



I get asked this question by a lot of single adult ministry leaders and pastors. Where are all the men?

Below are some facts that I know personally that might help you. I have also done some googling and found some other resources that I have listed below. If you have found any other resources, let me know I am happy to add them here. Oh and one note, I don't think men hate church as stated by author David Murrow in his book "Why Men Hate Going to Church," however, bottom line is there are less in men in singles ministries. I don't have all the answers but I know Jesus gave us a great model in how he grew his own disciples...one by one first and then in small groups, then in a larger group and so on. Maybe we should start there? Hmm, it worked for him.

Blessings, Kris Swiatocho, Director, The Singles Network Ministries

Matthew 11:1 After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.

I have found in singles ministries across the country...

- In ministries comprised of singles 18-35 there appears to be a balance of men to women mostly due to men seeking women to date and marry.
- In ministries comprised of singles 35 and up there appears to be fewer men in comparison to women. The reasons seems to have to do with the life-stage of singles over 35. Most singles in churches today over the age of 35 have been married. You may have a couple that served in church together or maybe the wife served alone and the marriage failed. The wife will continue with church (especially if there are children involved) whereas the husband will drop out. Sometimes the men will goes elsewhere, it just depends on why the marriage failed. Women typically are willing to ask for help whereas men don't. (or at least it takes them longer).

A few ideas:

- Be sensitive to the type of events you offer at your church for men (single and married).
- Men grow men. It's important to emphasize discipleship or mentoring programs.
- Encourage men's Bible studies, retreats and other events that would bring them in the door. Sponsor a golf or hunting tournament, etc..
- Single parent ministry sometimes focuses more in the women than the men..you might try and starting one for men.
- Be creative with ways to go out and reach men in the workplace, sporting event, parks, etc..
- Divorce care and Celebrate recovery are great ministries to bring in men who are hurting or have issues (some from their failed marriages). Now these men won't be ready to be in your singles ministries but its a place to start the healing and growing process.

Resources

Book: Why Men Hate Going to Church by David Murrow

Websites:

<http://www.churchformen.com/>

<http://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/ChurchAndMinistry/menhatingchurch.aspx>

<http://www.pastors.com/RWMT/article.asp?ArtID=7978>