

Book List: Complementarian/Egalitarian (and Gender) Issues

Version: June 2024

This is a list of books that address the complementarian/egalitarian debate and some other related issues. The books are divided into the categories listed below, and within the categories they are listed by author's last name.

Contents

View Perspectives	2
Broader Gender Theology.....	10
Ministry.....	12
Women in the Bible and History	13
Trauma and Hurt	18
Relationships, Purity Culture, Sex, etc.	20
Other	21

Complementarian	Written from a Comp perspective
Egalitarian	Written from an Egal perspective
View Argument	A book written primarily to defend a complementarian or egalitarian perspective.
In the Bible	Addresses the broader topic of women in the Bible
In Ministry	Addresses the topic of women in ministry including calling and roles from any perspective
In History	Addresses the topic of women in ministry including calling and roles from any perspective
Easy2Read	More easily readable than the standard technical academic writings.

Technical	Approaches their thesis from a technical academic angle
Personal	Is written from or includes an element of personal experiences and/or trauma.
Relationships	Concerns gender relationships broadly
Sex & Purity	Specifically addresses how gender debates and issues affect marriage and sex
Ancient Culture	Explores ancient cultural issues that affect our understanding.
Fiction	Fiction
Hurt & Trauma	Addresses the hurt and trauma that often occurs because of bad theology in this area.

View Perspectives

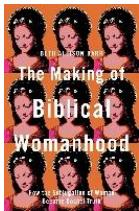
These books primarily address the underlying question of which view (comp/egal) is correct.

The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth

Beth Allison Barr

2021. Brazos Press

Egalitarian



Barr approaches the gender question from her perspective as a medieval historical, but also influenced by her personal experiences in her prior complementarian contexts. Though based on technical historical details, her approach is readable. She walks through how the church has changed its view of women throughout the centuries and how various things have affected gender theology. Keep in mind that she is responding to the specific and harmful form of complementarianism that she experienced. Some complementarians argue that the comp. she is arguing against is not their version. (Though I have yet to see evidence to support that.)

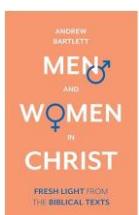
[View Argument](#)

Men and Women in Christ: Fresh Light from the Biblical Texts

Andrew Bartlett

2019. SPCK

Complementarian



Bartlett approached the topic of the comp/egal debate seeking to weigh the arguments of both fairly, having not had come to any specific view himself. (He also addresses comp through a "softer" comp view that is not as extreme as the stereotypical Grudem/Piper approach.) Throughout the book (394pp!), he weighs the arguments of both and point out the evidence for and against. He ends up concluding that there is male headship in marriage, but not in women teaching or leading in the church.

Egalitarian

[View Argument](#)

Technical

Embracing Complementarianism: Turning Biblical Convictions into Positive Church Culture

Graham Beynon and
Jane Tooher

2022. The Good Book Co.

Complementarian

[View Argument](#)



Beynon and Tooher primarily address the question on how to live complementarianism well. They only touch on arguments for a complementarian perspective briefly. (It should also be noted that there are places where they briefly mention opposing views, but they only mention them vaguely and not in a way that fairly represents them.) When they touch on support for the comp perspective, they only do so on a surface level and ignore other issues. If you're looking for an in-depth defense of the comp perspective, this book is not that. But this book does a good job of exploring how to live out a complementarian theology while respecting and embracing the value of women.

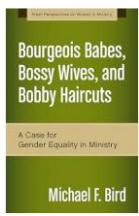
Bourgeois Babes, Bossy Wives, and Bobby Haircuts: A Case for Gender Equality in Ministry

Michael Bird

2014. Zondervan

Egalitarian

[Easy2Read](#)



In this small and short book, Bird proposes a defense of egalitarianism. Not intended to be exhaustive, this presents a brief proposal of how to read the debated passages and briefly notes why he holds the view he does.

