

HIS & HERS



Learning from the Gender You're Not

Part 1: Learning Together as Humans

Part 2: Learning Together as Friends

Part 3: Learning Together as Family

Part 4: Learning Together as the Church

Part 5: Hot Seat Sunday - bruxy@themeetinghouse.ca

INTRODUCTION – “Therefore...”

Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Peter 4:10

Implications For Church Life

CHURCH CULTURE...

- Christ-followers are called into a familial experience with other believers as genuine brothers and sisters.

1 Timothy 5:1-2

- THEREFORE... We will change our attitudes and approaches toward the gender we're not to better align with Scripture. Family first. Friends and romantic interests come next.

CHURCH STRUCTURE...

- Churches should organize themselves to reflect the reality of spiritual family, where brothers and sisters, wealthy and poor, Jew and Gentile, young and old, single and married, the hurting and the happy, all experience home life together.

Galatians 3:28

- THEREFORE... We will prioritize mixed gender opportunities for fellowship and partnership (i.e., Home Churches) over gender-restricted groups.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP...

- The Spirit falls equally on all.
- The Spirit gives his gifts according to HIS choice.

Acts 2:17-18

1 Corinthians 12:11

- The Kingdom of Christ is developmental from the inside-out, not legislative from the outside-in. Therefore, it will not take the shape of an immediate and forceful social reform movement, but will plant seeds of truth and freedom within every culture.

Mark 4:26-29; Luke 13:18-19

The Principle of Accommodation.

Romans 12:18-13:12; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 2:12-17

Acts 16:1-3; 21:17-26

- The Principle of Accommodation says: “Do not focus on trying to change those things that cannot be changed at this time in this culture (e.g., slavery, patriarchy, etc.). Rather, focus on transforming the relationships within these structures based on all you know about the loving way of Christ.”
- The strategic reasons for maintaining a patriarchal structure in the church in the first-century no longer apply to our culture today.
 - THEREFORE we will continue to be intentional about having men and women working together in all levels of church leadership.

BUT WHAT ABOUT?...

- Doesn't the fact that Adam was made before woman mean that he is the leader?
- Doesn't the fact that Adam named Eve show his authority over her? (**Genesis 2:23; 3:20**)
- Doesn't **Genesis 3** say the man will “rule over” the woman?
- Doesn't Israel show a pattern of patriarchy?
- Doesn't the fact that Jesus was male and chose only male apostles show that God intended men to lead the church?
- Doesn't Paul teach that only men can be overseers? (**1 Timothy 3**)
- Doesn't Paul teach that women should keep silent in church? (**1 Corinthians 14:34-35**)
- Doesn't Paul teach that the husband is the head of his wife? (**Ephesians 5:21-33**)
- Doesn't Paul use the deception of Eve as a warning to make his point, suggesting that his teaching transcends human culture? (**1 Timothy 2:11-15; 2 Corinthians 11:3**)
- If egalitarianism was God's ideal, why didn't the first-century church implement it immediately?

CONCLUSION – We Are FA-MI-LY

1 Timothy 5:1-2

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

- Talk about your reaction to the following quotes...
 - Allan Pease: *Because men and women view things differently, it makes sense to have both sexes represented at all levels of leadership in our social institutions.*
 - John Piper: *To the degree that a woman's influence over man is personal and directive, it will generally offend a man's good, God-given sense of responsibility and leadership, and thus controvert God's created order.*
 - John G. Stackhouse, Jr.: *In the Bible we see an affirmation of the equality of men and women that should issue eventually in the abolition of patriarchy. Yet we also see a temporary and culturally conditioned accommodation to patriarchy pending the changed social circumstances in which patriarchy can be done away.*

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

- Review the six passages associated with the Principle of Accommodation listed in the notes. Discuss how each passage A) contributes to our understanding of the Principle of Accommodation. B) applies to the issue of women in church leadership in the first century. C) applies to the issue of women in church leadership in our culture today.
- Discuss how the Principle of Accommodation would apply in the case of missionary work and church planting in a strict Muslim country.

SO WHAT?...

- What are some ways churches in our culture could do a better job at helping men and women relate to each other as brother and sister and to learn from the gender we're not? Are there ways The Meeting House as a whole and/or your Home Church in particular can improve in this area?

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 26, 2008