



Corbett Robertson – Sierra Community Church – February 27th, 2022

Is God Anti-Women?

What the Bible *actually* says about women

God's original design for gender was unique and unified

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26-27

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper (ēzer) suitable for him."

Genesis 2:18

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help (ēzer) come from? My help (ēzer) comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:1-2

"You are destroyed, Israel, because you are against me, against your helper. (ēzer)

Hosea 13:9

"Man's root problem from the fall leads to a frustrated idolatry of work, while the woman's lead to a frustrated idolatry of man."

Wendy Alsup, "Is the Bible Good for Women?"

Sin corrupts the partnership God designed for men, women and himself

Recognize the difference between DESCRIPTION and PRESCRIPTION in the Bible

Misunderstood in the Old Testament

Deuteronomy 21:10-14 - How do you explain this passage? Answer = Context

Misunderstood in the New Testament

1 Corinthians 14:33-33 - How do you explain this passage? Answer = Context

Paul's co-workers in Christ included women

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well. Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia. Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.

Romans 16:1-7

Jesus and women in the New Testament

"Amidst contemporary denunciations of Christianity as patriarchal and sexist, it is easily forgotten that the early church was so especially attractive to women that in 370 AD the emperor Valentinian issued a written order to Pope Damasus I requiring that Christian missionaries cease calling at the homes of pagan women... Most recognized that Christianity was unusually appealing because within the Christian subculture women enjoyed far higher status than did women in the Greco-Roman world at large."

Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*

Questions to consider this week:



1. Why is it a problem to read Bible verses apart from their greater context?
2. How is it helpful to understand the difference between descriptive and prescriptive stories in the Bible?
3. How would you answer someone who asked why the Bible (God) is anti-woman?

Follow up resources:

Is the Bible Good for Women?: Seeking Clarity and Confidence Through a Jesus-Centered Understanding of Scripture, Wendy Alsup
Paul Behaving Badly: Was the Apostle a Racist, Chauvinist Jerk? E. Randolph Richards, Brandon J. O'Brien

The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries, Rodney Stark