Two Views on Women in Ministry (Revised)

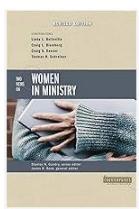
Craig Blomberg and
James Beck

2005. Zondervan

Complementarian

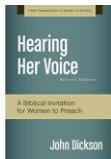
Egalitarian

[View Argument](#)



In the Zondervan Counterpoints series, this volume presents chapter argument for complementarianism and another on egalitarianism. Each argument chapter is followed by a chapter of the opposing author responding to the arguments. This is the closest you will come to a dialogue between the two views in print. Though the book does not include other views or variations within the two broad perspectives.

Hearing Her Voice: A Biblical Invitation for Women to Preach (revised)



John Dickson

2014. Zondervan

Complementarian

Easy2Read

Dickson, from a complementarian perspective, presents a brief argument for allowing women to preach.

40 Questions about Women in Ministry

Sue Edwards and Kelley Mathews 2022. Kregel



This book seeks to answer questions about women in ministry from both complementarian and egalitarian perspectives. They do a great job in providing concise discussions on the topics with a strong desire to be fair and accurate to the major views. They also acknowledge how difficult it is to explain complementarian views since there are a wide variety of complementarian views. Topics include questions about biblical passages and current issues.

Complementarian

Egalitarian

View Argument

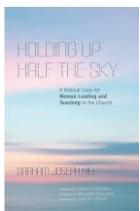
In the Bible

Technical

Holding Up Half the Sky: A Biblical Case for Women Leading and Teaching in the Church

Graham Joseph Hill

2020. Cascade



In this short book, Hill argues persuasively for the inclusion of women in ministry and leadership in the church. In addition to pleading his case, he also proposes practical ways the church can embolden women to serve and lead. The 'Biblical Egalitarian Manifesto' in the appendix is a well-crafted summary of the issues.

Egalitarian

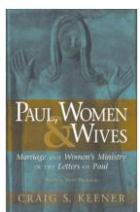
View Argument

Easy2Read

Paul, Women, and Wives: Marriage and Women's Ministry in the Letters of Paul

Craig Keener

1992. Baker Academic



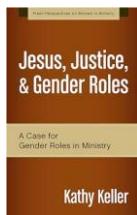
Keener's volume, is one of the earlier volumes that defends an egalitarian reading of scripture. As a New Testament and Greek scholar, Keener presents technical arguments (relying on solid exegetical data) for the full equality of women with men in the life of the Church and the life of Christ.

Egalitarian

View Argument

Technical

Jesus, Justice, and Gender Roles: A Case for Gender Roles in Ministry



Kathy Keller

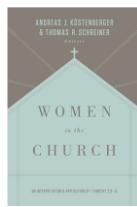
2014. Zondervan

Complementarian

Easy2Read

As a companion to the Bird book above, in this short book, Keller presents a case for complementarianism. This is written by the wife of Tim Keller. (Personally, I found this book to be condescending in tone to those who disagree with this view, and relying on many assumptions about those who disagree.)

Women in the Church: An Interpretation and Application of 1 Timothy 2:9-15 (3rd edition)



Andreas Köstenberger
and Thomas Schreiner

2016. Crossway

Complementarian

View Argument

Technical

In this volume edited by Köstenberger and Schreiner, six chapters argue the technical debates of the complementarian perspectives of 1 Timothy 2. This volume gets into technical debates on the Greek lexical items, syntax, and hermeneutical approaches.

Neither Complementarian nor Egalitarian: A Kingdom Corrective to the Evangelical Gender Debate

Michelle Lee-Barnewall 2016. Baker Academic

View Argument



Lee-Barnewall proposes, what she believes, is a third position in the complementarian/egalitarian debate. She argues that the issue is not authority or headship which is the cornerstone of mainstream complementarian views. But she allows for the possibility that some roles could be reserved for men alone (she refuses to conclude either way on this issue). She uses scripture to argue that leadership is about responsibility (not authority, power, or headship) and *servant* leadership. Both sides of the traditional debate will likely find areas of discomfort in her view. And egalitarians are likely to conclude that she presents a soft complementarian view. But, regardless, she does not argue for or against any role distinctions between the genders. And the theology of sacrificial leadership should be something that everyone should be willing to agree with.

