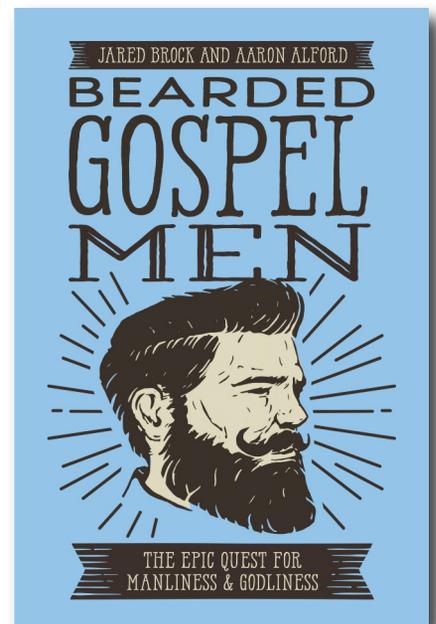


Bearded Gospel Men

Interview with Jared Brock



Jared Brock recently released a fun and fascinating book about beards and some of the great Christian leaders who wore them. CWRm's Brad Jersak caught up with Jared for an interview about Bearded Gospel Men.

CWRm (Brad Jersak): *Beards. Back when I attended Bible College, beards were associated with*

hippies, rebellion and bad hygiene, so they were outlawed. But today, they are often associated with Bible characters (especially prophets), epic saints and hipsters. And now you're exposing us to a book-load of your bearded heroes of the faith. So, what is it with beards? And tell us about yours.

Jared: Perhaps men have just awakened and realized that Gillette is playing them like a fiddle. Growing a beard saves time and money. Beards are the difference between "Mister" and "Sir." I've been blessed/cursed with male pattern magnificence, meaning I can grow a big bushy beard, even while I'm balding at a rapid rate.

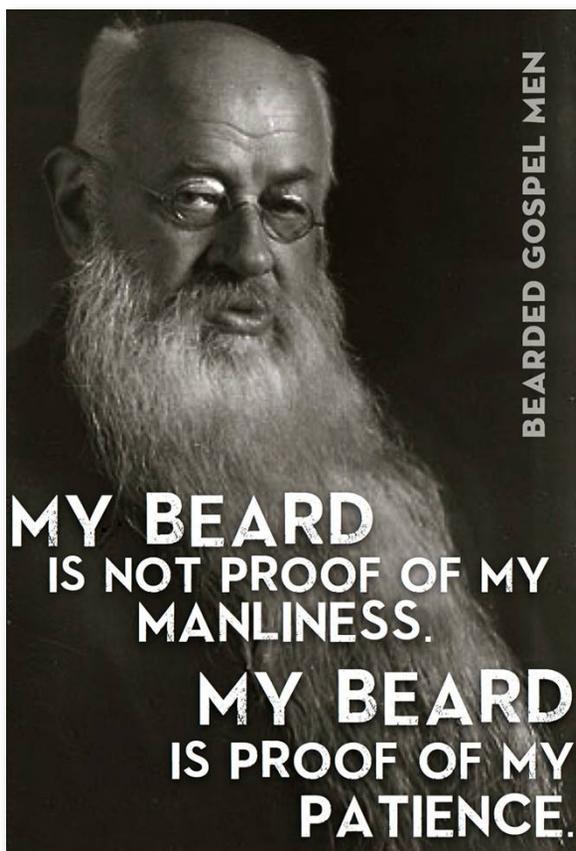
Fun fact: dihydrotestosterone, the hormone that grows beards, also makes men go bald. It's like God was saying, "choose this day whom you will serve."

CWRm: *Beards are also seasonal. You get the "playoff beards" in sports, especially in hockey. But there's also "No-Shave November" —AKA "Movember." What can you tell us about that? I know it has to do with below-the-belt cancer in men.*

Jared: The No-Shave November and Movember movements were started to raise awareness and funds to combat cancer. We applaud their efforts. Now just imagine what could be accomplished with No-Shave Ever!

CWRm: *Tell me about **Bearded Gospel Men**. What is this book about?*

Jared: *BGM* is a month-long devotional that profiles 31 epic dudes throughout Christian history. You don't have to have a beard to read it, obviously. Our hope is that it inspires readers to answer Christ's call to live a higher life. And maybe grow a beard when possible.





