Sunday school children have replaced stern Pilgrim Fathers and "adult politics have succumbed to infantile piety, Ecclesia to a nursery. Masculinity is vanquished in the congregation and, even more significantly, in the pulpit."

By the end of the nineteenth century, the effeminacy of the mainline Protestant clergy had become a commonplace of satire. A Catholic novel, *The Last Rosary*, caricatured the minister: "He was a Methodist, a Revivalist, a Baptist, an advocate of women's rights, an earnest worker in the field of missionary labor, provided said field consisted in gliding here and there to nice little evening parties, shaking hands—or, more properly speaking, finger tips—with ladies whose age forbade the custom of whole-hand shaking.

. . . Mild tea drinking, a little sherry, claret occasionally, and other helps of spiri-tuous kind, did go some length in elevating whatever there was of manhood in his composition to thoughts of heroic work and conversion of sinners." But Catholics, too, had their problems in nineteenth-century America, if we may judge by the repeated efforts to get Catholic men to attend to their religious duties.

During the first half of the nineteenth century the English identified weakness and femininity with saintliness. George Arthur, the most Christian figure in Thomas Hughes's *Tom Brown's School Days* has an "overidentification with his mother and sisters." On his sickbed, he looks like "A German picture of an angel . . . transparent and golden and spirit-like."

To be Christian, for the mid-Victorians, was to lack the exuberant physical masculinity of the normal boy, to be weak, to be helpless, to be a victim.

In other words, the religious man was like the Victorian ideal of woman, who was supposed to suffer from mysterious complaints, to be unable to engage in vigorous activity, and to find sex distasteful.

A777

Re: , on: 2011/5/15 17:14

I went back and changed the title of this thread to the "Feminization of Christendom". I don't think it is accurate to say Christianity.

I don't consider all parts of Christendom to be Christianity, but I do observe that this "spirit" has infected most if not all parts of Christendom (even in some House Churches).

I think organizations of men are more susceptible to the spirit of the age and being "pleasers of men", willing to change in whatever way is necessary in order to keep attendance numbers high.

If we imbibe the world, we will look and act like them and the feminization of the world can be seen in its public school policies, politics, children's sports teams, diversity training at work, sensitivity training, clergy hiring of females, gun control, etc, etc. I think others can come up with many more examples as this is fairly pervasive in everyday life.

The world has long ago become a fixture in organizational Christianity and that is why it is so easy to manipulate by the powers of darkness. Whatever is the latest fad in the world, the "church" then tries to compete with it or copy it.

A777

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/5/23 7:26

Sorry A777 this seems to be a topic I just don't agree with you on which is quite alright. :)

"Think of the mental gymnastics that must take place inside a man's subconscious mind as he sings lyrics like these."

None at all if the man is truly in Love with Christ. I am one of those that writes music, I write in despair and in rejoicing and this article openly judges this. Because as we all know sharing your feelings is definitely not manly. Come on, one of the greatest warriors of the Bible it held up to this article would fall in the same ranks as the girlie men it seems to be pointing to. There is NOT a Feminization of Christendom but a Desantification of it. Men don't want to go to church because they love Sin more than they love Christ, this article makes our "manliness" an excuse, well its a bunch of beans. Yo

u don't see this in the bible, Please reread the Article again and notice the LACK of ANY scripture, ZERO actually this should have been a red flag from the beginning.

I know that Christ has many aspects and traits but he was a perfect balance of the two a Loving Warrior King dressed in Righteousness and Holiness. He was gentle and kind to those who had the right heart but to those that need a whooping he pulled out the whip and cracked it as a Shepard.

"Businessmen disdained the clergy as "people halfway between men and women."

When did we start caring what the world thinks of us? This article seeks just as hard to race the things of the world as your girly-men preachers, it seeks to keep the church relevant but a true Lovers and Believers of Christ know its always relevant.

David's ONE desire the ONETHING he asked was to See the beauty of the Lord, I guess that makes David homosexual ? I mean really, what this article has lack of compassion and understanding of God's creation that we all come in different shapes and sizes and masculinity and femininity and it judges those it calls "girly-man preachers" so what if they are girly men it how they express their love to God. (Please note I don't agree with the ones that promote false doctrine).

