

**SEATS Schools of Mission
Missional Discipleship Program**

SOM-160 Men & Discipleship

This class will examine the trend of most Christian churches of having fewer men than women and will try to address this difference. The concept of wicked problems will be introduced.

Ratios of Men – Women in Churches

Men : Women

41 : 76

5 : 16

13 : 12

What does it mean to be a man? *Ano ba'ng ibig sabihin ng pagiging lalaki?*

Sabi ng iba “His work, his hobbies, his entertainment, his follies, his addictions, everything he does, is designed to prove to the world he is a man.”

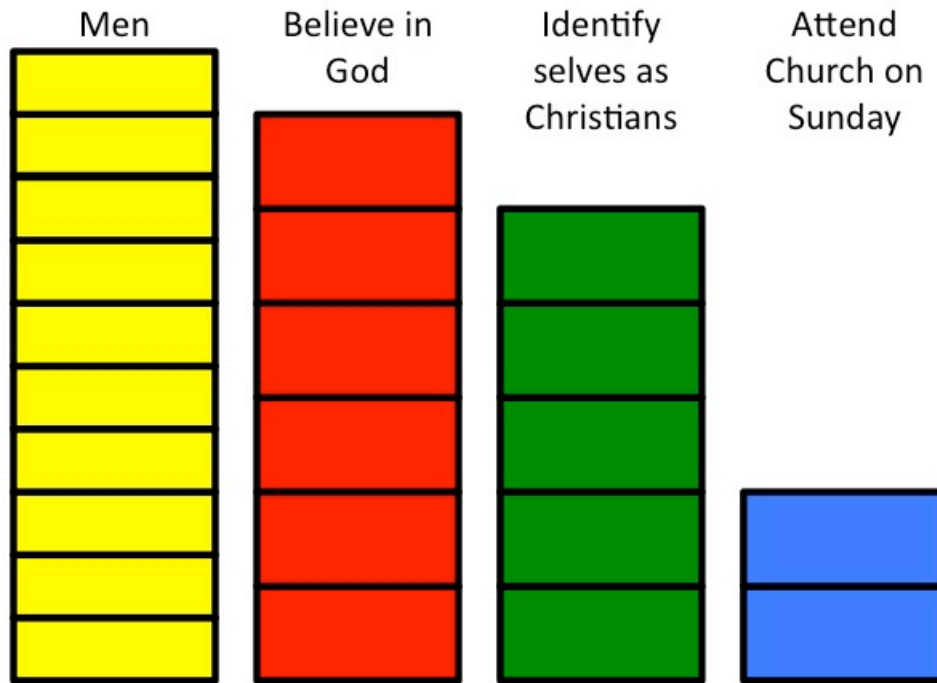
This belief demands that “he avoid anything that might call his manhood into question.”

Why Are Men Not In Church? *Bakit kaunti lang ang mga lalaki sa simbahan?*

- Many intentionally reject the Christian faith
- Some men are proud & want to be their own god
- Men hate to admit weakness or neediness
- Millions are captive to sin, unbelief & other religions that rule out commitment to Christ
- Men get distracted by the concerns of the world & lose interest in spiritual matters
- Men suffer abuse at the hands of church people & fall away.

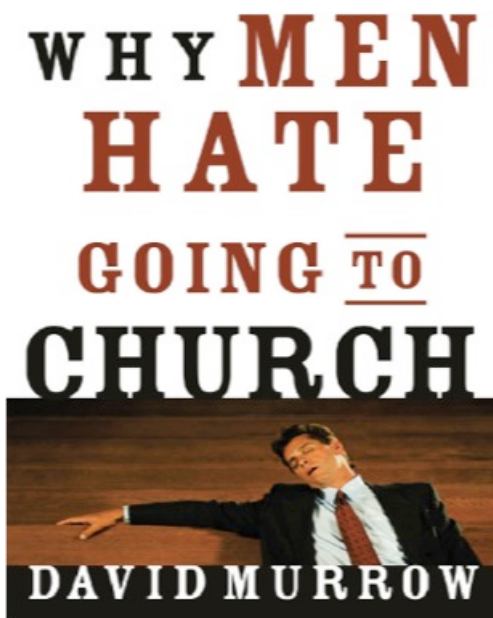
Note that the same things are true for women but they are still attending church!
Does this mean that church is somehow better equipped to handle the needs of women rather than men?

