

MEETING MEN'S DEEPEST NEEDS

Pastor Kris Kawulok • River's Edge Church • 6/21/09

1. All Men Need a Spiritual Father

"Christianity is not about reading your Bible, praying, and staying pure; that is what we do to become stronger **fathers** to those in our care." - *David Murrow*

1 Cor. 4:14-17 – Men need spiritual fathers and need to become spiritual fathers.

John 5:19 – Jesus only did what He saw His Father doing.
-It is about changing the world – leaving a mark.

Spiritual Fathers...

- Are men who are walking with God and leading men by example to maturity in Christ.
- Lead in church, jobs, "on the street."
- Have *ongoing* friendships.
- Head by example while they hang out and along the way.
- Teach how to release masculine energy in a healthy way, so it isn't suppressed and making men feel powerlessness, rage, terror or develop addictions.
- ARE NOT mothers—which leads to self-absorption.
- Discipline their children.
- Prepare sons to be fathers.
- Must be the foundation of the church.

2. Men Need a Band of Brothers

- Every man wants to be part of something great.
- Resist the "Lone Ranger" spirit. Spiritual Individualism. This spirit is "fight or flight."

- See "little platoons" in our congregations. Build this environment.
- Relationships are needed...but, oh that word!
 - Relationships are what women have and what men have with women.
 - Men work side-by-side, not face-to-face.
 - Men that go through the crucible together build life-long ties.
- Leave no man behind.
 - Barna: More than half of male conversions leave church within eight weeks. Where were his brothers?

3. Usher in the Masculine Spirit

- Let's not be afraid to use masculine imagery, vocabulary and behavior.
- Barna: Between '94 and '04, men's attendance in small groups doubled, but attendance at church stayed flat.
- We don't just want men in the seats on Sunday; we need men to build the Kingdom.

Matthew 11:12

*From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and **forceful men** lay hold of it.*