

I have a Q: Is Christianity Anti-Women?

Matt VanCleave

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REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will use reason and logic to love God with all of my mind.
- I will fearlessly and humbly follow the truth in every sphere, in every discipline.
- I will follow the truth wherever it leads, believing all truth is God's truth.
- I will live like I believe Jesus knew what's best for me.
- I will search my life to find those things that "I know better" about.
- I will show people God's love, not that I'm right.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

The question for this week is: Is the Bible anti-women? Matt will argue that honoring and valuing women came from the life and teachings of Jesus. And eventually the honor and value his community of followers had for women changed the course of history. Jesus and his community of followers changed the way we treat and welcome women.

Jesus broke through cultural and religious barriers to restore dignity to women. Jesus was the most approachable person in human history. There was an inclusivity about him, and he honored women in a way that drew them to him. This marked his relationship with every woman in his life. And it changed the way we view women today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do some people view Christianity as anti-woman?
2. How do you explain Paul's point of view against women's leadership in the Church?
3. Some people and denominations support prohibiting women from becoming ordained leaders, and they argue that it is in the Bible. What is your opinion on this and why?

4. We find multiple women who taught and governed Israel as prophets and judges in Scripture, such as Miriam, Deborah, Huldah, Noadiah, Anna, and more. Except for specific cases, for example the Corinthian Church, do you think it is in accordance with God's will to limit women's role in church?
5. The Early Christian churches were a radically progressive and accepting community which influenced many civilizations to bring positive changes to women's status. But why are Christian churches currently viewed as a place where women are not treated equally?
6. Jesus was born into the world where women were regarded as men's properties, had no rights of their own, and were regarded as not trustworthy to bear witness. How does Jesus's exchange with the Samaritan woman run counter to the culture of the time? How did it eventually change Christian's understanding of women's role and status?
7. All four gospels attest that the first people Jesus appeared to after his resurrection were women, and he said to them to spread the news and be his witness. What change did Jesus make to the world through this?
8. Pastor Matt said Jesus had radically changed people's view of women, and the world has not caught up to him yet. Please share with the group some examples of this from your own experience.
9. Jesus is very clear that women and men bear God's image and carry God's calling. Do you think Christianity is anti-women?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will support the gifts of women at Blue Oaks.
- I will honor and value women as Jesus did.
- I will cheer on the women in my life.
- I will pray for God to use the women of Blue Oaks to reach their full potential.
- I will be someone women can trust and rely on.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Luke 11:27-28
- Luke 10:41-42
- John 4:17-19
- Luke 8:1-3
- Luke 24:9-11

Prayer Request(s)