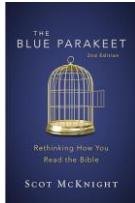
The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read (2nd edition)

Scot McKnight

2018. Zondervan

Egalitarian

[View Argument](#)



This book primarily addresses the broader interpretation/hermeneutical issue of how you read the Bible in relation to culture and time. The last section of the book (six chapters) addresses the issue of women in the church. After walking people through the challenge of how to read the Bible well, McKnight argues that reading the Bible well leads to an egalitarian reading.

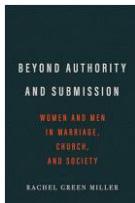
Beyond Authority and Submission: Women and Men in Marriage, Church, and Society

Rachel Green Miller

2019. P&R Publishing

Complementarian

[View Argument](#)



Miller presents a “softer” approach to complementarianism. She holds to male only ordination and male headship within families, but beyond that she argues for the needed and important role of women in marriage, church, and society. She presents a view of men and women working together with a focus on authority and submission, which (she argues) has twisted things greatly.

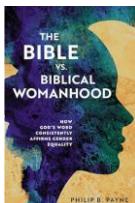
The Bible vs. Biblical Womanhood: How God’s Word Consistently Affirms Gender Equality

Philip Payne

2023. Zondervan

Egalitarian

[View Argument](#)



Payne walks through the major passages on the gender issue providing an argument for the egalitarian view. This book is less daunting than Westfall’s book. He continually points to the text and the underlying Greek. He also writes specifically against the complementarian viewpoint advocated by the Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

Why Can't Women Do That?: Breaking Down the Reasons Churches Put Men in Charge

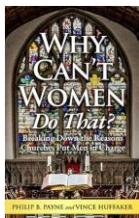
Philip B. Payne

2021. Vinati press

Egalitarian

[View Argument](#)

Easy2Read



This relatively thin book (170pp) covers the breadth of scriptures key in the argument. The writing is easy to read and concise. It is a good overview of the issues without providing an overwhelming amount of details and data. This could be a good introduction to the egal perspective, but if you need more details, other books such as the Keener or Westfall books may provide what you are looking for.

Rediscovering Scripture's Vision for Women: Fresh Perspectives on Disputed Texts

Lucy Peppiatt

2019. IVP Academic

Egalitarian

[View Argument](#)



Peppiatt's approach to exploring the role of Women in the Church focuses on the gender question affects women and what it communicates about the nature of God, and how the theology of the trinity influences how we should understand the role of the genders. At only 160 pages, this easily readable volume provides a good foundation on theology and specific scripture passages.

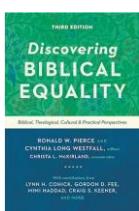
Discovering Biblical Equality: Biblical Theological, Cultural, and Practical Perspectives (2nd edition)

Ronald W. Pierce (ed.)

Egalitarian

[View Argument](#)

Technical



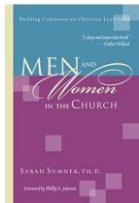
This massive tome is a compilation volume that is a pinnacle of research on egalitarianism. The scriptures at the center (and even edges) of the debate are addressed in rigorous and faithful detail. This is followed by chapters on theological arguments, then cultural arguments, then practical applications.

Men and Women in The Church: Building Consensus on Christian Leadership

Sarah Sumner

2003. IVP

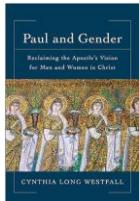
[View Argument](#)



Sumner shares her understanding of the gender debate by walking people through the complex issues and verses. Her conclusion claims neither complementarian nor egalitarian stances. She focuses on mutual submission and mutual exaltation. She also refuses to answer the question of what women can and cannot do in the church, though she does support women preaching, but any position on roles is unstated.

Paul and Gender: Reclaiming the Apostle's Vision for Men and Women in Christ

Cynthia Long Westfall



This is a dense (370pp!) and heavily technical book that I cannot recommend highly enough if you are looking for technical. Westfall presents a compelling argument for egalitarianism by taking scripture very seriously and providing an immense amount of support for her conclusions. Be prepared to encounter Greek within the book as she walks through the issues, but even if you do not know Greek, you can still follow her arguments.