Breakdown of Men, Belief in God, Christian, and Church Attendance



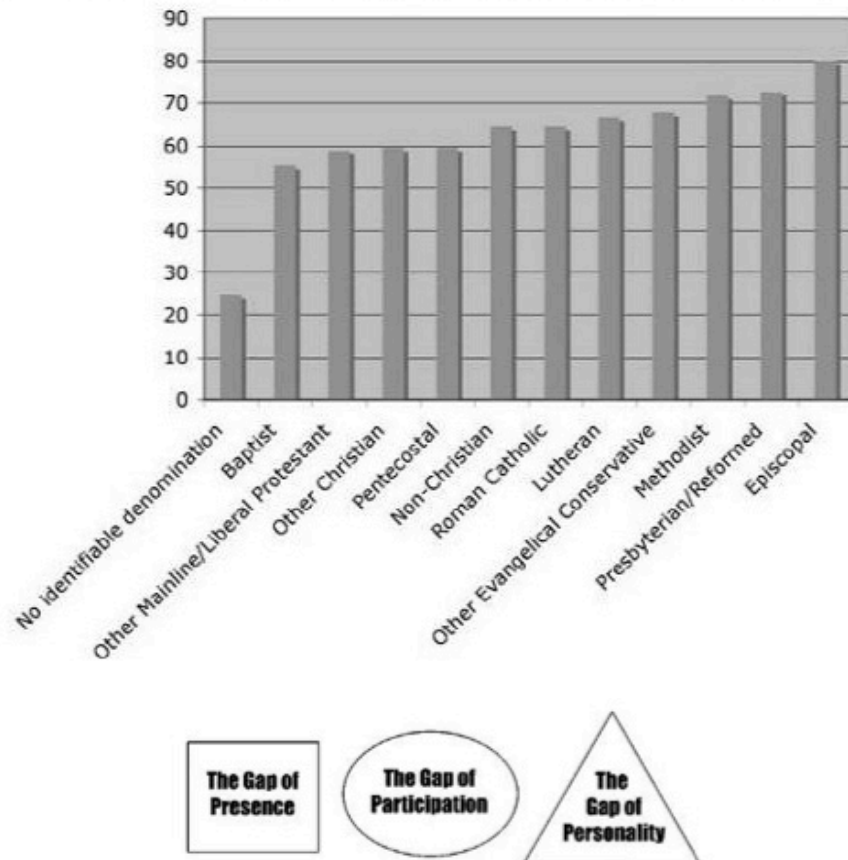
Men & Religion Around the World

- Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism have almost equal numbers.
- Islam may have more men
- Only Christianity has fewer men than women.
- Why?



The major resource for this part of the class is David Murrow, *Why Men Hate Going to Church* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2005). Most

Percentage of congregations reporting at least a 12% gap



The gap of presence. Women attend church in greater numbers than men. This is true all over the world, in nearly every branch of Christianity.

The gap of participation. Women are more serious about their faith. They are much more likely than men to participate in the life of the church beyond Sunday morning worship services. They are also more likely to practice Christian disciplines such as prayer, discipleship, and evangelism.

The gap of personality. Entire personality types are largely missing from the church. These types show up frequently in the Bible but are no-shows in today's congregations. The absence of these personalities makes it harder to attract men to our churches.

Assignment: Which set best describes Jesus & His Followers?**Left Set**

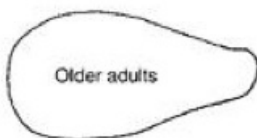
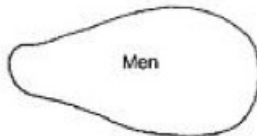
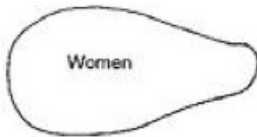
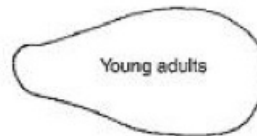
Competence
 Power
 Efficiency
 Achievement
 Skills
 Proving Oneself
 Results
 Accomplishment
 Objects
 Technology
 Goal-oriented
 Self Sufficiency
 Success
 Competition

Right Set

Love
 Communication
 Beauty
 Relationships
 Support
 Help
 Nurturing
 Feelings
 Sharing
 Relating
 Harmony
 Community
 Loving Cooperation
 Personal Expression

Security Oriented:

Safety
 Stability
 Harmony
 Predictability
 Protection
 Comfort
 Nurture
 Duty
 Support
 Preservation

**Challenge Oriented:**

Risk
 Change
 Conflict
 Variety
 Adventure
 Competition
 Daring
 Pleasure
 Independence
 Expansion

Praise & Worship Song Lyrics that don't appeal to men

"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 me 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 seek."

