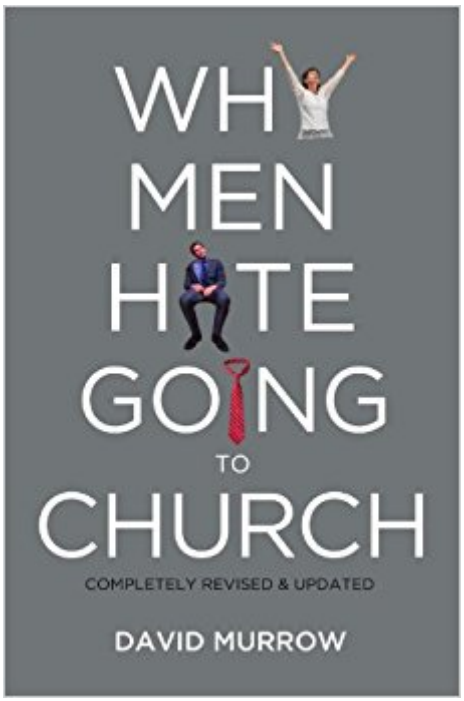
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Why Men Hate Going To Church



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“Church is boring.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬Å“ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s irrelevant.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬Å“ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s full of hypocrites.Ã¢â ¬Â•YouÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve heard the excuses Ã¢â ¬â •now learn the real reasons men and boys are fleeing churches of every kind, all over the world.Christianity is the only world religion with a chronic shortage of men. David Murrow identifies the barriers to male participation, and explains why itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s so hard to motivate the men who do go to church. Then, he takes you inside several fast-growing congregations that are winning the hearts of men and boys.The first release of Why Men Hate Going to Church sold more than 125,000 copies and was published in multiple languages. This edition is completely revised, reorganized, and rewritten, with more than 70 percent new content. Why Men Hate Going to Church does not call men back to churchÃ¢â ¬â •it calls the church back to men. Ã¢â ¬Å“[This] is a prophetic and relevant Ã¢â ¬Ëœsnap-out-of-itÃ¢â ¬â„¢ masterwork that every pastor must readÃ¢â ¬â •not just for the sake of the kingdom, but also for his own sake and sanity in ministry.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •KENNY LUCK, menÃ¢â ¬â„¢s pastor, Saddleback ChurchÃ¢â ¬Å“David Murrow knows how to connect with men. Where was this guy when I was twenty?Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •FRANK PASTORE, host of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s largestChristian talk show, KKLA (Los Angeles)

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Customer Reviews

Murrow, a television writer and producer, asks and effectively answers the question: "What is it about modern Christianity that is driving men away?" Just 35% of American men say they attend

church weekly, he reports, and women make up more than 60% of the typical congregation on a given Sunday. Murrow contends that the church caters to women, children and the elderly by creating a safe, predictable environment. This alienates anyone fond of risk taking, including young men and women, but men are affected most. In order to reach men, Murrow suggests, churches must "adjust the thermostat" to embrace the masculine spirit: let men lead; give them tasks; encourage pastors to show strength and teach men through object lessons, letting them discover truth for themselves. Two of the best outreach methods: start rigorous mentoring programs and help men make friends with other men. Murrow bases his conclusions on what he claims are legitimate biological and cultural gender differences. He is aware that these observations might offend, and his thesis will find few takers among those who believe that the church needs less, not more, male influence. But Murrow's work is quite likely to get an enthusiastic reception from many Christian men. It contains sharp observations that will provoke much discussionÃ¢â ¬â •and, perhaps, some change. (Mar. 24) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

According to the author, American men hate going to church, as evidenced by a wealth of statistics that point to an ever-widening gap between female and male churchgoers. Regardless of denomination, it appears that most Christian churches are unintentionally designed to appeal to women and children. How to solve the growing gender gap in congregations of every type? Murrow advocates injecting a strong shot of testosterone into the proceedings to restore the masculine spirit to the church. Churches need to provide a more challenging and confrontational approach to religion and spiritual issues instead of concentrating on more traditional-- and female-oriented--calls for conformity, control, and ceremony. Whether or not you fully buy into his somewhat simplistic hypothesis and solution, Murrow does provide some provocative food for thought on a hot-button topic. Margaret FlanaganCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Women, please read this book. As important as it is for men to read, it's much more important for women, IMO. I can't express enough the usefulness of this information.We need guy-friendly churches. Men don't feel comfortable in church & this book tells you how that happened - starting, I believe, as early as 700 AD (coincidentally, around the same time Islam was growing in influence). It shows what happened when male attendance waned, compared to when it waxed & churches had a balance of both men & women. it shows how life improves for a family in a guy-friendly