CWRm: Tell us about some of your favorite bearded gospel men?

Jared: There are so many! C.T. Studd gave up a fortune and a career as the top cricketer of his time to become an impoverished minister. Josiah Henson escaped from slavery and kept coming back to rescue more than 100 others. Thomas Barnado started an orphanage in a super dangerous part of London (where Jack the Ripper was killing women at the time) and it's the biggest children's charity in the United Kingdom—150 years later!

CWRm: Beneath the beards, did the men in your book share some common character qualities?

Jared: We like to think that true beauty is on the inside, but clearly, these men's faces have sprung leaks. Aside from their titanic topiary, yes, there were quite a few important commonalities. The first, of course, is Christlikeness. They all remind me of Jesus in some way or another. They were selfless. They loved God and they loved people.

CWRm: What else did you learn from researching these incredible men of the faith?

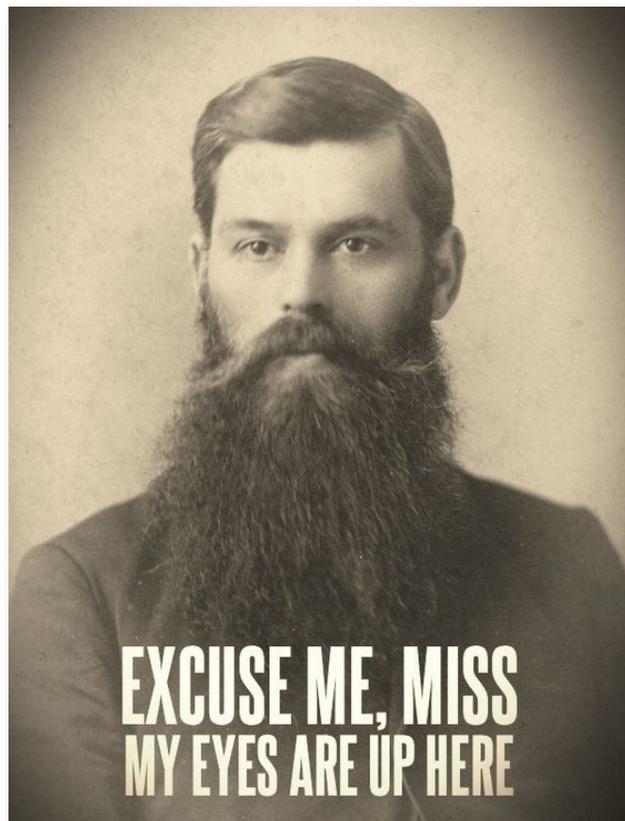
Jared: All the BGMs (bearded gospel men) we discovered understood the proper use of influence and affluence. They used their fame to further God's kingdom, not their own empire. They saw money as a tool and a stewardship to cultivate the world, not enrich their own lives. They realized the whole idea that "He must increase, we must decrease."

CWRm: *What are the challenges associated with being a Christian man in today's world?*

Jared: I think it's the same things it's always been: sex, money and power. But now it's been digitized. Porn on cell phones, unethical investing, hiding behind systems that take advantage of others on a mass scale.

CWRm: *Why does it seem like men are less likely to live their faith more visibly?*

Jared: I think of two sides to the same coin: the fear of man and the love of praise. I could elaborate, but I think every man who takes a moment to contemplate those two problems will realize how it rings true in their own lives. It certainly does in mine.



CWRm: *You say in the book that men often suffer in silence. We allow sin to fester—what is needed to change this in our culture?*

Jared: I've been blessed to have a band of brothers, a handful of godly dudes who know me. We play and pray and laugh and lead together. Without a community of others to help shine light on dark areas, it's inevitable that we'll suffer. We think we're the master of our fates and the captains of our souls, and that we must be self-reliant and go at it alone. The enemy's plan is to divide and conquer, and he's doing a great job.

CWRm: *What do you hope to ultimately achieve with Bearded Gospel Men?*

Jared: In a word, togetherness. We hope *BGM* is a tool that helps guys grow closer to God and each other. We like to compare *Bearded Gospel Men* to a pub. Everyone is welcome to pull up a chair and talk. The fire is lit. The drinks are poured. Welcome to the table. □

Jared Brock is the author of Bearded Gospel Men. Visit www.beardedgospelmen.com to watch the trailer and download free chapters.

