

**It's Good to Be a Man
Group Discussion
Study Guide**

Published by Canon Press
P. O. Box 8729, Moscow, Idaho 83843
800-488-2034 | www.canonpress.com

Canon Press, *It's Good to Be a Man Group Discussion Study Guide*,
©2022 by Canon Press.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data forthcoming.

Cover design by James Engerbretson. Interior design by Valerie Anne
Bost. Printed in the United States of America.

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Chapter 1: The War Between Patriarchies

Summary:

Men were made to rule—it's not a question of patriarchy v. something else, it's a question of good v. evil patriarchy. *Which* men will rule? Wicked patriarchs, Pharaohs and Absaloms, want to harness, pacify, and destroy men. In response, the church's own patriarchs—Nehemiahs with swords to defend and trowels to build—must rise up to shepherd our generation of fatherless men. As the church goes, so goes society.

Highlights:

“Technological and environmental shifts have resulted in men having such low testosterone levels that their grip strength is weaker than that of women from a generation ago. The ubiquity of porn has led to erectile dysfunction in men not even out of their twenties. Social media and dating apps have made the ‘relational marketplace’ so extraordinarily competitive that some men just give up and either abandon the idea of sex or turn to virtual reality and even robots. Masculinity is shamed. Strong men are vilified as toxic. Those who speak out have their houses destroyed. Fathers are portrayed in mass media as unnecessary buffoons—little better than one of the kids. Anyone esteeming motherhood as foundational to femininity is canceled. Domestic violence is regarded as an exclusively male sin. No-fault divorce, welfare, and wickedly prejudicial custody laws incentivize women to leave their husbands and take everything they have—and so they do, initiating nearly 80 percent of all divorces. Male suicide rates are heading for the skies. No one cares.” (pp. 11-12)

Questions for Discussion and Application:

1. Why is patriarchy natural and inevitable? What are some ways in which even our world is patriarchal? Why is it that men often make it to the top of organizations and hierarchies?

2. What are the three ways evil patriarchs try to undermine godly patriarchy? What are some ways that you see them succeeding today?
3. What are the ways in which the deck is stacked against men today? Who is filling the gap by offering men direction in our culture?

Study the Word:

Read 2 Sam. 15:2-6 and Neh. 2:11-20 and 4:1-23.

- How does Absalom win the hearts of the men of Israel?
- How does Nehemiah rally the men to build the broken walls? How does he motivate the men in the face of opposition?