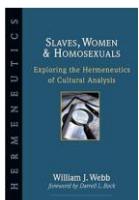
[Egalitarian](#)

[View Argument](#)

[Technical](#)

Slaves, Women, & Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis

William Webb

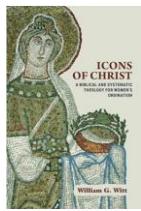


Webb's volume is not technically a view book on the complementarian/egalitarian debate. Rather, he proposes a "redemptive hermeneutic" in which he shows how the Bible supports the end of slavery, even though it seems to be approved of in earlier portions. He then argues that the same trajectory of women is visible in the Bible (that women are not limited). And then he shows how scripture does not use a similar trajectory to remove the sin of homosexuality, but continues to affirm its status of homosexual acts as a sin.

[Egalitarian](#)

[Technical](#)

Icons of Christ: A Biblical and Systematic Theology for Women's Ordination



William Witt

2021. Baylor

Egalitarian

In History

Technical

This technical book argues specifically for women's ordination. It is oriented towards the debate between the protestant and catholic view of ordination and women. He ultimately concludes that both men and women serve as icons of Christ and thus both may be ordained.

***I know I should include the Piper and Grudem book that, in a way, "started" the surge of complementarian teachings. After all, you should read from all perspectives. But I cannot in good conscience in any way recommend that book. I hold out hope that the other complementarian books are better than that volume.*

Broader Gender Theology

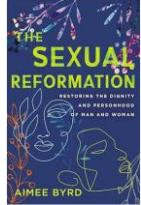
The Sexual Reformation: Restoring the Dignity and Personhood of Man and Woman

Aimee Byrd

2022. Zondervan

Sex & Purity

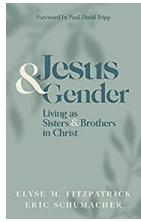
Relationships



Byrd addresses the question of gender relationships through a look at the Song of Solomon. She uses a midrashic hermeneutic that may make those trained in grammar-translation hermeneutics uncomfortable. She approaches the question of the two genders not with a list of roles, but as a love song, communicated through the poetry of the Song of Solomon.

Jesus and Gender: Living as Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Elyse Fitzpatrick & Eric Schumacher 2022



The goal of these authors is to focus on unity between the genders in the mission of the Church, instead of defending a view in the broader debate. (Though, they do mention the debates, but only to show how both have problems and in some ways they aren't that different.)

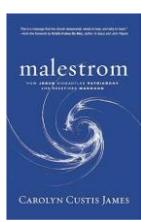
Malestrom: How Jesus Dismantles Patriarchy and Redefines Manhood (revised)

Carolyn James

2022. Zondervan

Egalitarian

View Argument



This book argues that patriarchy (and its forms) distorts what God intended and that the focus on men as power holders creates a toxic environment. The approach includes examinations of theology, sociology and cultural issues. And in the process, it examines both what it means to be a man and the crises that patriarchy creates for men.

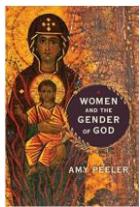
Women and the Gender of God

Amy Peeler

2022. Eerdmans

Egalitarian

Technical



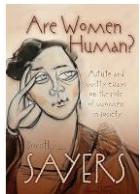
Peeler's volume affirms the maleness of Jesus Christ (who is fully God and fully man), but not the maleness of God. Yet, she also argues strongly that God the Father should be called "Father," not because of any gender element but because he is the one who "begot" Jesus. She argues strongly that God is never sexualized. Peeler also argues for a deep respect for Mary, as the mother of Jesus, and the value of women in the Church and the need to speak out against the "destructive idolatry of masculinity."

Are Women Human? Penetrating Sensible, and Witty Essays on the Role of Women in Society

Dorothy Sayers

2005. Eerdmans

Easy2Read



A short collection of essays/presentations by Dorothy Sayers (1893-1957) that is well worth reading. For a short sample:

"Perhaps it is no wonder that the women were first at the Cradle and last at the Cross. They had never known a man like this Man...A prophet and teacher who never nagged at them, never flattered or coaxed or patronized; who never made arch jokes about them...who took their questions and arguments seriously...never urged them to be feminine or jeered at them for being female...and no uneasy male dignity to defend..." (p. 68)

Non-Toxic Masculinity: Recovering Healthy Male Sexuality

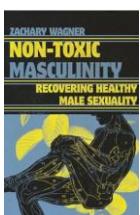
Zachery Wagner

2023. IVP

Personal

Sex & Purity

Hurt & Trauma



Wagner addresses the "other" side of the issue that often gets ignored – how gender debates and poor gender theology has affected our understanding of what it is to be male. He examines how harmful theology that often finds a home within some purity culture teachings has harmed men and he proposes a theology of masculinity based in Jesus and his teachings.