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

10 Questions All Men Ask

1. What is true manliness?
2. What is success? The real bottom line of life?
3. How do I deal with guilt feelings?
4. What is male sexuality? Is purity possible for the modern man?
5. How can we nurture family life?
6. What is Christian leadership? How is it developed?
7. What are the basic disciplines of the Christian man?
8. What ministry skills need to be developed? How?
9. What is biblical business conduct?
10. What is integrity? How is it developed?

Wicked Problems

Jeffrey Conklin defines wicked problems in this way:

1. The problem isn't understood until a solution is developed.
2. There are several people with something at stake in how the problem is resolved.
3. The constraints change over time.
4. The problem-solving process ends when the resources run out.

There is no definitive statement of a wicked problem. Each is an evolving set of interlocking issues and constraints. In most cases these issues and constraints are people-centric. This makes wicked problem solving a fundamentally social process."

SOM-160-01 Ephesians 4 & the 5-Fold Ministry of the Church

This class will examine the 5-Fold Ministry of the Church from Ephesians 4, & develop a theology of male discipleship in the church.

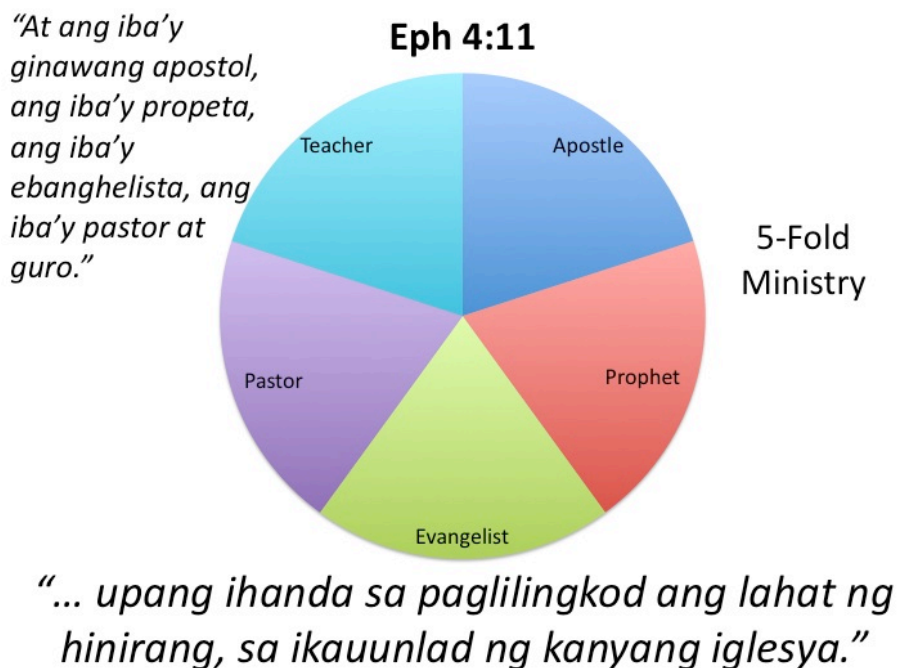
Ephesians 4:1-16

Be humble & gentle in every way. Be patient with each other & lovingly accept each other. Through the peace that ties you together, do your best to maintain the unity that the Spirit gives. There is one body & one Spirit. In the same way you were called to share one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God & Father of all, who is over everything, through everything, & in everything.

God's favor has been given to each of us. It was measured out to us by Christ who gave it. ... He also gave [some] apostles, [some] prophets, [some] missionaries, as well as [some] pastors & teachers as gifts to his church. Their purpose is to prepare God's people, to serve, & to build up the body of Christ. This is to continue until all of us are united in our faith & in our knowledge about God's Son, until we become mature, until we measure up to Christ, who is the standard.

Then we will no longer be little children, tossed & carried about by all kinds of teachings that change like the wind. We will no longer be influenced by people who use cunning & clever strategies to lead us astray. Instead, as we lovingly speak the truth, we will grow up completely in our relationship to Christ, who is the head. He makes the whole body fit together & unites it through the support of every joint. As each & every part does its job, he makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

