Bestselling Author Nancy R. Pearcey Gives a Strategic Guide to the War on Masculinity—and How to Win It

It has become socially acceptable to express open hostility against men even in respected media outlets. "Why Can't We Hate Men?" asks the Washington Post. Almost half of American men agree with the statement, "These days society seems to punish men just for acting like men."

In her new book, bestselling author of Love Thy Body Nancy R. Pearcey explains how secularism has villainized the concept of masculinity. In three parts, The Toxic War on Masculinity: How Christianity Reconciles the Sexes (Baker Books, June 2023) reveals the surprising answers to questions such as:

- Where did the idea come from that masculinity is “toxic”?
- What impact has secularism had on the script for masculinity?
- How do Christian men shatter the negative stereotypes?

Let’s face it: When people complain that masculinity is toxic, they often point to evangelical men as their prime example. But findings from the social sciences debunk those charges. Research shows that committed Christian men who attend church regularly test out as the most loving and engaged husbands and fathers.

These facts show that Christianity has the power to overcome toxic behavior in men and reconcile the sexes—an unexpected finding that has stood up to rigorous empirical testing. We should be bold in bringing it into the public square.

“Masculine traits are not intrinsically toxic. They are good when directed to virtuous ends,” Pearcey writes. “The Bible calls men to be both tough and tender, both courageous and caring. Men who know they are made in God’s image can be full persons, reflecting all the rich dimensions of God’s own character.”

The book includes 32 images and a study guide for personal or small-group study.
PRAISE for The Toxic War on Masculinity

“Nancy Pearcey has written the definitive book on the subject of masculinity for our time. With an extraordinary overview of the many trends—historical and otherwise—that have brought us to our current tragic confusion on the subject, she masterfully and compellingly weaves as true and accurate a picture as imaginable on this most vital of subjects. In so doing she provides great clarity and hope, pointing the way forward. A magnificent achievement.”

**Eric Metaxas**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther, Is Atheism Dead?*, and *Letter to the American Church*; host of *Socrates in the City* and *The Eric Metaxas Show*

“Nancy Pearcey has done it again. In this timely and insightful book, she argues that the problem today is not masculinity itself but a secular view of masculinity that has replaced the biblical concept of manhood. Pearcey offers a historical look at how we lost it and a road map for recovery. So much is at stake. We must take *The Toxic War on Masculinity* to heart.”

**Sean McDowell**, professor at Biola University; cohost of the *Thinking Biblically* podcast; author of twenty books, including *Chasing Love*

“No one weaves together theology, philosophy, data, and storytelling like Nancy Pearcey. *The Toxic War on Masculinity* will hook you from page one, and you will finish equipped to contend with today's warped view of gender and its insidious attack on men.”

**Allie Beth Stuckey**, host of the *Relatable* podcast

“As always, I am in awe of Nancy Pearcey’s research—from Harriet Beecher Stowe to how Romans really treated women 2,000 years ago. And so much history of American manhood from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that I never knew. It’s sobering to hear how old the battle of the sexes really is.”

**Julia Duin**, *Newsweek* contributing editor/religion

“The *The Toxic War on Masculinity* is the very book we need right now. The world, and far too much of the church, are confused on the question of our sexual natures in general, and manhood in particular. Nancy Pearcey provides the decisive defense of masculinity rightly understood—against distortions to the left and the right. She shows why Christianity not only gives the best account of manhood, but also serves to form the sort of men the world and families need. Everyone should read—indeed, study—this book.”

**Jay Richards**, director of the DeVos Center for Life, Religion, and Family; the William E. Simon Senior Research Fellow at the Heritage Foundation
Sample Interview Questions for Nancy R. Pearcey

*The Toxic War on Masculinity*

- Let’s start with the good news. People often accuse evangelical Christian men of being oppressive patriarchs, prone to abuse. But you make the surprising claim that they test out as having the lowest levels of abuse and divorce. Please explain.
- But don’t we often hear that Christians divorce at the same rate as the rest of society?
- Your book says men are being torn between two competing scripts for masculinity. What are those scripts?
- Men are falling behind in education, employment, health, and even life expectancy. Why are people ignoring the real problems men face today?
- Why should we worry about men? Don’t they still occupy most positions of power?
- Your book says criticisms of men began much earlier than most of us think. Where did the idea of “toxic masculinity” come from?
- Today’s public rhetoric often casts men as villains and women as victims. Where did these stereotypes come from?
- Your book says the Darwinian theory of evolution normalized many traits in men that today are labeled toxic. How so?
- The long-term strategy for preventing toxic behavior in men is for fathers to invest deeply in their sons. But the media portrays fathers as incompetent idiots. Where did that negative image come from?
- What practical steps can fathers take to be more involved with their sons—and their daughters?
- At the end of your book, you address the problem of abuse in Christian homes. How can churches respond more effectively?
- How can people connect with you and purchase a copy of *The Toxic War on Masculinity*?

*To schedule an interview or request a copy of the book, please contact:*

Holly Scheevel | (952) 829 – 2555 | hscheevel@bakerpublishinggroup.com