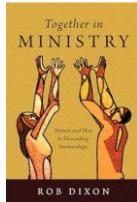
Ministry

Together in Ministry: Women and Men in Flourishing Partnerships

Rob Dixon

2021. IVP Academic

In Ministry



Dixon explores the question of how men and women can work together in ministry. He does not answer the underlying comp/egal debate question. However, he is careful to push all people, regardless of view, to consider how to partner well with the opposing gender to accomplish God's mission in the world. He presents many practical and realistic steps that all should listen to and consider.

Worthy: Celebrating the Value of Women

Elyse Fitzpatrick and
Eric Schumacher

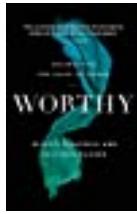
2020. Bethany House

Complementarian

Easy2Read

In Ministry

Relationships



This is a good book for women whose complementarian background taught them that women are not valued by God or the church. This volume walks through how the Bible reveals that God sees women as worthy and valuable. Something many women have never heard.

Buried Talents: Overcoming Gendered Socialization to Answer God's Call

Susan Harris Howell

2022. IVP Academic

In Ministry



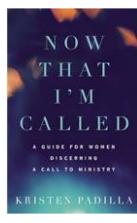
Howell explores how women have been socialized away from responding to God's call in their lives when it doesn't fit assumptions on what a woman's call should look like. She also provides specific steps to help women consider how to respond when they feel God's call.

Now that I'm Called: A Guide for Women Discerning a Call to Ministry

Kristen Padilla

In Ministry

Easy2Read



Writing without taking a stance on the comp/egal debate, Padilla provides a helpful and practical look at how women can respond to God's call regardless of where they stand women's roles. This book is easy to read and practical, offering encouragement to women who are often overlooked and not supported in their callings.

Women in the Bible and History

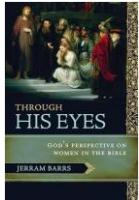
Through His Eyes: God's Perspective on Women in the Bible

Jerram Barrs

2009. Crossway

Complementarian

In the Bible



Baars discusses women in the Bible, and shows how their stories reveal how God respects women and discusses their value in the role of salvation history. His analysis often follows traditional readings of the women (e.g. assuming the woman at the well is a sinner) he also includes other assumptions that fail to recognize realities about the women (e.g., assuming Esther chose to vie to become a concubine). But other than those issues, Baars meets his goal of speaking positively of the women.

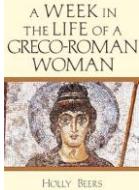
A Week in the Life of a Greco-Roman Woman

Holly Beers

2019. IVP Academic

Ancient Culture

Fiction



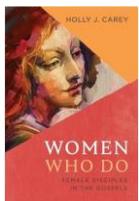
For a great change of pace, this little fiction book is a great way to shift your perspective on what life was like for women in ancient Rome.

Women Who Do: Female Disciples in the Gospels

Holly Carey

2023. Eerdmans

In the Bible



Carey examines how women are presented as models of discipleship within the four gospels and Acts. Through the examination, she concludes that the women are held up as examples of faithful discipleship, often serving as foils for the male disciples who struggle and falter.

Christian Women in the Patristic World: Their Influence, Authority, and Legacy in the Second through Fifth Centuries

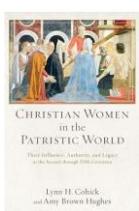
Lynn Cohick

2017. Baker

Egalitarian

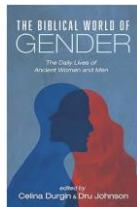
Technical

In the Bible



In each chapter, Cohick, focuses on a woman from history, drawing out her life and contribution to the Church and its mission. Her research shows how women served as preachers, philosophers, martyrs, and in many other ways. It focuses on how their life contributed to the life and theology of the Church.