So what if I express my love to God in a "girly" song expressing to God "I AM Desprite for YOU, I Need YOU." It is of my opinion that "Onward Christian Soliders" produces more Religious Zealots than it does God fearing HUMBLE Christian men. Also you do realize that of those your quoted for worship are actually adaptations of the Psalms of David? Jeesh David was a girly warrior.

This article would have been 100% better if it talked more about men loving their sin more than men being turned into girly men. Desancification is to blame, feminization is hardly an excuse.

Re: - posted by EverestoSama, on: 2011/5/23 8:14

Quote:
-----There is NOT a Feminization of Christendom but a Desantification of it. Men don't want to go to church because they love Sin more than they love Christ, this article makes our "manliness" an excuse, well its a bunch of beans.

I think that sums it up pretty well.

Re: , on: 2011/5/23 9:39

Update

Yes, the "desanctification" of Christendom is certainly a big factor. I guess that is a "nice" way of saying the Great Falling Away. And that includes both men and women.

So, I would not be so quick to indict ALL men that do not go to church as "in sin". "Go to Church" is not necessarily "not forsaking the assembling of yourselves", and in many cases it is just a big show.

I still have to agree with Leon Podles, and his new book "The Church Impotent" (previous book, The Feminization of Christianity) deals even more with this problem and traces it back to the 13th century. As one commenter says, "this is not so much about maleness as it is about masculinity".

Here is the rest of his comment which I cannot improve upon followed by a couple of more to give you some more insight into this problem. It's not just about "romantic love songs to Jesus". The problem is much deeper and wider. That is just one manifestation.

There is a scene in C.S. Lewis' Narnia Chronicles in which one of the children says to another, about the Christ-figure Aslan, "After all, you know, he isn't a TAME lion." And I believe it was Lewis also who said that perhaps Goodness was a

more terrifying thing than we had imagined. Mr. Podles' book reminds us of at least one reason why men do not go to the modern mainline and Catholic churches: it is because those churches have tamed Jesus Christ, and NO LONGER TRIBUTE BEFORE HIS MAJESTY. Those Churches are, fundamentally, not serious about what they are doing. How many people realize that, in the whole of the Gospels, aside from his greeting Nathaniel with the words, "Behold, an Israelite in whom there is no guile," Jesus never praises his disciples, never says that they are good people, never allows them to celebrate themselves; he promises them rewards, but those are for giving up all they have and following him. Indeed, Jesus is often quite sharp with them: "If you, WHO ARE WICKED, know how to give good things," "Get thee behind me, SATAN," "O YE OF LITTLE FAITH." Yet the disciples follow him. Why? Mr. Podles knows why -- men look up to those who love them enough to strengthen them, to discipline them, to make them undertake the arduous adventure. Podles' description of the Penitentes in New Mexico made me wish that I, too, could show my love for Christ in such a drastic way; it nearly made me weep.

But I suppose what most endears this book to me, and what most infuriates me about the rather niggling criticism it has received in two of the reviews here, is that it bothers to take the winning of men's souls seriously, something which the Churches, in their lukewarm love, have found too inconvenient or upsetting to do! How comfortable our mainline Churches have become -- old biddies' clubs! Niceness and smiley faces are not going to save the soul of the tattooed man on the streetcorner: who, by the way, probably has a man's keen and ruthless insight into what is merely sentimental andphony. If he is to be saved, Christ must do the work -- and the one who preaches Christ to him had better have Authority in his -- and I use the pronoun advisedly -- voice. Anthony M. Esolen

