



13 May 2018

## Women and the Church

- An important issue in society and the church
- Evangelicals hold a spectrum of positions:



Complementarian  
(Traditionalist,  
Hierarchal)

Egalitarian  
(Mutuality)

## Women and the Church

- My own journey...
  - From “soft” complementarian...
    - to unapologetic egalitarian

## Reading Scripture

- Approach with humility and openness
- Recognize the context and genre
- Read in the right direction: movement toward and fulfillment in Jesus

## Reading Scripture

- God's Edenic Ideal (Genesis 1&2)
  - The Fall and Patriarchy (Genesis 3 on)
    - Bright spots and exceptions
- Redemption and Renewal in Christ

## Reading Scripture

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:26-29).

## Reading Scripture

- About salvation (all are heirs of the promise)
- But also about the nature of the church
  - Jew & Gentile – Romans, Galatians
  - Slave or Free – Philemon
  - Male or Female...

## NT Women in Ministry

- Phoebe – deacon, benefactor, and first interpreter of Paul's letter to the Romans (Romans 16:1-2)
- Priscilla – teacher and co-worker of Paul (Acts 18; Romans 16:3; 1Cor 16:19; 2Tim 4:19)
- Junia – an apostle (Romans 16:7)
- Euodia & Syntyche – leaders in the church at Philippi (Philippians 4:2-3)

## Paul's Prohibition

- But what about 1 Timothy 2:11-15?
  - Purpose of 1 Timothy: Correcting the false teaching that has come upon Ephesus (1Tim 1:3-7; Acts 20:17-38)

## Paul's Prohibition

“A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. <sup>12</sup>I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. <sup>13</sup>For Adam was formed first, then Eve. <sup>14</sup>And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. <sup>15</sup>But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety” (1 Timothy 2:11-15).

## Paul's Prohibition

- The Main Issues
  - What is Paul prohibiting?
  - What was Paul's rationale or basis for the prohibition?

## Paul's Prohibition

- Two different interpretations:
  - Normative prohibition for all time
  - Situational prohibition which would be valid in analogous contexts (“for example”)

## Paul's Prohibition

- Relates Paul's prohibitions to Ephesus
  - Experiencing problems with false teaching
  - Women were particularly enamoured with aspects of the false teaching (encouraged by Roman views)
  - Considering the lack of formal education available to women the prohibition was acceptable in its time and place

## Conclusions

- Actively support women who are called by God and gifted by the Holy Spirit for servant leadership
- Provide examples of women serving in the church for young leaders

## Conclusions

- Include the voices and stories of women of all colors, races, and cultural contexts
- Lovingly challenge systems that reinforce the fallen structures of oppressive patriarchy and work towards justice and reconciliation (#metoo, #churchtoo)
- Pray for women leaders