The Biblical World of Gender: The Daily Lives of Ancient Women and Men



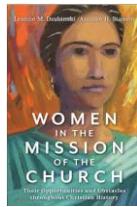
Celina Durgin and Dru Johnson
2022. Cascade Books

Egalitarian

Ancient Culture

This short volume includes chapters from several scholars who explore evidence on historical gender roles in the ancient world, and then within the Bible. It touches on many difficult passages, including the misunderstood Deuteronomic laws that are often (wrongly!) taught that women must marry their rapists.

Women in the Mission of the Church: Their Opportunities and Obstacles throughout Christian History



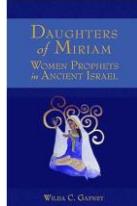
Leanne Dzubinski and
Anneke Stasson
2021. Baker

In History

Easy2Read

These two authors walk through history (early church, middle ages, reformation) showing how women and their ministry has been central to the Church's work. This book seeks to balance the oft' taught male-centric history of the Church, where women only play background roles.

Daughters of Miriam: Women Prophets in Ancient Israel

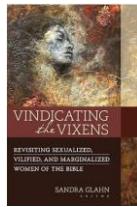


Wilda Gafney
2008. Fortress Press

In History

This book explores the role of female prophets in ancient Israel and the Ancient Near east. It also includes a look at rabbinic views of female prophets.

Vindicating the Vixens: Revisiting Sexualized, Vilified, and Marginalized Women of the Bible



Sandra Glahn
2017. Kregel

Complementarian

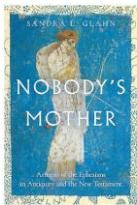
Egalitarian

Technical

In the Bible

This volume brings together both complementarian and egalitarian scholars to defend and set free the women of the Bible from being unfairly maligned. These researchers not only defend the women but provide evidence to support to the women as honorable and faithful. The women explored include Hagar, Deborah, Vashti, Bathsheba, and Junia.

Nobody's Mother: Artemis of the Ephesians in Antiquity and the New Testament



Sandra Glahn

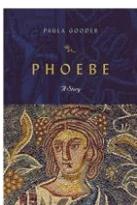
2023. IVP Academic

Technical

In History

Glahn explores the meaning of the 1 Timothy 2:15 passage about women being saved through childbearing. This statement was tied to Artemis of the Ephesians. In this book she walks through the historical understanding of who Artemis was and why 1 Timothy is absolutely not saying that women need to be mothers to be saved.

Phoebe: A Story



Paula Gooder

2018. IVP Academic

Fiction

Gooder imagines what life was like for Phoebe in this novel. Her imaginative telling of Phoebe's story is founded upon historical and cultural research, which she provides at the conclusion.

Tell Her Story: How Women Led, Taught and Ministered in the Early Church



Nijay Gupta

2023. IVP Academic

Egalitarian

In the Bible

In History

Easy2Read

In this volume, Gupta walks through a few key examples of women in the Bible, and then women leaders in the early church. This book helps people see the women that are often overlooked and to see how their lives and faithfulness contradict the common complementarian teachings.

Finding Phoebe: What New Testament Women Were Really Like



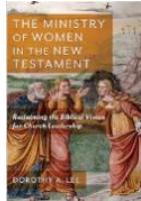
Susan Hylen

2023. Eerdmans

In History

This short book examines the social context of women in the first century Rome. Hylen examines issues within the categories of wealth and property, social influence and status, expected virtues of women, and speech and silence. While this volume does not directly address the gender question, it does provide foundational research for understanding the context for the Biblical texts.

The Ministry of Women in the New Testament: Reclaiming the Biblical Vision for Church Leadership



Dorothy A. Lee

2021. Baker Academic

In the Bible

This volume explores women in the New Testament. Lee's goal is to show how women play essential ministry roles throughout the scripture itself, through the gospels and pastoral epistles.

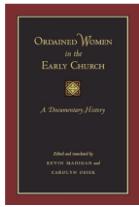
Ordained Women in the Early Church: A Documentary History

Kevin Madigan

2011. John Hopkins Univ.

In History

Technical



Madigan uses rigorous methodology to research the ordination of women in the early church, careful to note things such as what ordination meant for the early church versus today's church. She first examines key passages (Rom 16, 1 Tim 3 and 5) in patristic teachings. She then walks through the key evidence for female deacons and presbyters through the 6th century. She looks at what the women did and how the Church received them.

