

Women of The Bible

Starting at the Beginning: Eve

Genesis 1:26 – 3:16

Introduction: Conflict in the Baptist World

- The issue of Women in Ministry.
- This series will study the stories of Women in Scripture.
- This series will take a comprehensive look at women in leadership roles in the Old and New Testament.
- Finally, this series will look at scripture that deals specifically with the role of Women in the church.

Therefore, we will begin with the study of Eve and then look at other women like Deborah the judge, different women prophets, Jesus and the women he encountered, Women in the New Testament church, and finally some of Paul's letters that dealt with this issue.

Ground Rules and Understanding:

1. Tier 1 vs Tier 3 Topics in Scripture

Example: Jesus is the Son of God vs. Divorce in the Church
Or, Resurrection of Jesus vs. role of Women in the church.

Disagreement about Tier 1 topics can impact our unity. Tier 3 topics should not create enemies within the community of Christ.

2. **Mercy** – Matthew 5:8 – We need to treat others with mercy. Even when we believe they are in the wrong or even if we believe that are in the middle of sin. Having a witness of Mercy for others is being a witness and example for Jesus Christ.

3. Rules:

- Allow the text to set the agenda. Many people interpret scripture through their own pre-determined believes.
- Be committed to the intention of the author.
- Be willing to have your minds changed by scripture.
- Respect those you disagree with.
- Avoid arrogance and self-righteousness.

Lessons Learned from Eve:

1. Both men and women are made in the Image of God. (Genesis 1:26-27)
2. Men and Women are to reign over the earth. (Genesis 1:28)
3. Helper is not a word that means assistant in Scripture. (Genesis 2:18)
4. Formed from the side of Man. (Genesis 2:21-23)
5. The result of sin in our world for Women. (Genesis 3:16)
 - a. Pain – Mental and Physical
 - Anxiety of getting pregnant.
 - Anxiety of carrying a child.
 - Anxiety of Giving birth.
 - Finally, the struggle of raising a child.
 - b. Desire for Husband is related to the desire to have children.

Important Question - Is the role of women a part of Creation or is her role the result of Sin in the world (The Curse)?

How you answer that question can impact your beliefs about the role of women. However, the strong desire of women to have children has placed Women in a dependent position with men throughout history. The partner who needs the other the most becomes dependent on the other.

Conclusion – The story of Eve is neutral concerning the role of women, except for their biological role of being a mother and the importance of being a mother.

The importance of Family and the commitment needed to have a functional family, is really the lesson that we learn from Eve. And this is a theme that we will see again as we study more about Women in the Bible.