

There is No Gender When it Comes to Authority

Relevant Verses

Genesis 2:18-23, Galatians 3:28, I Timothy 2:8-15

Key verse:

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

Introduction

Q: Ask your group for examples where they were not taken seriously because of their age, or they saw others not taken seriously because of their age.

✓ Examples

- “You won’t understand until you are older.”
- “You are just a kid, what do you know?”

Q: Ask your group for examples where they were not taken seriously or told your opinion didn’t matter because of their gender.

Take a survey with the following question:

Q: How many of you have been taught or seen situations in church where women can’t be leaders or have the same level of authority as a man?

Say something like:

“The mindset that women have less authority or have limitations to the type of leadership positions they can hold is unfortunately very common in the church. Today we are going to examine this situation biblically, and we will show that this is an incorrect mindset.”



Tip:

As the facilitator, you may want to establish the concept that we should never stop learning about God’s nature. In other words, the tradition of restricting leadership of women in the church is just that, a tradition. Too often churches continue down a path because “that’s the way it’s always been done.” You might want to bring up Proverbs 25:2, and discuss the fact that we should be continually searching out God’s truth.

Exploring the Word – Phase 1

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Read Genesis 1:26-28

- The Hebrew word used for man in this passage is a-dam, which means mankind. Therefore when this word is used it is describing the entire species of mankind, not the male gender.
- Notice that this passage specifies that God created male and female.
- Notice that verse 28 explains that God gave both male and female dominion.

Exploring the Word – Phase 2

Q: Ask your group if any of them were taught that God saw that man was lonely and therefore created woman as a companion for him?

A: This is a common misconception, but not how the bible lays out the scenario. However consider how the account of man and women's creation is played out:

- 1) The first chapter of Genesis gives a full account of creation. It starts by stating that God created the heavens and the earth. It concludes with God looking over everything he created including man and woman and He considered it very good. The second chapter of Genesis "zooms in" on the creation of mankind, which was part of the sixth day of creation.
- 2) We understand from Genesis 1:26-28 that God planned to create man and woman the moment he decided to create mankind.
- 3) The more detailed account of mankind's creation helps give us an understanding of why only one person was put on earth at the start.

Read Genesis 2:18-20

Here is the order of events:

God declares that it is not good for adahm to be alone. (Gen 2:18) – God declares that he will make a help – succor for him. (Gen 2:18) – God brings all the animals to adahm to be named (Gen 2:19) – A helper – succor was not found for adahm. – God causes adahm to go to sleep

By reading this passage, we can see that God already knew that he was going to make man and woman. However, God wanted mankind to come to the understanding that it was alone, and would need help. It is only after mankind comes to this understanding that God puts adahm to sleep and splits adahm into man and woman.

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Follow-up Discussion

This is a good point in the lesson to help the group look at this topic from a different direction.

- ✓ Ask your group for examples of statements they have posted on Facebook, Myspace® or Twitter.



Tip:

Our goal here is to lead them into examples where they reveal that they post their feelings, talk about their relationships, or ask for advice. Be prepared to prompt the discussion with appropriate examples.

Read Psalm 1:1 and Proverbs 1:5

Point out that when we post our troubles or ask for advice online, we are sending that information out to the world. However, the bible tells us that we should be seeking wise counsel.



Tip:

This is a good time to facilitate a discussion on how to properly get help and advice. Perhaps you could talk about resources you have in your ministry for those who need help.

Conclusion

Read Philippians 4:8, and issue a challenge that group test everything that they say and type.

Read Proverbs 13:3

Ask the group for suggestions on how they would re-write Proverbs 13:3 to make it more modern. The goal is to update the word “lips” or “mouth”. Some examples would be to replace those words with Twitter, Facebook, Myspace®, and email.

Close in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads. Consider praying something like this:

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I repent of any time I said or typed anything that was ungodly and caused harm to others. Also, I repent for any time I sought counsel or advice from unwise or ungodly sources. God please help us to seek godly counsel. Also, Lord please help us to guard what we say in person or online so that we can be true reflections of your glory.