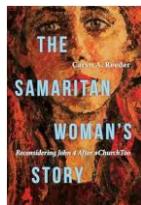
The Samaritan Woman's Story: Reconsidering John 4 After #ChurchToo

Caryn A. Reeder

2022. IVP Academic

In the Bible

In History



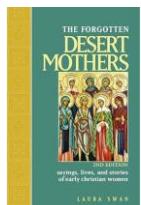
This book calls into question how the Samaritan's Woman story is so commonly taught in the Western Church today. Reeder shows why there is no evidence to support the oft' taught view that she was an adulteress or even a prostitute. But, rather, a woman that had lived a harsh life and a woman to whom Christ chose to reveal his true identity. *You can also listen to a podcast of the author talking about the woman [here](#). (Highly recommended!)*

The Forgotten Desert Mothers: Sayings, Lives, and Stories of Early Christian Women

Laura Swan

2022. Paulist Press

In History



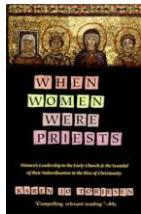
This volume explores the lives of early Christian women who were the counterparts of the commonly known "Desert Fathers." This book helps fill in the gaps often left from Christian history approaches that commonly leave out the women of Church history.

When Women Were Priests: Women's Leadership in the Early Church and the Scandal of Their Subordination in the Rise of Christianity

Karen Torjesen

1995. Harpers Publishing

In History



Torjesen provides evidence of how cultural perceptions of women bled into the church and limited what the church allowed women to do. It includes topics such as patronage, views of sexuality, honor, and marriage. A great benefit of this book is the large number of block quotes from early sources that allows the audience to read the early views for themselves. The book concludes that outside forces and perceptions of women bled into the church causing the subordination of women.

Trauma and Hurt

Created to Thrive: Cultivating Abuse-Free Faith Communities



Elizabeth Beyer

2021. CBE International

Hurt & Trauma

This resource seeks to help pastors and leaders learn how to respond well to abuse and make their churches a safe space. The book seeks to help people identify the problem as well as learn how to address it.

Recovering from Biblical Manhood and Womanhood



Aimee Byrd

2020. Zondervan

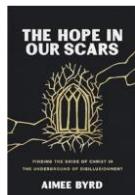
Complementarian

Personal

Hurt & Trauma

Writing this book as a complementarian, Byrd urges the church to consider the harm in their theology. She does not urge the end of complementarianism, but the reform of it so that both men and women are discipled well.

The Hope in Our Scars: Finding the Bride of Christ in the Underground of Disillusionment



Aimee Byrd

2024. Zondervan

Personal

Hurt & Trauma

Byrd writes, in this book, in hope of recovering from scars inflicted by the church. She writes from a perspective of trauma caused by church hurt that was in large part gender related. This book is not a how-to book on how to recover, rather an opportunity to walk with Byrd through her pain and the truth of God that has helped her continue to love the church with hope while recovering from what the church has done to her.

We Too: How the Church Can Respond Redemptively to the Sexual Abuse Crisis



Mary E. DeMuth

Hurt & Trauma

DeMuth provides a careful but strong voice calling the Church to respond well to the repent sexual abuse that occurs within the Church. She helps people understand the breadth of the problem and how churches often ignore and downplay the problem. She also provides direction on how to stop the abuse and support victims.

The Woman They Wanted: Shattering the Illusion of the Good Christian Wife

Shannon Harris

2023. Broadleaf

Hurt & Trauma

Sex & Purity

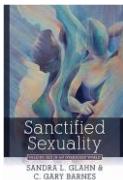


This is a heartbreakingly honest biography from the ex-wife of Joshua Harris (well-known author of *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*.) This is the story of hurt and pain as she was encouraged (and submitted) to contorting herself into a limited theology of what women could and should be. The harm was/is real and deep.

Relationships, Purity Culture, Sex, etc.

