

Women and Leadership in the Church

Reading Paul in Context

A study guide for Part 1

Reflect on Sunday's teaching

1. What was most helpful in Scott's teaching? What was most challenging?
2. Describe how you were raised to regard women and their place in church, family and society.
 - What role did Scripture play in this? And what scripture was most significant?
 - How does upbringing and culture still influence your view of women?
3. Consider your response to Scott's three core presuppositions
 - That God is All-Wise and Loving
 - That Jesus and Scripture are our primary source and ultimate authority for knowing God's will
 - That we all read the Bible with biases (which requires us to come to scripture on our knees before God and in community with others)
4. Near the end of Scott's teaching, he stated one other core conviction – that God is not schizophrenic (and neither is the Apostle Paul).
 - How do you respond to this statement and how does it help you as you consider what Scripture says about women?

Engage Scripture Together

1. Read Genesis 1:27-28
 - Who is created in the image of God?
 - Who does God command to do what? And what are the implications of this?
2. Read Genesis 2:18; Psalm 33:20
 - Why did God create woman?
 - What connotations does the word "helper" often carry as seen in the Genesis 2 verse?
 - Who is the helper in the Psalm 33 verse? How does this impact the way we can understand Genesis 2:18?

3. Read Genesis 3:12, 16
 - How does God's description of the curse (or the consequences of the fall) help us make sense of the world and history?
 - What difference does it make if our vision and theology of women and men begins in Gen 3 or Gen 1-2?
4. Read Exodus 15:20; 2 Kings 22:14-15; Judges 4:4
 - Which leadership and teaching roles did God give women in the Old Testament?
 - Do our theological convictions have room for God to call and use women in similar roles today? Why or why not?
5. Read John 4:27; Luke 7:36-50; Luke 8:1-3; Luke 10:38-42; Matthew 28:1-8
 - How did Jesus' treatment of women differ from the traditions of his day?
 - Compare Jesus's teaching (by word and example) on women and God's plan for women in Genesis 1 & 2 – how do they match up?
6. Read Acts 1:14; 2:17-18; 18:18, 26; 21:19; Romans 16:1-2, 3-4, 7
 - Summarize the role of women in the early church as glimpsed in these verses
 - What is your response to what Paul says about women leaders in Romans 16?
 - Do our theological convictions have room for God to call and use women in similar roles today? Why or why not?

Implications and Applications

- How is the role of women relative to men a topic that is relevant to you personally?
- What new thoughts or understanding about women have you come to as a result of this study?
- In light of what you are learning from this study, what needs to be changed in your life – a relationship, a perspective, or an attitude - with respect to women?
- What further study do you plan to do on the topic of a correct Biblical view of women?
- How can we pray for you in this regard?

Digging Deeper

- Read [How I Changed My Mind about Women in Leadership: Compelling Stories from Prominent Evangelicals](#) by Alan F. Johnson (Editor), Dallas Willard (Foreword)