

Both/And

Both/And Jesus

October 11, 2015

Pastor Mark laid out five prevalent views towards women and their authority in the church:

Traditional – “A Woman must be silent”

Male Leadership – “I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man.”

Plural – “Your sons and daughters shall prophecy”

Egalitarian – “There is neither...male nor female”

Feminine – “As woman came from man, so man shall come from woman”

1. Mark said that all five positions can be held by sincere Bible believing, Christians. If so, then why is there conflict over the question of the role of women in ministry? And how would you respond if another Christian questions your interpretation of scripture based on your view of the role of women in ministry?
2. Did you notice Mark's passion about this matter of women and their place in the church? What is your "emotional temperature" about this subject? Is your heart open or closed? Fearful? Excited to know more? Who cares? Why do you think you feel this way?
3. Mark mentioned that CCC does not have any women elders but does have women as advisors for the Governing Board. How do you think this affects the overall governance of CCC?
4. Mark read the statement from the President of the C&MA, John Stumbo, about expanding the role of women within the current C&MA position. What are some ways that you think the role of women in ministry could be expanded at CCC?

5. During Jesus' ministry on earth, Mark listed a number of "firsts" that involved women. Which one of these was the most compelling for you in elevating women? And why? Reread the biblical account of one or two of the "firsts" for women through the lens of 1st century customs and traditions. How does this change your understanding of what Jesus is doing? What the crowd is thinking? How the women are responding?
- FIRST lineage with women – Matthew 1
 - FIRST incarnation news -- Luke 1:32-5
 - FIRST miracle – John 2:1-11
 - FIRST Missionary – John 4:7-42
 - FIRST Gentile convert – Matthew 15:21-28
 - FIRST teaching about the resurrection – Martha John 11:23-27
 - FIRST witness of the resurrection – John 20:16
6. When Jesus died on the cross, he fulfilled the prophecy of Genesis 3:15 and thus reversed the curse placed on men and women in the Garden. How can the way you live join Jesus in redeeming what was lost between the relationships of men and women?