Sanctified Sexuality: Valuing Sex in an Oversexed World

Sandra Glahn (ed) 2020. Kregel Academic



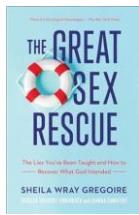
Each chapter of this book addresses a variety of topics concerning sexuality including things such as gender in creation, gender expression, adolescent sexuality, celibacy, and marital sex. Though this book does not address the comp/egal debate it addresses areas of theology deeply impacted by bad theology in that area. This book is written by both comp & egal people.

Sex & Purity

Technical

The Great Sex Rescue: The Lies You've Been Taught and How to Recover What God Intended

Sheila Wray Gregoire 2021. Baker Books



In this book, Gregoire addresses a very difficult and sensitive topic that is often a point of extreme pain for women. Bad gender theology often ends up with women being taught that only men matter in sex, and to accept abuse and/or pain as the norm. Gregoire argues against such horrible teachings. Though she focuses on the experiences of women, men should also read it.

Sex & Purity

Hurt & Trauma

She Deserves Better: Raising Girls to Resist Toxic Teachings on Sex, Self, and Speaking Up

Sheila Wray Gregoire 2023. Baker Books

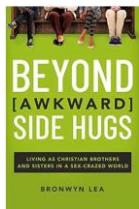


Gregoire does not address the broader gender issue, but this book is highly related to the gender debate. Many versions of gender theology end up teaching bad theology about women (and also men). In this volume Gregoire provides a solid foundation on how to raise girls to have a healthy perspective and theology about themselves and their gender and sex.

Sex & Purity

Relationships

Beyond Awkward Side Hugs: Living as Christian Brothers and Sisters in a Sex-Crazed World



Bronwyn Lea

Relationships

Easy2Read

Relationships between the genders often falls victim to unhealthy gender theology. This is especially common when gender theology relies heavily on hierarchy. In this book, Lea seeks to help people think through how men and women should relate to each other based on a healthy theology of gender relationships.

Talking Back to Purity Culture: Rediscovering Faithful Christian Sexuality



Rachel Joy Welcher

2020. IVP

Sex & Purity

Hurt & Trauma

Easy2Read

Though not directly related to the comp/egal debate, a closely related topic that is affected by one's gender theology is that of sexual purity. Welcher seeks to help people think through harmful theology that is commonly taught in purity cultures and to work through how to rethink what purity is and is not.

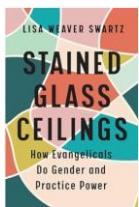
Other

Stained Glass Ceilings: How Evangelicals Do Gender and Practice Power

Lisa Weaver Swartz

2020. Rutgers U. Press

Technical



This book examines the reality of Gender and Power in the Church, specifically theological institutions – in both complementarian and egalitarian spaces. Swartz examines how in both schools that she researched (Southern Baptist Seminary and Asbury) power was created and given to male leaders and imbalances of power between genders were a problem regardless of gender theology.

Podcasts and Websites

Center for Biblical Equality

<https://www.cbeinternational.org/>

Egalitarian



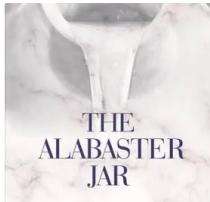
This organization's website includes easy to access resources that include a broad range of styles including academic articles and blog articles. They also have book reviews, audio, and many other resources, as well as recommended books. Searching their site on verses or issues that you want to research will lead you to some good, easy to access, resources

The Alabaster Jar Podcast

[Apple Podcast Link](#)

[Spotify Podcast Link](#)

Egalitarian



This podcast, hosted by NT Scholar Dr. Lynn Cohick discusses topics related to women in faith, theology, and ministry. I cannot recommend this podcast highly enough. If you want a good episode to start with, I recommend the one on the Samaritan woman of John 4: [here](#).

The following podcasts do not only address gender issues, but do cover the issue in some episodes.

Kindavangelical with Pete Briscoe

[Apple Podcast Link](#)

[Spotify Podcast Link](#)

Egalitarian



Some episodes of this podcast address the Egalitarian/Complementarian issue. As I am creating this edition of the file, he is in the middle of episodes addressing patriarchy and his experiences with it in as a pastor of a big church, where he also confesses to his failures in this area.