environment, & gives ideas on how to do that no matter how small the congregation, or how old. Guy friendly churches also appeal to younger people, reversing the greying of the church.I'm not sure your men will read this book, ladies - but if you do, they might not have to. Say a prayer, read the book, keep it handy, & share it with other women in your church, & the pastor, & see what happens if you make your church guy-friendly. It has already worked in those mega-churches, but it's working for smaller congregations as well.PS - Ladies, if you're a tomboy type like me, & have always enjoyed things that are considered male-friendly, you might have found that you weren't always comfortable in church yourself. If so, you will find this book doubly enlightening.

To steal and modify Mark Twain's line about weather: Everybody knows men are staying away from church, but nobody does anything about it.With this book, Murrow is trying to do something about it. There's room for a lot of disagreement about his assertions, conclusions, and recommendations. I like a lot of what he says in the book, while disagreeing with some of it. But he has done something important in just providing a starting point for a discussion that needs to happen in most mainline congregations.The Sunday after finishing the book, I walked around my church building looking for signs of a "feminized" facility. There were a couple things that could be red flags, but for the most part our building is neutral in appearance rather than feminine or masculine. The worship service likewise had a couple of elements that I felt were slanted more towards women than men - but not overwhelmingly so. Perhaps for those reasons, the attendance I counted - 56% female, 44% male - was not as sharply divided as the 61%-39% national average cited in the book. Still, it's enough of a gap that it should not be ignored by my congregation's leaders. Yet they are ignoring it. Our membership is declining, and we're wondering why. This book might provide at least some of the answers.

Murrow's work is simple, but not simplistic. He expertly describes the problems that men have with the way that many churches function. Think of this not as a how-to book for men's ministry but as a worldview-shaping or values defining book. This is an important distinction because as methods and tactics congregations use will change over time, values do not. If you are looking to engage the men in your church or community, this is the book to start with. It will shape your perspective and process that will guide many of the practical decisions for programming and church culture.As the title states, this is not a how book, it is a why book. And most times the why is much more important than the how.

Men hate going to church almost as much as they dislike reading about how much they hate going to church. Sad, but too often true, period. Murrow does an excellent job of exposing excuses that serve to DE-motivate men. Together with Jerry Bridges' "Respectable Sins", these 2 works should be required reading (together, and aloud) for couples in Christ. A cooperative understanding would not only draw couples closer, but go a long way towards stabilizing many marriages. The down side, however, is that a few Christian counselors would be looking for other work. Men, as wives can attest, are "wall builders"- this book reveals the bricks used to construct those walls. And after all, if many men weren't so busy putting up those walls, they'd have more time for fellowshipping with the saints! Hey, what a concept!

I read this a few years ago, but wanted to do so again and am I glad I did. Mr. Murrow's insights are very valuable for understanding the real issues that are keeping men from connecting with the modern church. While I don't resonate with everything he presents, manny of his recommendations are worth pursuing.

This book needs to be read by church leaders everywhere and especially by leaders, lay and clergy, of churches with stagnating or declining membership. The author will take you through why men are important to the life of a church and what to do to improve your male/female attendance ratio. He also offers a cogent explanation why churches lose boys out of there program around the age of 12. It is an easy read that is full of important observations.

The book tries to explain why men avoid attending church and comes close to the real reasons: 1) They are filled with way too much "estrogen," and 2) most importantly - they rarely hear the Gospel preached in its totality. Real men do not want some watered version of religious stories or inspirational sermons - the kind found in most liberal and/or Catholic churches - or at the corner bar/tavern. They want to hear Gospel Truths proclaimed with applications to their lives.

David Murrow did not just diagnose the problem that faces mainline churches, but has practical solutions to fix them. I have heard many diagnoses that have missed the mark and, worse, their solutions have drove us farther from the mark.For instance, "mainline churches are lacking intimacy." What is the solution? The solution is more praise songs with an uncomfortable intimacy that is emasculating. Wrong diagnosis.Wrong solution.This is just one example of many. The church isn't lacking intimacy it is lacking men.I do hope he follows this up ten years from now as millennials

make headway into church leadership roles and define masculinity and femininity in a way that differs from baby boomers.

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