

Pastor-Advisory Board

Rev. Bill Bates
Inspire Church, Sedro Wooley

Rev. Earl Bradley
Capital Region Ministries, Olympia

Rev. Randy Burtis
Luis Palau Crusades

Rev. Kevin Earls
Gateway Christian Fellowship, Shelton

Rev. Mike Fogaras
Gateway Christian Center, Olympia

Rev. Ted Hanson
Abundant Life Fellowship, Bellingham

Rev. Scott Manley
Flood The Sound, Olympia

Rev. Scott Montagne
Calvary Christian Assembly, Seattle

Rev. Jon Oletske
Stone Church, Yakima

Rev. Ken Parsley
Church on the Move, Yakima

Rev. Jim Ripley
Neighborhood Christian Cntr, Tumwater

Rev. Reuben Sapien
The Sanctuary Church, Lynnwood

Rev. Dan Secrist
Faith Assembly of Lacey

Rev. Tim Taylor
Watchman Ministries International

Rev. Dwain Wolfe
New Horizons Christian Center, Fife

Board of Directors

Paul Middleton
Chairman, Olympia

Jim Winterstein
Secretary/Treas., Olympia

Scott Blanton
Vancouver

Bob Higley
Olympia

Dorsey Holt
Shelton

Jere Irwin
Yakima

Michael Odell
Blaine

Dick Raport
Camano Island

Jim Robinson
Spokane

Ray Wing
Olympia

Rick Forcier
Executive Director

Staff

George Gauntlett
Data Administration

Beth Davis
Accounting

Julie Gallagher
Prayer Coordinator

Carl Walker
Lead Intercessor

Rusty Howell
Field Director

Steve Matthews
Field Director

March 2018

Are Men Becoming Less Male?

Have we forgotten how to raise men, how to lead our boys into manhood?

A gender-equal society would be one where the word 'gender' does not exist: Where everyone can be themselves. --Gloria Steinem

A beloved niece recently challenged us to consider some things she has observed as a church youth leader, public-school teacher, and now, together with her pastor-husband and two children, a missionary serving in Spain. Her concerns involve modernity's seemingly mindless disregard for the complimentary giftings and differences God assigned to the crown of his creation—man and woman. If we are hearing correctly, her simple plea is “Let our boys be boys!”

Until recent times, little boys went outside to play—every day. Whether at home or school recess, boys played with other little boys. In the process, they unconsciously (but by design) attended to much physical activity including running, climbing, jumping, wrestling, skipping rocks, participating in sandlot sports, and occasional daredevil exploits their mothers would not want to know about.

During their primary years, boys were appropriating and solidifying their God-appointed masculine identities, whether shooting hoops or sling shots. If there was anything any little boy coveted, it was affirmation from other male playmates.

With the onset of adolescence, these high-energy bundles began experiencing hormonal nudges, awakening them to God's complimentary little creatures wearing dresses and lip balm. A natural curiosity began to develop about the “the birds and the bees.” Not the bees and the bees!

But times have changed, and single-sex activities have greatly diminished in most social, educational, and recreational circles. Sadly, even many church-sponsored scouting programs have given way to co-ed activities which, arguably, increase turnout. In some instances, the unstated objective is to demonstrate there are few inherent differences between boys and girls, men and women, male and female.

Yes, longtime leading “feminists” Betty Friedman and Gloria Steinem have persuaded us during the past 40-plus years that woman can do what men can do. Woman can go into space, they can kickbox, and they can run for the White House. The question is: At what cost?

To start with, it seems reasonable to consider the consequences of early childhood “gender-blending” activities in light of an explosion of cultural pathologies heretofore relatively obscure—even unknown. One of them, is *gender dysphoria*.

According to *Psychology Today*, gender dysphoria is defined as “...strong, persistent feelings of identification with the opposite gender and discomfort with one's own assigned sex that results in significant distress or impairment.”¹ Evidence of this mushrooming social malady can be seen in radical social policies currently incubating on college campuses, Target Stores, and the local YMCA.

Steinem who is not in the least troubled with the blurring of the sexes, says “We’ve begun to raise daughters more like sons...but few have the courage to raise our sons more like our daughters.”²

Whether there has been a purposeful emasculating of our young men or not, for several consecutive Wednesdays in March, Fox News host, Tucker Carlson, has identified social factors that we find extremely alarming. His first guest, Professor Jordan Peterson at the University of Toronto, says that for the first time in history, women are better educated, more ambitious, and arguably more successful than men. To wit:

IN EDUCATION: Not only do girls score higher on SAT and IQ exams, more girls than boys now graduate from high school and considerably more girls enroll in—and graduate from college.³

William Bennett, former U.S. Secretary of Education under Ronald Reagan, says that “In 1970, men earned 60% of all college degrees, but by 1980, the figure fell to 50%. By 2006 it was 43%. Nearly two-thirds of college degrees are now awarded to women.⁴ Women not only outnumber men in graduate school, but also in the awarding of doctoral degrees and enrollment in law and medical schools.

EMPLOYMENT: Secretary Bennett also reports that from 1970-to-2007, women’s earnings grew 44% compared with 6% growth for men. He notes that in 1950, five percent of men at the prime working age were unemployed. Today twenty percent are not working, the highest ever recorded.^{ibid} According to U.S. census data, single women in their twenties living in metropolitan areas are earning 8% more on average than their male counterparts, and are more than twice as likely to own a home.

Young adult men are now more likely to live with their parents than with a spouse, and 1-in-5 children live with their single moms (double the rate of the 1970s).

Data further reflects that men are now twice as likely to become alcoholics and twice as likely to die from drug overdose. In New Hampshire, 73% of (opioid) overdose deaths are men, and nationwide, 77% of all suicides are committed by men—a 43% increase among middle-aged American men just since 1997.⁵ Concerning incarceration rates, fully 90% of America’s inmates are men, as are 100% of mass shooters.

HEALTH: In one study, 1-in-5 high school boys were diagnosed with some type of hyper-activity disorder compared with just 1-in-11 girls. And men are also losing ground physically. During a recent test study, almost half of young men failed the Army’s entry-level physical fitness requirements during basic training.

“Perhaps most bafflingly or terrifyingly,” says Tucker Carlson, “**men seem to be becoming less male.**” Sperm counts have plummeted by almost 60 percent since the early 1970s. Testosterone levels have also fallen precipitously, averaging a decrease of one percent every year after 1987. “Lower testosterone levels are associated with depression, lethargy, weight gain and decreased cognitive ability,” says Carlson.

CONCLUSION: We report these things, not to cast a spirit of doom, but to bring light to matters we believe the Lord would have his Church attend to. The “Book of Beginnings” records that our first parents got into trouble, and Genesis 3:16 strongly suggests—from that point on—there would be... *an ongoing struggle between the woman and the man for leadership in the marriage relationship* (ESV). Obviously other societal structures have likewise been drawn into this struggle as well.

Our intended message is this: We live in a fallen world, but the Church is in the restoration business. Noting what the ungodly have accomplished in just one generation, imagine what the Church, with God’s leading, is capable of in much shorter order! Are we in?

Rick Forcier

¹ psychologytoday.com/us/conditions/gender-dysphoria

² brainyquote.com/authors/gloria_steinem

³ dailycaller.com/2018/03/07/tucker-american-men-are-in-crisis-jordan-peterson/

⁴ foxnews.com/opinion/2011/10/14/have-forgotten-how-to-raise-boys-into-men.html

⁵ dailycaller.com/2018/03/07/tucker-american-men-are-in-crisis-jordan-peterson/