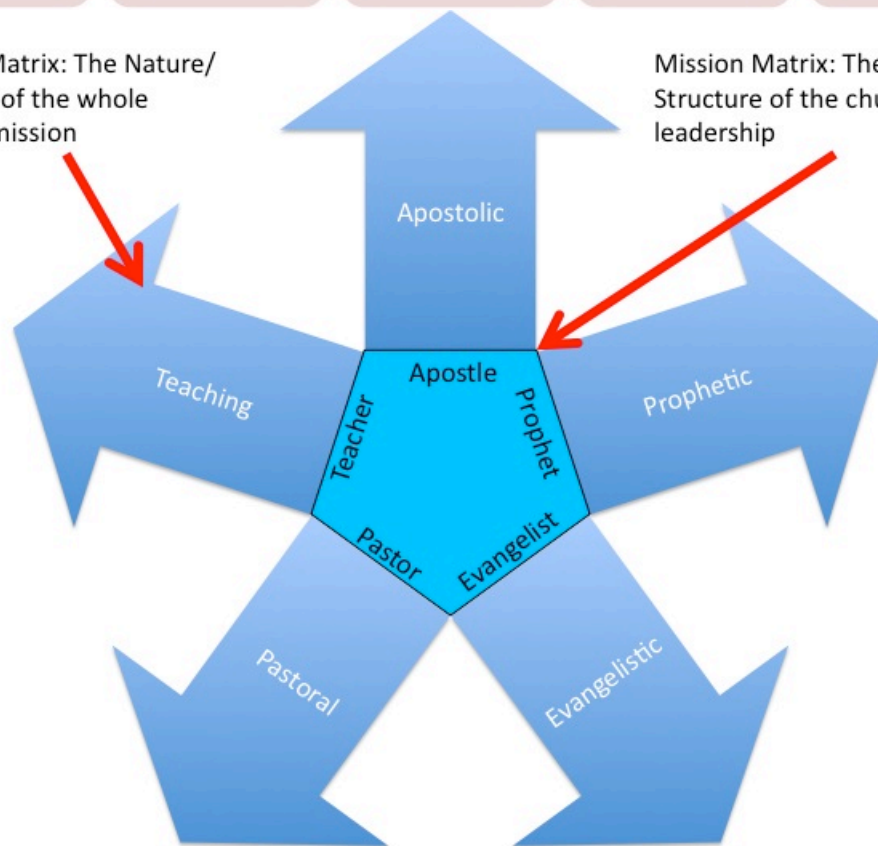
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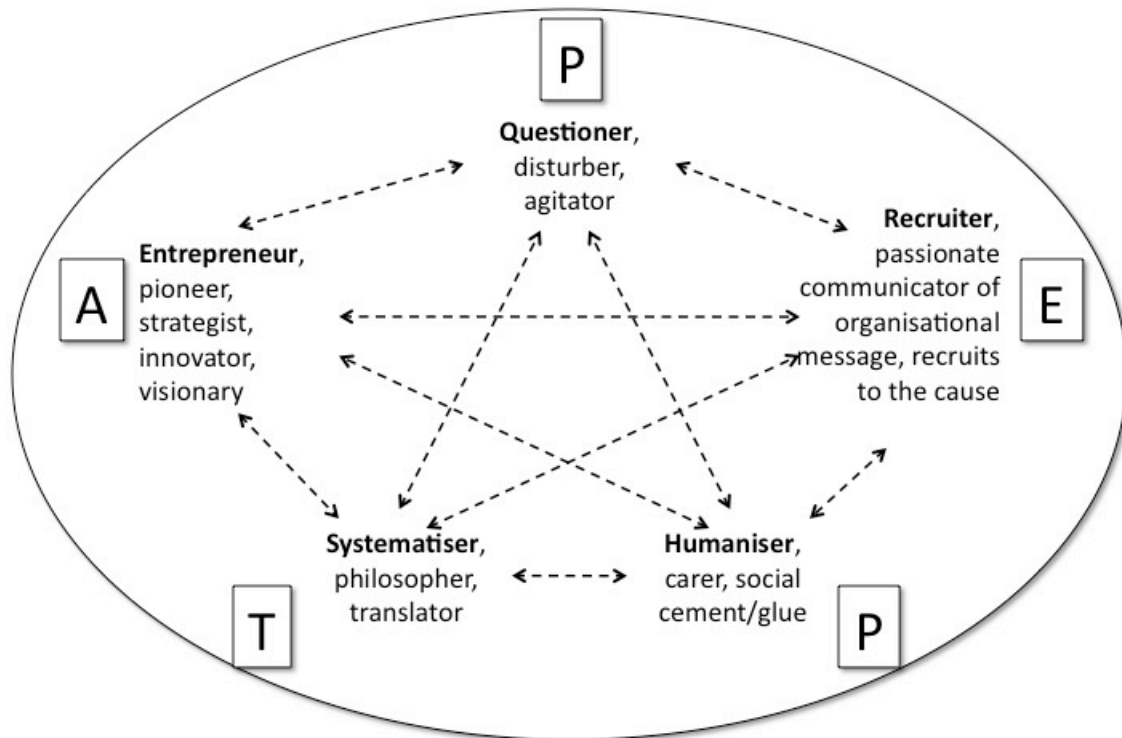


