

Discussion Notes

All for One: Women, Men and Mission

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Leanne McAlister

We began by asking: what does it mean to be a woman? Throughout history women have been understood in different ways. Examples: the temptress, the fragile moral guardians, sometimes objects and second-class citizens. Today it is confusing to be a woman. It needs careful examination.

What is the role of women in the Church? (an basic egalitarian framework)

- Genesis 1 and the Creation account.
- Both genders made in God's image.
- Both bear traits of God as evidenced in much of scripture elsewhere (Is 49. 15, Deut 32.11, Luke 15.8-10, Ps22. 9-10, etc).
- The Genesis command in 1.28 to "be fruitful and multiply" is about more than procreation, it is about leading creative and productive lives as we steward the earth together.
- The word for woman in the this account is helper, or "ezer" – one who shares, assists, particularly when there is lack. It is a strong word sometimes used for God in the scriptures.
- After the fall, all human relationships are fractured and the story between men and women becomes about power and domination.

Jesus' restoration of God's intended way

- The cross brings healing between God and us and God and each other.
- Jesus gives us (as he continually elevates women) a clear vision for community life involving both genders.
- Joel 2 – God's Spirit is given for all people, gender, ethnicity and class aside. An indiscriminate outpouring.
- Matthew 28 – the commission for all to all.
- Jesus shows us a new way to see and use power!

Discussion Questions

- What did you learn from this teaching?
- How were you encouraged, inspired or challenged?
- What implications arise from what we heard from Sunday?
- How do the sexes work well together? Can you share examples?