

HER STORY

JESUS, WOMEN, AND THE CHURCH

Week 1: Seeing The Big Picture

Week 2: Jesus & the New Covenant (Karmyn Bokma)

Week 3: Husbands, Wives, & The Profound Mystery (Leanne Friessen)

Week 4: Women Leaders & the Prohibiting Passages (Bruxy Cavey)

Week 5: Special Guest – Jo Saxton

Week 6: Q & Eh? (Bruxy Cavey)

Plus: Podcast interviews with Dr. Marion Taylor & Dr. Cynthia Westfall

APPETIZER: The Partially Paralyzed Body of Christ

Galatians 3:28

FOUR CORE CONVICTIONS DRIVING THIS SERIES:

1. Throughout Church history, the majority of believers have been wrong about barring women from leadership roles (just as they have been wrong about supporting Just War and the widespread use of violence).
 2. This exegesis error and unbiblical tradition has caused and continues to cause significant blind spots, ministry gaps, and untold suffering within and beyond the Body of Christ.
 3. It is imperative that we do our part to help our local church and the global Church embrace a biblical worldview of women in leadership, for the present and future health of the Body of Christ. Until the church repents of patriarchy, we are working to perpetuate aspects of the fall while we advance the Kingdom of God.
 4. Those who hold restrictive views about women in leadership are not the enemy but are our dearly loved brothers and sisters in Christ. We must confront and fight against this harmful bad idea while we simultaneously love, honour, and respect those who hold it.
- **COMPLEMENTARIANISM:** The belief that men and women are called to different and **complimentary** roles within marriage and/or church life, including the idea that only men can hold specific positions of authority in the Church and family. (e.g., men are the head of the home and only men can be pastors/elders/overseers.)
 - **EGALITARIANISM:** the belief that men and women, while different in complimentary ways, are invited by God into **equal** opportunity for gifted leadership and service within marriage and/or church life. (e.g., marriage is an equal partnership and women can and should be pastors/elders/overseers alongside men.)

DINE IN: The Positive Case for Egalitarianism

1. We are all equally made in **God's image**. (El Shaddai! The Father God with a Mother's heart.)
2. Men and women are called to be **co-rulers** equally over creation.
3. Men and women are **co-sources** of one another. (Eve out of Adam and all men out of women.)
4. Eve becomes Adam's "**helper**", not as a servant but from a position of power. (Like a patron-client relationship.)
5. First mention of male authority over women is connected to **the curse** of the fall. Patriarchy is the worldly backdrop of the Bible, the mess God is working with, not God's ideal for humankind.
6. Jesus brings the **New Covenant**, a new way of being in relationship with God that recaptures the best of our relationships in the Garden of Eden and teaches against the hierarchy and power structures that are the world uses.
7. Jesus invites, teaches, and equips **women as disciples**.
8. The New Covenant is egalitarian in our experience of the Holy Spirit and **spiritual gifts** and the sign of the covenant.
9. **In Christ**, we are not to be separated according to race, class, or gender.
10. On the surface, a handful of passages appear to teach against this biblical flow of relational equality, but a closer reading resolves the apparent contradictions and reinforces **egalitarian partnership** between men and women in Christian ministry. The Church has been slow to see this precisely because one half of the image of God has been prevented from participating fully in biblical exegesis and theology.
Genesis 1:26-28; 3:16; Acts 2:16-18; Galatians 3:28

PROHIBITING PASSAGES

- **1 Corinthians 11:2-16** – Hair, Headship, & Head covering
- **1 Corinthians 14:34-35** – Women should be silent in church
- **Ephesians 5:21-33** – Wives submit to your husbands
- **1 Timothy 2:11-15** – I do not permit a woman to teach
- **1 Timothy 3:1-13** – Overseers are only male?

Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 4:11-13

The Holy Spirit determines who gets what gift; a theological system that filters and restricts the gifts for a given group compromises the authority of the Holy Spirit.
~ Cynthia Westfall (Paul and Gender)

Matthew 23:37; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

TAKE OUT: A Call To Repentance

To women, or anyone who has felt like you don't have a place in the church...

1 Corinthians 12:15-16

To men, or anyone who has restricted the involvement of women...

1 Corinthians 12:21-26

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. What are you most / least looking forward to in this series?
2. Did you sense God saying anything to you through Sunday's message?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Romans 12:1-8**; **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**; **Ephesians 4:11-13**; and **1 Peter 2:9**.
 - a. Do you see any place in these passages for division of gifts by race, class, or gender? How might a complementarian argue that this is not a persuasive line of argument for egalitarianism?
 - b. In **Romans 12:1 & 1 Peter 2:9**, we learn that all believers function as priests. This is also true in **James 5:16**. (A priest helps people connect with God.) How have you functioned as a priest this week? How have others been priestly toward you?
 - c. Recall **Romans 12:2**. Witch burnings, torturing “heretics”, holy wars, twitter wars, continually dividing, judging, and fragmenting into increasingly antagonistic groups – why has the church done such a lousy job of discerning God's will for us throughout the centuries?
 - d. What gift or gifts do you see in yourself from these lists? What gift or gifts do others see in you? What does using your gift in your home church or in the broader church community look like?
 - e. Have you ever felt like a foot or an ear in **1 Corinthians 12:15-16**? What helped you find your place in the body of Christ?
 - f. Have you ever felt like or acted like or witnessed others acting like an eye or a head in **1 Corinthians 12:21-26**? If so, what word of correction would you share now if you had the chance?
4. Review the four core convictions. How can we commit to doing #3 and #4 simultaneously well? Think of examples of what this might look like in your own life – in person and online.

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

5. What has God been saying to you through this home church time? What is one thing you could do this week to contribute to a healthier version of the local and global church?