I read this book several years ago, and am still digesting some of the author's ideas. There is much to ponder here, and a careful reading of it will throw much light on the ways in which the modern Church has been yanked off-balance by overemphasis on a feminine or bridal Christian mysticism. This bridal mysticism, which began to grow after the thirteenth century, focuses on Christ as Lover and tends to disregard the many images of Christ as Warrior, Priest and King. The author contends that to dwell excessively on Christ as Lover is to repel healthy men, and it is a reasonable conclusion. The author also shows how men nurture, and how Christ, in His divine masculinity, nurtured and still does nurture, His Church. This nurturing is accomplished with the shedding of men's blood, as Christ shed His, and it stands in contrast with feminine nurturing, in which women feed others with our bodies and hands. I found this a very profound idea, and it made me view the relationship between Christ and His Church, as well as between men and women, in a different light. It gave me much more respect for men and their sacrifices than I had before. I am not sure if his thesis can explain the absence of men from church life, but it seems reasonable that it must in part explain it. This book is worth reading for the detailed view it gives of the bridal mysticism in the Church, and for the other possible spiritualities available to men it suggests. K. Manizade (a woman)

A777

Nicolaitan!...I hate their teaching..[submit] and their deeds..[Jesus], on: 2011/5/23 10:41

I think that in a sense, the decline of masculine ministry in the church is an identity problem that doesn't necessarily point as much to the feminization of men, but has numbed them as to their function...and this primarily because of the Clergy Laity system that mandates a priest-class to function over everyone.

In that functioning, , Yes...there has been a neutering... EVERYONE has been neutered except the ministry class;..and that could be construed as feminization. "The people"...the "congregation" has been taught to submit...and that propels a PASSIVITY by the virtue of it's nature.

In effect, another, other than the Lord Jesus Christ has become your head. Your identity as a Priest.....and your Ministry.. has been swallowed in the ego of another...and even if his lectures are beneficial....the person-hood that you were created to be and the Life that you were created to dispense...has been squelched...stymied.

You are not qualified to participate, or are you welcome. THIS, as I see it, has created the neutering of the male in the church, as well as destroying any response, male or female, to the Lord. It has paralyzed everyone for what you were created to be.

Through the PASTOR/PRIESTHOOD.The body functioning, has been reduced to the PEW...the bump on the log spectator that may have the freedom for an occasional Amen...as long as it is not too loud. The head of the ministry...the head

of the church...has been brought low to the confines of a MAN...rather than each and every member contributing as the Spirit would lead.

1 Corinthians 11

"Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.
3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.
4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head."

Christ is the Head of every man, and the well-spring of his ministry...which in turn invigorates his personality....person-hood, to be and to respond to the holy ministry vessel that he was created to be.

Add in the Jezebel Spirits that muddle the authority issues, the Pastorette, as the Co-Pastor...

...and the traditional Clergy/Laity style church is a mine-field...and usually where the Spirit is Quenched.....He has already left...and they call it blessed.

It has become a dead zone...and men leave, and resist...and maybe not knowing why...but feel unfulfilled, and repressed. It's because they are.

Re: The Feminization of Christendom - posted by Veronica226 (), on: 2011/5/26 23:03

Today I was browsing through a book I have called "The Bravehearted Gospel" by Eric Ludy and it is all about this "feminization" of Christendom. A very good read for anyone interested.
But I wanted to post a quote from it that I thought was interesting.

"We've become so used to seeing Jesus portrayed holding pudgy babies and soothing lost little lambs that the idea of Him strolling into the temple armed with a whip to purge it of all its fleshly error seems jarringly foreign. Or, how about when Jesus stood toe to toe with the Pharisees and called them hypocrites 7 times in one chapter, as well as blind, damned, murdering serpents who were the unrighteous children of hell? (Matthew 23) This seems shocking language for gentle Jesus meek and mild. In fact it even seems "un-Christian," doesn't it? What has happened to our sensibilities when even Christ's own actions seem "un-Christlike" to our modern "Christian" mind? The only possible explanation is that we seem to be viewing Jesus not as He was, but through some sort of one-dimensional filter - a filter that strains every last ounce of masculinity, grit, or aggression out of the historical man Jesus Christ, a filter that is distinctly and overtly biased toward feminine sensibilities. It's as if the manly stuff has been surgically removed from the whole Christian mechanism and even from the way we think. ...It's almost as if we as the body of Christ have been unwittingly castrated." - from "The Bravehearted Gospel" by Eric Ludy page 43

Re: , on: 2011/5/27 1:20

Hi Veronica226,

Good to see that others are recognizing this. I think many are at that.

