

Big Picture View of Women and the Bible

Women in Life of the Church (3)

July 8, 2012

Four Views On Women and the Bible			
Liberal	Conservative		Fundamentalist
Egalitarian		Hierarchal	
Radical Feminism	Evangelical Egalitarianism	Complementarianism	Patriarchalism

(chart adapted from: *Women in the Church: Reclaiming the Ideal*, by Carroll Osburn)

! Attitudes toward the Bible

- " **Liberal** - Rejects Bible authority
- " **Conservative** - Accepts Bible authority but insists on proper interpretation
- " **Fundamentalist** - Accepts Bible authority but relies on "proof-texts"

! Attitudes toward Gender

- " **Egalitarian** - belief in equality of humans regardless of gender
 - **Radical Feminism** - negative view of men
 - **Evangelical Egalitarianism** - Restrictive texts have been misunderstood
- " **Hierarchal** - belief in male authority and leadership
 - **Patriarchalism** - negative view of women
 - **Complementarianism** - women equal in value to men; different in roles

	Egalitarian	Complementarian
Basic Presupposition	God ordained egalitarianism	God ordained hierarchalism
Basic Text	Galatians 3:28	1 Timothy 2:12
Asks the question...	How shall we view women?	What roles can women have in the church?
Most difficult passages to reconcile	Restrictive texts: 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 1 Corinthians 14:34	Permissive texts showing women teaching, prophesying, praying, etc...
Greatest Weakness	Failure to account for the basic differences between masculine and feminine	Failure to account for the fact that women can function as teacher/leader/authority everywhere but church and home

! **The Beginning**

" Man and Woman were equals and were to work as partners

! **The Fall**

" The curses of Genesis 3:14-19 are the way things are going to be NOW; not the way God intended from the beginning

! **After the Fall**

" Men dominate and women are dominated

" Exceptions to the rule: Women Prophets

! **The Gospel Reverses the Curse**

" Joel 2:28-29

" God is restoring his original intent in Christ

- Jesus led by example
- Women were God's witnesses of Jesus' resurrection
- Women prophesied (Acts 2:17-18; 21:8-9; 1 Cor. 11:5)
- Women prayed in the church (1 Cor. 11:5)
- Women were deacons (Rom. 16:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:11); patrons (Rom. 16:1-2); teachers (Acts 18:26); house church leaders (Acts 16:40; Rom. 16:3-6; 1 Cor 16:19; Col 4:15); co-workers (Rom. 16:6-7, 12; Phil. 4:2)

" Restoration of God's ideal is a slow process

Bibliography

Osburn, Carroll, *Women in the Church: Reclaiming the Ideal*, chapters 1-8.

Payne, Philip B., *Man and Woman, One in Christ: An Exegetical and Theological Study of Paul's Letters*, chapters 1-4.

Grudem, Wayne, *Countering the Claims of Evangelical Feminism: Biblical Responses to the Key Questions*, chapters 1-6.

Osburn, Carroll editor, *Essays on Women in Earliest Christianity*, vol. 2, chapter 3 "Deborah—Judge, Prophetess, Military Leader and Mother in Israel" and chapter 5 "Huldah and Other Biblical Prophetesses".