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Should We Be Gender Neutral? (Part I)

Acts 10:34: (NASB) *Opening his mouth, Peter said: I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality.*



Oh boy! Here we go, right into the belly of the beast called equality! Why do we call it a beast? Because we believe that gender equality is grossly misrepresented and misunderstood! We believe in equality, but we do not believe that men and women should, in all things, be consistently measured with the same yardstick. We ARE different - science proves this! So, what are the gender roles that are biblical? Should these roles be updated - after all, the world is an entirely different place than it was back then - or is it?


The words above are packed with political correctness, but the Bible is not gender neutral! How do we take what the Bible is and what it teaches and apply it in the 21st century? Should we apply it all in the 21st century? Is a lot of what the Bible says about the roles of men and women within Christianity outdated? Are we supposed to be abiding by those things now?

 Introduction, *Brains of Men and Women Wired Differently*, World News Department

- *Take a look. This is the study of male and female brains, and it could solve the age-old debate about whether men really are better at reading maps and woman are better at multi-tasking. You can see the man's brain at the top here and the women's at the bottom - so quite different connections are going on there in between. All this research is from the University of Pennsylvania and it has found that men and women's brains are wired, as you can see, in completely different ways as if they were a completely different species. Maybe even from different planets as the saying goes.*

The original setup and relationship between man and woman: Genesis 2:20-25: God knew ahead of time that no helper would be found, so He created man and woman in this context to accentuate the interconnected relationship that was to be between man and woman.

But it does say that Eve was created as a *helper* for Adam. What does that really mean? Is it a helper as in one less experienced, one with less authority, or one who is inferior? Here is where we have the basics for the big debate, in the Christian world.

 Defining "Complementarianism," *The Lies of Complementarianism*, yeshualovesu2

- *Complementarianism is the belief in teaching - Okay, they don't just believe it but they also teach it and live it out in their lives as best as they can - the belief that basically women are not equal in Christ. We are subordinated and that we are not to teach the word of God, preach the word of God, have any kind of leadership role or authority, particularly over a man. We may have some limited roles of authority if it is delegated by a man or overseen by a man and you know, it gets into deeper things but that's the gist of it in a nutshell. Okay? She totally couldn't be a pastor or anything like that. This is where this concept comes from - it's called Complementarianism.*

For the most part, we stand on the side of the issue as being a Complementarianist. However, the way it is defined here goes a little overboard and far beyond what we think the Scriptures teach. We believe that women should not teach within the church and that man is supposed to be the head of the home. The Scriptures do not need to be altered just because we live in the 21st century. Let us go back to the creation account in Genesis 2:20-25: (NASB) ²⁰...but for Adam there was not found a helper **<5828>** suitable for him.

Helpmate: Strong's #5828 ezer (ay'-zer); help, succour, one who helps

Psalms 121:1,2: God is the helper in this Scripture. So, it does not minimize women to say they are a helper. God's original intent for man and woman had no indications of a relationship built around dominance of one over the other. It was to be based on equality, mutual respect and was, in fact, complimentary.

 Egalitarianism defined, *The Lies of Complementarianism*, yeshualovesu2

- *Then there's the other side of the equation, which is called Egalitarianism, and the Egalitarian view is that a woman is a co-equal. She is made that way by Christ and in Christ as the Bible says: there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female in Christ; and they believed in the equality of females. A woman can teach, a woman can be in a position of authority even over a man and she can be a pastor. So, these are the two opposing views*



embraced by the church. They are diametrically opposed to one another. Make no mistake about it - somebody's right and somebody's wrong. They can't both be right.

Complementarianism = Not equal - subordinated - cannot teach, preach, no leadership or authority, particularly over a man.

Egalitarianism = Co-equal - made that way by Christ and in Christ - can teach, preach and be in positions of authority

We agree with parts of the explanation of Egalitarianism. Women and men are co-equal in Christ, but we also believe men and women are built differently to fulfill different roles. There are valuable and scriptural perspectives on both sides of this issue. *Side note: We are not of the mind that women should be silent in all things. When Jonathan is not here, Kathy is our co-host, for example.*

))) The Lies of Complementarianism, yeshualovesu2

- *They would not speak out against Complementarianism even when they knew that the Scripture was clear that we are co-equal in Christ...as a women, the Scripture says I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. I don't see any limitations on that in the Scripture. So, if you're going to believe the Complementarianism view, that Scripture cannot be true. The Bible simply says let God be true and man be a liar. Somebody lyin', y'all. Either the Complementarians are lying or the Egalitarians are lying.*

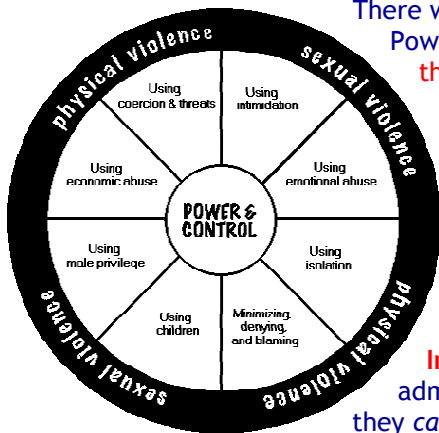
The history of the subject of male dominance is broad, difficult and sad. Many look at the Scriptures as feeding an unjust and brutal treatment of women, just like with slavery. Remember that 150 years ago there were many Christians who also preached slavery and they were wrong. They were misapplying Scripture.

There was a Domestic Violence chart developed in the 1980's called "The Wheel of Power and Control." (Please see CQ Rewind Full Edition Bonus Material for more on this.) There are those who cite several Scriptures as feeding this dominance.

We will look at parts of this wheel and the Scriptures that they are associated with to see if there is any justification for linking of Scripture with domestic violence. All Scripture links will not be discussed due to lack of time.

It is a disturbing wheel because we know it is real and true. People abuse whatever authority they might have and are causing abuse. It is wrong and we do not believe this is what the Scriptures teach.

We will look at four parts of the Domestic Violence Wheel of Power and Control:



Intimidation: Detailed comments as this program unfolds will show how these admonishing verses fit into an overall lifestyle of submission for all. Out of context they can come across harshly! Titus 2:3-5 1 Corinthians 14:35 1 Peter 3:7 1 Timothy 2:13-14 These were the Scriptures that were listed in The Domestic Violence Chart. The view is that if you are not subject to your husband, then you are dishonoring the word of God and that can be perceived as intimidation. It is being said that these Scriptures can be used as a tool for intimidation. There is a viewpoint that the Scriptures are very pro-men and very intimidating towards women. We do not agree.

))) Women, church and being mom, Lynn Cohick, Regent College

- *There are some churches that in an effort to salvage or save what they see as very valuable about women, that is that they want to promote the title of mother or the responsibility of mother. What they can do, I think, sometimes is kind of reify that as the highest goal for women and I think even more maybe make mother a job, like a job description. Evangelical women especially are given this horrible choice of either pursue a career and self-actualize or be a mom. Well, you know, but first you've got to get married and then you have to be able to have your own baby or adopt a baby. There are a lot of things that you are not in control of in order to be a mom.*

They give these women a horrible choice...either be a mom or self-actualize and develop a career. She is saying that choosing a path in life to stay at home and be a mom is not as good as having a career. We have a hard time with that and do not agree.

Coercion and threats: 1 Timothy 2:15 **Minimizing, denying and blaming:** 1 Timothy 2:14 John 8:3-5 **Isolation:** 1 Timothy 2:11 1 Corinthians 14:33-34



There are some things that women can do that men just can't! 1 Timothy 2:11-15

The following verses can be treated in three sections: **FIRST SECTION** 1 Timothy 2:11: (NASB) A woman must **quietly <2271>** receive instruction with entire **submissiveness <5292>**.

This Scripture was brought up in all four headings of the Wheel of Power and Control. These words sound limiting, narrowing and intimidating.

Two words that need careful understanding: *quietly* and *submissiveness*.

Quietly/Silence: Strongs #2271 hesuchia (hay-soo-khee'-ah); feminine of 2272; (as noun) stillness, i.e. desistance from bustle or language Strongs #2272: properly, keeping one's seat

Another use of the word: This verse is in reference to the Church in general. Does anyone get offended at the following text? 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12: This shows an important contrast in behavior - are we (all of us) busybodies or is our conduct becoming to Christianity? When it says a woman must be quiet, it doesn't mean she can't speak. As with ALL Christians, it means we shouldn't gossip and be busybodies. This thought of *quietly working and minding your own business* is what the Apostle is teaching. How do we know? Go back a few verses!

1 Timothy 2:9-10

Submissiveness: Strongs #5292 upotagh hupotage hoop-ot-ag-ay'
1) the act of subjecting 2) obedience, subjection

This text is complimentary to the Corinthians for their generosity to those in need. Is that offensive? 2 Corinthians 9:11-13: We are ALL to be in this obedient and subjective posture! Paul in the book 1st Timothy is focusing on women because their role in the Christian community has a purpose: What is that purpose?

SECOND SECTION: 1 Timothy 2:12-14 So Paul is referring back to the original sin and curse and upholding it. Genesis 3:16-17: The curse on the woman was two lines long compared to the curse on the man. Man received the bigger lecture. The bottom line is that the responsibility for life and death falls on the man. Her husband will rule over her. "Rule" means to have dominion.

 Jesus against it, *The Lies of Complementarianism, yeshualovesu2*

- *Benefits: From half of the body of Christ being told to sit down and shut up, who benefits? Yaweh God or Satan? I mean why is it that Jesus told a woman, of all people, go and tell the disciples that I ascend to my Father and your Father and to my God and your God. Didn't Jesus know that was a total violation of Complementarianism?*

The big question is - how did Jesus treat women, what can we apply from his example and does the Apostle Paul in his teachings agree with Jesus?

WHAT DID JESUS DO? JESUS SPOKE TO FOREIGN WOMEN: (This was unheard of!) John 4:7-10

The Following Jesus Lesson: Women, no matter who they are, are worthy of great respect

THIRD SECTION: 1 Timothy 2:15: (NASB) ¹⁵But women will be **preserved <4982>** through **the bearing of children <5042>** if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

Preserved: NT: #4982 sozo (sode'-zo); from a primary sos (contraction for obsolete saoz, "safe"); to save, i.e. deliver or protect (literally or figuratively);
KJV - heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.

Mark 5:28: For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall **be whole <4982>**.

Bearing of Children: NT: #5042 teknoqonia (tek-nog-on-ee'-ah); childbirth (parentage), i.e. (by implication) maternity (the performance of maternal duties): KJV - childbearing.

Preserved - to be made whole to be complete *Childbearing* - child rearing (parentage)

Woman will be made whole or completed through the childbearing process. So, women are not supposed to have authority over men and will be completed in the raising of their children. What if a woman is not married or can't have children? For the general Christian population, that was the way life seemed to work. It doesn't mean that they don't have a role in life.

Paul continues in Chapter 2 with his very authoritative and direct pattern: 1 Timothy 3:1-2: This is discussed in strictly male terms. Was this just cultural? Why wouldn't women be in a position to teach? Didn't they know enough? Weren't they trustworthy? Paul sees women as



different but different does not mean unequal. Romans 16:1-2: What a testimony of respect for this sister in Christ! Was she a deacon in the church? **For some thoughts on that see CQ Rewind Full Edition Bonus Material!** We discussed that a woman should not "teach" in the church, but what about "preaching?" Women are supposed to be preaching the good news. Preaching is toward the world and brings the Gospel to everyone. Teaching is in the congregation. Women may teach the children. Those who teach the children control society, and this is a great responsibility.

Women's roles: Participate in the spreading of the Gospel, assist the brotherhood and hold positions of responsibility.

WHAT DID JESUS DO? JESUS HAD WOMEN FOLLOW HIM: Luke 8:1-3

The Following Jesus Lesson: Women as disciples have just as much to offer in the service of the Gospel as men!

Women's roles: Be equally esteemed followers of Jesus and provide for the needs of others.

1 Peter 3:1-4

Submit: Strongs #5293 hupotasso; to subordinate; reflexively, to obey

Chaste: clean, (figuratively) innocent, modest, perfect: 1) exciting reverence, venerable, sacred 2) pure

If you have been converted to Christianity and your husband is still pagan, the Apostle Peter said you need to still be in subjection to him. By your behavior, without even having to say anything, you can show your husband over time that there is something magnificent about Christianity. Is this "chaste" thing only in reference to women? Philippians 4:8: Pure and chaste are from the same word. We must all be chaste and our behavior must be reflective of Jesus. Women and men have to abide by the same guidelines.

Conversation: Strongs #391 behavior, manner of life, conduct, behavior, deportment

James 3:13: *Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good **conversation** <391> his works with meekness of wisdom.*

Woman's roles: "Clothed" with humility in dress and behavior to clearly reflect Jesus in their lives.

Acts 8:3-4: Men and women persecuted, scattered AND preached the Gospel wherever they went! They ALL preached the word and they were ALL persecuted. **One more look at the Apostle Paul's respect for women:** Acts 18:24-26: The Apostle again shows his respect for women - he does NOT say that Aquila did all the talking and that Priscilla was "arm candy!"

WHAT DID JESUS DO? JESUS TREATED WOMEN AS RESPECTFULLY AS MEN: Luke 13:10-16: Did you know that the phrase *daughter of Abraham* is not found anywhere else in the Scriptures? This was a *name of respect* from Jesus. The Pharisees consistently called themselves *sons of Abraham*. Jesus was making a proclamation as to how important women were in the Jewish culture. She was not "less than" them. She had a right to be healed on the Sabbath the same way anyone who needed to be rescued on the Sabbath had the right.

The Following Jesus Lesson: Be outward in our respect for women as special before God

God is asking us to focus on doing things His way and to fulfill His will. **Different but equal:** Philippians 4:1-3 Galatians 3:28-29: Equal opportunity for an equal reward! It is the same reward for men and women.

What IS the lesson of doing all things through Christ? Philippians 4:11-13: The Bible teaches us to make men and women complementary to one another in our lives. In fact, we were created to be complementary.

*Are women as important as men?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*