It's just the spirit of the world (age) in the church. Men have allowed themselves to be spiritually castrated and BrotherTom mentioned something very important, the Nicolaitan spirit. We are all servants of the Lord and servants should not be masters over other servants. But there are a lot of other factors that contribute to this, also. Many have been mentioned. I will check that book out that you listed.

A777

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/5/27 1:38

I think the important thing to note with this discussion like most other discussions is the need of Balance. Many times error occurs not because everyone's wrong but simply because something is out of balance. Jesus is as portrayed by the Word of God and if you are a teacher of the Word it would be foolish to ignore a full image of Him, imagine only seeing half of a Picture.

This goes as well not only for the feminization side but also the masculinization side as well because I have met many who believe Jesus was a "renegade fighter" seeking to overthrow the system. When in reality He looked to take His rightful place and bring balance back to everything by His shed blood on the Cross. So balance is vital on this topic and it all stems from reading beyond the lines and creating a Jesus that didn't ever exist.

Christ is described in the bible in many ways that if one wanted to could simply focus on the one thing and run with it to its death. Like Christ is portrayed as the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah" but He is also "the Slain Lamb"

Balance is key in all sorts of things, and we must walk the straight and "narrow" and we must always remember that feminization is only one side of the coin and flipping the coin to a "masculine" Jesus won't be a long term solution just as "feminine" Jesus wasn't. I love the Psalms of David because you have this macho man type pouring his heart out to God in the most intimate way as such if you didn't know David was a Warrior you would think he was a sissy of some kind.

We have the guy that literally cut off a Giant's head and then he writes a beautiful Psalm giving God all the credit in the most beautiful words, I think this is something men can learn from that intimacy with the Father is David's strength, joy, life, and source. If we neglect this we will also miss out on the Compassion of David as He refused the touch God's anointed one Saul.

But again Balance is so very important, I can sing wonderful Love Songs to the Father in anticipation that Christ is coming back for the Bride which I am apart of and also stand Guard with the Full Armor of God equipped ready to defend against the attacks of Satan.

Re: - posted by allaboard, on: 2011/6/4 8:45

David's Psalms are how a man should talk to the Lord and are a far cry from today's romantic songs to Jesus. I don't think anonymous was just talking about songs. He was talking about the total feminization from all aspects, of Christianity.

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2011/6/4 8:58

I would disagree with this, David's Psalms are very similar to the romantic songs to Jesus today, why do I say this? Because a great deal of them are taken and based off the Psalms themselves. In terms of music and lyrics only the style of how the Psalms are sung have changed.

I understand that he wasn't directing specifically at music but read the Psalms and you will find the same thing. I often will pray the Psalms and pour out my heart to God and tell Him how much I love Him and how I need Him. If that is feminine then I guess that's what I am. BUT like I said in my last post BALANCE is key in this conversation.

Re: - posted by savedtoserve, on: 2011/6/4 11:04

Quote:
-----Would like to see real women and real men of God, today. This feminist spirit is not what a true woman of God should be, either. It has affected women, too. I have actually read some articles by women online, decrying the girly songs. ... I think there is a bigger impact when women are actually lamenting the superficiality of words today and the turning of Jesus into our "romantic lover". A777

Right, amen, A777.

There's the aspect of how you view God--it will come out in your attempt to worship Him.

So many people mistake emotionalism for worship.

But God Himself tells us how to worship, "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; fear before him..."

Nothing about sensualism or emotionalism is holy; neither is it an outpouring of a heart that fears before Him, that trembles before the Lord. You know, it's the very thing Christ saved us from...now He says to worship in SPIRIT and in TRUTH

This is not to imply emotions should be ignored or that they are unimportant in our lives. I trust this is understood. But sa ppy, emotional, and touchy-feely songs only cover up and obscure the God Who is.

savetoserve