



Women's Ministry in the Local Church

Book Study Chapter 2: *The Need*

The role of women in God's Church is a vital and volatile question in every age, but the increased visibility of this topic in our time demands that the Church develop a theology of, and a functioning model for, women's ministry in the local church.

Some churches: *women's ministry is event, task or personality driven*

Some churches: *no women's ministry thinking organized women will make demands and seek power*

Some churches: *(1) deny God's design for women (2) "women can do anything a man can do"*

Common weakness: *these approaches to women's ministry are responses to culture, not Scripture*

COVENANTAL AND COMPLEMENTARIAN

The covenant of grace: ***What it does*** - *defines our relationship to God and to one another*

What it is - *Sovereignly initiated arrangement whereby Sovereign Triune God lives in a saving favor and merciful relationship with His people*

Complementarianism: ***What it is*** - *God created men and women equal in being, but assigned gender distinctiveness. ***What it does*** - *gives the relational framework for men & women to live out our covenant privileges**

Egalitarianism: *(1) asserts there is no difference of role and function between men and women in home or church*

(2) devalues God's creation design and redemptive calling for women

SUSAN: WHY A CHURCH NEEDS AN APOLOGETIC ON BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

This apologetic is based on: (page 33)

1 *women's creation design as a helper - Gen 2: 18 helper (ezer) Gen 2:23 implied equality*

2 *her redemptive calling as a life-giver - 3: 20 - mother of all living*

Helper/Life-Giver

vs

Hinderer/Life Taker

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 <i>defends (Ex. 18: 4)</i> | 1 <i>attacks</i> |
| 2 <i>sees, cares for oppressed (Ps. 10: 14)</i> | 2 <i>unconcerned for oppressed</i> |
| 3 <i>supports (Ps. 20:2)</i> | 3 <i>weakens</i> |
| 4 <i>shields, protects (Ps. 33:20)</i> | 4 <i>leaves unprotected/defenseless</i> |
| 5 <i>delivers from distress (Ps. 70: 5)</i> | 5 <i>causes distress</i> |
| 6 <i>rescues poor, weak, needy (Ps. 72:12-14)</i> | 6 <i>ignores poor, weak, needy</i> |
| 7 <i>comforts (Ps. 86:17)</i> | 7 <i>avoids, causes discomfort</i> |

Biblical Womanhood is a covenant Concept. It doesn't make sense in a culture of self.

Women's Ministry can be perpetually and intentionally guided by three questions:

- 1 *Are we being helpers or hinderers?*
- 2 *Are we being life-givers or life-takers?*
- 3 *Are we equipping women to be helpers and life-givers?*

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

How are we related to God?

- 1 *God created us in His image. (Gen 1:26-27)*
- 2 *God is our reference point. (Deut 6:4-5)*
- 3 *God's Word is our authority. (Deut 6:6-9)*
- 4 *God's glory in our purpose. (Isaiah 43:7)*

How does Scripture define womanhood?

- 1 *Woman's helper design and life-giving mission are creational and covenantal concepts. Gen 2:18; 3:20*
- 2 *Woman's helper ministry can be summarized as community and compassion. Ps. 144:12*
- 3 *Because of the Fall, woman cannot fulfill her creation design or accomplish her covenantal mission. Gen 3: 8*
- 4 *Through the Redeemer, woman's ability to be and do what she was created to be and do is restored. Gen 3: 15-16*
- 5 *The church is to equip a redeemed woman to fulfill her design and mission. Titus 2: 1, 3-5*
- 6 *Woman must lose her life in order to be a life-giver. Luke 17:33*

- 7 *Woman's confident hope in God produces the enduring beauty of a quiet and gentle spirit.*
I Peter 3: 1-6

How are we related to others?

- 1 *The church is the covenant community.* **Ex 10: 4-6; I Peter 2: 9-10**
- 2 *God created men and women equal in being but with diversity of function.* **I Tim. 2:9-10**
- 3 *God's kingdom order of male headship is good.* **Gen 1:31; Ps. 119:68**
- 3 *Submission in marriage and in the Church is an acceptance of God's kingdom order.*
I Peter 3:1-6
- 5 *Women are to pass the legacy of biblical womanhood on to the next generation.* **Tit. 2:1, 3-5**

LIGON: WHY A CHURCH NEEDS A WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- 1 *to cultivate godly, feminine, Christian women*
This can't happen if church underemphasizes/denies differences between men & women
- 2 *to promote healthy Christian marriages with biblical role distinctions*
This can't happen if church doesn't teach biblically with respect to roles
- 3 *to promote godly, monogamous, heterosexual marriages*
If no gender related distinctions in roles then no good answer to why marriage must be between man & woman only. ***
- 4 *to embrace godly, healthy, Christian male spiritual leadership in the church*
This won't happen unless pastors/leaders believe & teach what the bible says
- 5 *to equip women distinctively to fulfill their ministry in the life of the church*
This won't happen if churches approach to discipleship is androgynous

Five Reasons Why Women's Ministry is Important in Every Healthy Evangelical Church

- 1 *to address the issues of biblical manhood and womanhood*
(chapter 5) – **Submission**
Ethical compromise 1st, then doctrinal sell-out
- 2 *there are certain matters more aptly addressed and applied as women minister to women*
(chapter 6) – **Compassion**

Some things too discreet for man to teach woman or to come from pulpit

- 3 *to neglect this teaching results in disaster for marriages, families and churches (chapter 7) – **Community***
Marital tension/ failures, gender confusion, 1st order societal problems

- 4 *recognition of male/female differences also include their distinctive temptations (chapter 8) – **Discipleship***
Intentional discipleship recognizing the distinctions both positive & negative

- 5 *the manhood-womanhood issue is fundamentally a scriptural authority issues (chapter 9) – **Scripture***
The church has been called to shape culture, not ape it!

THE DANGEROUS SILENCE OF THE CHURCH

The church must:

- 1 *articulate a positive perspective of womanhood and woman's role in the church*

- 2 *equip godly older women to disciple younger women*

If the local church remains silent, then women are unequipped to fulfill their covenant calling.

Biblical Foundations for Womanhood resources:

- 1 Topic: *Women's creation design as a helper and her redemptive calling to be a life-giver*

Book: *The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood (chapters 1-10)*

- 2 Topic: *"Foundational Principles of Biblical Womanhood" developed more fully*

Book: *The leaders guide for The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood*