



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?



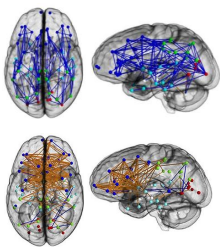
The words above are packed with political correctness, but the Bible is not gender neutral!



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 Is a lot of what the Bible says about the roles of men and women within Christianity outdated?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 women 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: (NASB) ²⁰The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, **but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.** ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²²The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³The man said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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.

"Women were created from the rib of man to be beside him, not from his head to top him, nor from his feet to be trampled by him, but from under his arm to be protected by him, near to his heart to be loved by him." -- David O. McKay



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:

"Complimentarianism" versus "Egalitarianism"



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

- *Complimentarianism 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 Complimentarianism.*

For the most part, we stand on the side of the issue as being a Complimentarianist. 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: Strongs #5828 ezer (ay'-zer); help, succour, one who helps

Psalms 121:1,2: ¹I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my **help <5828>**. ²My **help <5828>** cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

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 Complimentarianism, 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.

COMPLEMENTARI-WHAT?

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.*

Just how “bad” is the New Testament when it comes to minimizing women?

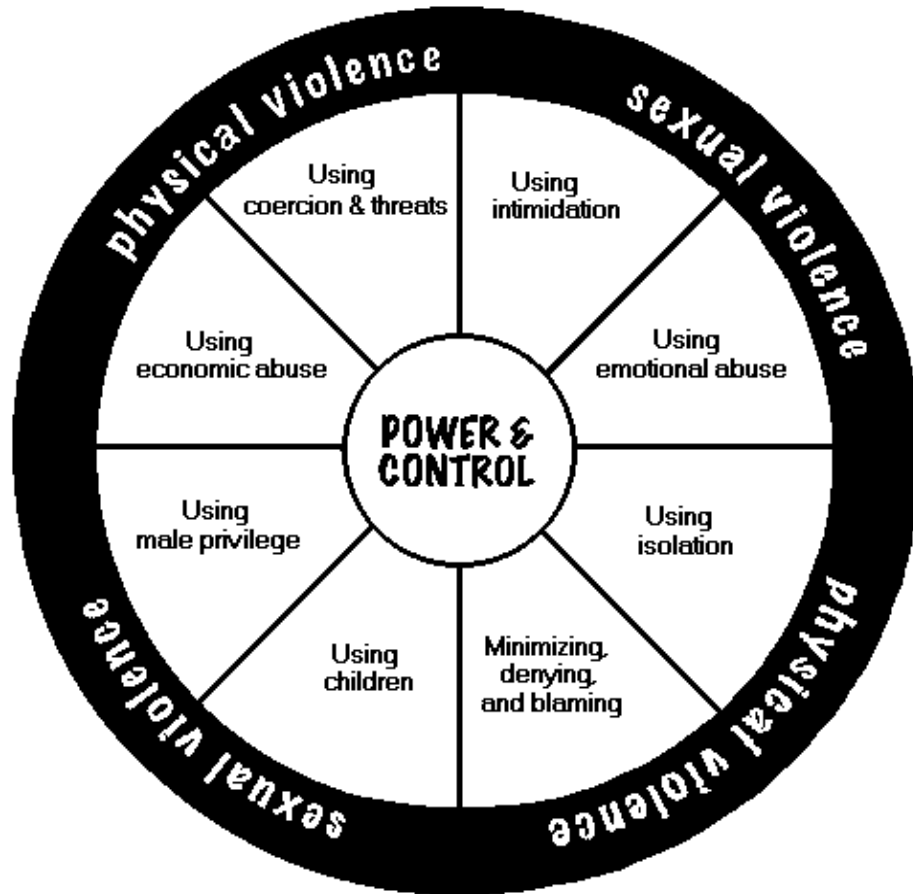
The history of the subject of male dominance is broad, difficult and sad. Many look at the Scriptures as feeding an unjust and brutal treatment of women, just like with slavery. Remember that 150 years ago there were many Christians who also preached slavery and they were wrong. They were misapplying 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: (NASB) ³Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, ⁴so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being **subject <5293>** to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

1 Corinthians 14:35: (NASB) *If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.*

1 Peter 3:7: (NASB) ⁷You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

1 Timothy 2:13-14: (NASB) ¹³For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. ¹⁴And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.



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: (NASB) *But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.*

Minimizing, denying and blaming:

1 Timothy 2:14: (NASB) *And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*

John 8:3-5: (NASB) ³*The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, ⁴they said to him, Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. ⁵Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do you say? (This account is actually not authentic to earlier and most reliable manuscripts.)*

Isolation:

1 Timothy 2:11: (NASB) *A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.*

1 Corinthians 14:33-34: (NASB) ³³*for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. ³⁴The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.*

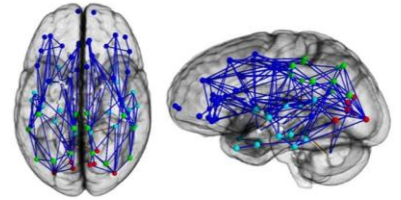


Do these Scriptures mean what they say or do they mean something entirely different? 1 Timothy 2:11-15, 1 Corinthians 14:31-35 and 1 Peter 3:1-7.

Is the 1st Timothy definition of the female role really to be quiet and submissive, with no teaching or authority?

 **Man's brain, *Men and Women Wired Differently*, World News Department**

- *And we take a closer look at a male brain first. You can see the nerve fibers there in blue the connections tend to run on the left or right hand side of the brain. These are the hemispheres and you can also see on the right hand side how they're fairly evenly dispersed through out the brain.*



This means those things on the emotional side of the brain stay on the emotional side and the things on the logical side of the brain stay on the logical side. Men tend to stay in one or the other.



A caller suggests: 1 Corinthians 11 in reference to the issue of hierarchy. God, Jesus, the church, etc. We can't all be captains of the ship. In an old Shirley Temple episode there is a scenario where Shirley is amazed with the fact that a duck laid an egg. The nanny ridiculed her and said, "What is so amazing about a duck laying an egg?" Shirley rebutted by saying, "Can you lay an egg?"

There are some things that women can do that men just can't!

1 Timothy 2:11-15: (NASB) ¹¹A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire *submissiveness*. ¹²But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. ¹³For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. ¹⁴And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. ¹⁵But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

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*.

1. **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: (ASV) ¹⁰For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, If any will not work, neither let him eat. ¹¹For we hear of some that walk among you disorderly, that work not at all, but are busybodies. ¹²Now them that are such we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ, that with **quietness <2271>** they work, and eat their own bread.



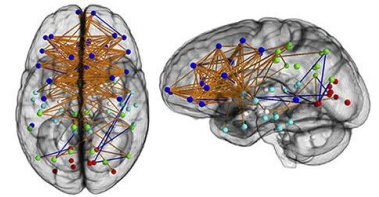
This shows an important contrast in behavior - are we (all of us) busybodies or is our conduct becoming to Christianity? When it says a woman must be quiet, it doesn't mean she can't speak. As with ALL Christians, it means we shouldn't gossip and be busybodies.

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: (NASB) ⁹Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, ¹⁰but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

 **Woman's brain, Men and Women Wired Differently, World News Department**

- *If you contrast that with the female brain you can see that in orange there are many more connections between the two halves of the brain and also that they are much more concentrated there at the front of the brain as well. Now what does all that mean? Well, it does mean that male brains are hardwired for perception and for action and female brains tend to be much more concentrated on a kind of emotional intelligence - those heart-mind thought processes that I guess we all know about.*



Tricia, Call Screener

- *Well, from a woman's perspective...thank the good Lord for Women's Liberation from the standpoint of the balancing out some of the inequities. I would just like to say that the inequities of our society are not because the Bible or the word of God is inequitable. It has nothing to do with that. It is because we are born in sin and shaped in inequity. Our society is inequitable - it is not based on true godly principles. So, over the years it has gotten so off track and by God's grace He has allowed us to see these things and as a society bring more balance and give women and other human beings godly rights that are from God. Women's Liberation is just bringing society back to where God would want it to be, but it has gone overboard. It starts out good but then it kind of swings the other way to the extreme. It has kind of created a lot of other problems. Christian women face a lot of challenges because I would agree with the scriptural perspective of women in the church, but yet we go into the work place and we are presidents and CEOs and supervisors. So, it doesn't mean that you can't do those things. But as I was listening to the quotes of Scripture about women being submissive, if you take those principles to any person in the workplace and you truly put them toward your fellow coworkers, even if you are the president and you apply them as God intended, we would all be better off. It doesn't mean that you have to be this doormat,*



it means being a person of righteousness and integrity.

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: (NRSV) ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your **obedience <5292>** to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others...

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: (NASB) ¹²But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to **remain quiet <2271>**. ¹³For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. ¹⁴And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

So Paul is referring back to the original sin and curse and upholding it.

Genesis 3:16-17: ¹⁶To the woman He said, I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you. ¹⁷Then to Adam He said, because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you saying, you shall not eat from it; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

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**

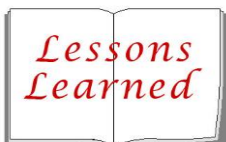
- *Benefits: From half of the body of Christ being told to sit down and shut up, who benefits? Yaweh God or Satan? I mean why is it that Jesus told a woman, of all people, go and tell the disciples that I ascend to my Father and your Father and to my God and your God. Didn't Jesus know that was a total 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: (NRSV) ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, Give me a drink. ⁸...⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria? ¹⁰Jesus answered her, if you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.



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 teknogonia (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: (NASB) *¹It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. ²An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach...*

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?

So, did the Apostle Paul overlook or minimize the talents of women?

 **Men and safety, Understanding Men and Women, Prager University**

- *If we're going to bring out the best of each other we have to understand that the masculine and the feminine aspect of our natures experience survival and therefore safety and security in different ways. For the masculine, survival depends upon one's ability to produce results. So, the masculine will feel safe and secure when they have the greatest opportunity to produce results. That comes when they are respected and trusted by the people that they work with and the people that they care for.*

Paul sees women as different but different does not mean unequal.

Romans 16:1-2: (NASB) *¹I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; ²that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.*

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.



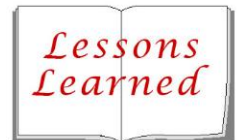
Women and safety, Understanding Men and Women, Prager University

- *The female on the other hand experiences safety and security when she feels connected. When she's getting the attention and the interest that she needs by the people around her that give her a nearly constant sense of being connected and therefore safe and secure.*

What Did Jesus Do? Jesus had women follow him:

Luke 8:1-3: (NRSV) ¹Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, ²as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

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: (KJV) ¹Likewise, ye wives, be in **subjection <5293>** to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the **conversation <391>** of the wives; ²While they behold your **chaste <53> conversation <391>** coupled with fear. ³Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; ⁴But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

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: (NRSV) Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is **pure <53>**, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

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 endowed 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.

So, what is our conclusion - is the Bible fair with gender?

Acts 8:3-4: (NASB) ³But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. ⁴Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

Men and women persecuted, scattered AND preached the Gospel wherever they went! They ALL preached the word and they were ALL persecuted.



A caller suggests: Acts 16:14: (NASB) *A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.*

One more look at the Apostle Paul's respect for women:

Acts 18:24-26: (NASB) ²⁴Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. ²⁵This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; ²⁶and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

The Apostle again shows his respect for women - he does NOT say that Aquila did all the talking and that Priscilla was "arm candy!"



Men's single focus issue, *Understanding Men and Women, Prager University*

- *Now, one of the problems is that men and women have instincts that literally antagonize the other's caveman or cavewomen. So, for example the way that a man thinks, which we call single focus, will cause him to pay attention to one thing at a time. So, if he's watching television the woman in his life may feel ignored, and she'll get this incredible sense of tension in her body and she'll try to do things to connect with him and connect with him and connect with him. Which as a single focus person he's going to experience as an interruption and be annoyed by it and cause a downward spiral.*



What Did Jesus Do? Jesus treated women as respectfully as men:

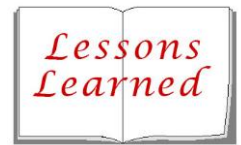
Luke 13:10-16: (NRSV) ¹⁰Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, Woman, you are set free from your ailment. (Then the Pharisees got all bent out of shape!) ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, you hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?

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



Women's detail issue, *Understanding Men and Women*, Prager University

- *On the other hand, women have an instinct that causes them to want to be scrupulously accurate in their details. So, if a man is telling a story and he says that something happened on a Tuesday that she thinks happened on a Wednesday, she'll interrupt him and correct that story. If this is in front of other people it's going to cause a problem, because if it is someone's respect and trust he needs and she's now intimated that he now lies or exaggerates, that's going to be a problem.*



God is asking us to focus on doing things His way and to fulfill His will.

Different but equal:

Philippians 4:1-3: (NRSV) ¹Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Galatians 3:28-29: (NRSV) ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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: (NASB) ¹¹Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹²I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

The Bible teaches us to make men and women complementary to one another in our lives. In fact, we were created to be complementary.

*"Unwittingly, the feminists acknowledge the superiority of the male sex by wishing to become like men." -- Alice von Hildebrand, *Privilege of Being a Woman**



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



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The word for *servant* is the same word for *deacon* - so was Phoebe a deaconess?

Romans 16:1-2: (NASB) ¹I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a **servant** of the church which is at Cenchrea; ²that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.

Servant: Strong's #1249 one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant, minister

Deacons/servants are rarely an appointed title but more often cover a breadth of responsibility:

Colossians 4:7: All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful **minister** <1249> and fellow-servant in the Lord:

Here is another use of this word:

2 Corinthians 11:15: Therefore it is no great thing if his **ministers** <1249> also be transformed as the **ministers** <1249> of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

There are two interpretations of the following verse:

1 Timothy 3:8-11: (NASB) ⁸Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. ¹¹Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. ¹²Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households.

1. The women here are the wives of the deacons who are being discussed.
2. The women here are female deacons.

Explanations of both:

Point 1: (Source: Biblical Commentary from Alfred Barnes) Verse 11. Even so must their wives be grave. Chrysostom, Theophylact, Grotius, Bloomfield, and many others, suppose that by the word wives, here, *gunaikav*, the apostle means deaconesses. Clarke supposes that it refers to women in general. The reason assigned for supposing that it does not refer to the wives of deacons, as such, is, that nothing is said of the qualifications of the wives of bishops — a matter of as much importance as that of the character of the wife of a deacon; and that it cannot be supposed that the apostle would specify the one, without some allusion to the other. But that the common interpretation, which makes it refer to the wives of deacons, as such, is to be adhered to, seems to me to be clear. For,

- (1.) It is the obvious and natural interpretation.
- (2.) The word here used—wives—is never used of itself to denote deaconesses.



(3.) If the apostle had meant deaconesses, it would have been easy to express it without ambiguity. Comp. See Barnes "Romans 16:1".

(4.) What is here mentioned is important, whether the same thing is mentioned of bishops or not.

Point 2: (Source: Jamieson, Fausset and Brown): 11. Their wives—rather, "the women," that is, the deaconesses. For there is no reason that special rules should be laid down as to the wives of the deacons, and not also as to the wives of the bishops or overseers. Moreover, if the wives of the deacons were meant, there seems no reason for the omission of "their" (not in the Greek). Also the Greek for "even so" (the same as for "likewise," #1Ti 3:8, and "in like manner," #1Ti 2:9), denotes a transition to another class of persons. Further, there were doubtless deaconesses at Ephesus, such as Phoebe was at Cenchrea (#Ro 16:1, "servant," Greek, "deaconess"), yet no mention is made of them in this Epistle if not here; whereas, supposing them to be meant here, the third chapter embraces in due proportion all the persons in the service of the Church.

So, which is it? Perhaps the answer is in verse 12, the last verse quoted above.
¹²Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. If deacons were to be men and women, would the apostle have noted that allowance here?



(Source: Duluth, Minnesota Domestic Violence Program, <http://www.co.otero.nm.us/Sheriff/Sheriffs%20Site/Wheel.htm>)

Domestic violence is a pattern of many behaviors directed at achieving and maintaining power and control over an intimate partner. Power and control tactics certainly include acts of physical violence of varying degrees of severity. However, in many abusive relationships, abusers use a variety of other tactics directed at controlling their partners. In the 1980s, The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth, Minnesota, developed a model to help explain and characterize abusive relationships. This model is called *The Wheel of Power and Control* and explains the following tactics used by abusers:

The Wheel of Power and Control

