

Abstract

Title: Is the New Masculinity Movement a viable model for engaging men with God and the church?

Author: Alistair James Morrison

One of the issues facing contemporary Christianity in the West is the decline in male church attendance. The New Masculinity Movement (NMM) has attempted to address this problem and is convinced that men are not attending primarily because the church has been feminised by its surrounding culture. Is the NMM right? What do they propose should be done to engage more men with church? Furthermore, is the NMM's approach a viable model to use?

This dissertation investigates the claims presented by the NMM. National and local church surveys are analysed to confirm the decline in male church attendance. The roots of the movement are examined to discover whether there are any precedents for the NMM stance. The NMM authors' writings are assessed to determine if they are underpinned by well-founded biblical and theological arguments. The influence of the NMM on the contemporary American and British churches, including the Church of Ireland, is examined, and the challenges it brings to the English-speaking church are highlighted and discussed. Finally, the NMM viewpoint will be evaluated against the example and standard Jesus set for his followers to imitate.

In conclusion, having examined and considered the authors' claims in detail, the question of NMM's viability as a model for engaging men with God and the church can then be answered.