<i>Tungkulin:</i> Apostle	<i>Tungkulin:</i> Prophet	<i>Tungkulin:</i> Evangelist	<i>Tungkulin:</i> Pastor	<i>Tungkulin:</i> Teacher
One who is sent	One who knows	One who recruits	One who cares	One who explains
Urgency of Tomorrow	Demands of today in light of tomorrow	Urgency of today	Demands of today	Integration
Impact: Extension	Impact: Integration	Impact: Expansion	Impact: Nurture	Impact: Understanding

Mission Matrix: The Nature/
Structure of the whole
church's mission

Mission Matrix: The Nature/
Structure of the church's
leadership





From Frost & Hirsch, *The Shaping of Things to Come*, 174

“It's not that movements abolish the clergy. Rather they abolish the laity. Everyone is ordained & mobilized for ministry.”¹

Male Work Cycle

1. Plan
2. Work
3. Celebrate
4. Rest

Spiritual Disciplines

1. Read your Bible.
2. Pray.
3. Give.
4. Go to church.

Discipleship is probably the most misunderstood word in the church today. Here's simple definition: discipleship is people leading each other to maturity in Christ. As the Bible says, it's one person sharpening another. It's a band of brothers spurring each other on toward love & good deeds. It is the model left to us by Jesus.

¹ Steve Addison, *When the church goes to the dogs* (Shapevine Training Systems, 2009), p 3.

We cannot expect men to come to maturity in Christ in a classroom environment. Although reading, study, sermon, & classes can help, these academic exercises cannot penetrate to the hidden places in a man's heart.

But discipleship can, because it's teaching by example. Christ didn't hand out a study guide. He demonstrated a life pleasing to God. His example, even more than His words, produced 11 men who shook the world. That is why a man who has sat in church for 30 years without much life change will be suddenly transformed by going on a mission trip. Men are changed by what they experience, not necessarily by what they are told.

Assignment: Develop a Male Discipleship Plan by answering the question: "How can we bring the Church to men?"

FIFTY WAYS TO MAKE YOUR CHURCH MORE APPEALING TO MEN:

Front door experience:

1. Maintain your buildings and grounds
2. Put men in the parking lot
3. One layer of greeters (don't be too friendly)
4. Lots of signs so men don't have to ask directions

Worship service:

5. Keep the focus on God – not the family
6. Minimize dead time between elements
7. Do something unexpected
8. Add humor or something fun
9. Good lighting and sound so people can easily see and hear

Décor:

10. Remove the "old lady" stuff: quilts, felt banners, needlepoint, etc.
11. Remove lace and flowers from communion table.
12. Remove bulletin boards and "kindergarten classroom" collages from interior walls
13. Decide if religious symbols in the sanctuary help or hinder
14. Colors: choose earth tones and colors of the field

Give men space:

15. Do not ask the congregation to hold hands
16. Do not ask everyone to hug everyone else
17. Discourage "prayer mushrooms"

Prayer:

18. Keep pastoral prayers short
19. Avoid showy "prayer-speak" when praying in church
20. Avoid "vain repetitions" in public prayers

21. Offer prayer after the service instead of prayer-and-share

Music:

22. Quality is vital. Don't attempt more than your musicians can deliver.
23. Choose songs that convey respect to God
24. Avoid wimpy "love songs to Jesus"
25. Avoid more than 3 repeats of any chorus
26. Select a key the baritones can sing
27. Help the worship leader "man-up"

A pastor who relates well to men will:

28. Talk like a regular guy (avoid "preacher-speak")
29. Do man stuff and talk about it during the message
30. Choose metaphors and stories men can relate to
31. Be firm but gracious on theology and moral issues
32. Be judicious about emotive displays

Teaching:

33. Shorter is almost always better. Say it and be done.
34. Share personal stories of your struggles as a man
35. Avoid feminine metaphors (such as "fall in love with Jesus")
36. Avoid "preacher-speak"
37. Build sermon around great illustrations
38. Use visual aids
39. Use video clips to illustrate
40. Use an object lesson to illustrate
41. Call men forward for a 3-minute "men's huddle" at the end of the service

Honor men's time:

42. Start and end the service on time
43. If something goes long, cut something else on the fly
44. For services more than 90 minutes, offer an intermission or an opportunity to "get-up-and-go" so men don't feel trapped

Sunday school:

45. Bury the name "Sunday school"
46. Abandon the classroom method in favor of a more kinetic one
47. Place boys with male teachers
48. Don't ask boys to read aloud
49. Use a boy-friendly curriculum with hands-on learning
50. Use professionally produced videos to help teach spiritual truths