All For One: Women, Men and Mission (Part Two)
Darcy and Leanne McAlister
June 12

We began with recapping from June 5 and part one of our two part series.
- In the creation story of Genesis 1 we find a man and women both made in God's image.
- They are given the command to be fruitful and multiply – to fill and govern the earth. This command goes beyond procreation but extends into fruitful and flourishing living.
- Woman is created as an "ezer" for man, or helper. This is a strong term that denoting one who can make up the lack left by another. God is called "ezer" a handful of times in the Old Testament, so it is not a weak or subsidiary term.

Men and Women Need One Another
- God's original plan is seen in Genesis 1.
- Human rebellion (sin) got in the way.
- Jesus harkens back to God's original plan, renewing, restoring and creating a new covenant.
- Holy Spirit affirms this in his work done in Acts. This was foreseen in Joel 2.
- Paul also affirms this in Galatians 3.28 and Romans 12.6-8.

There Are Obstacles
- Social structures.
- Biblical illiteracy.
    - The texts many stumble over need to be properly considered.
    - Texts like those found in 1 Corinthians or 2 Timothy shouldn't necessarily be applied liberally as they don't concur with the trajectory of the biblical narrative in regards to women. They are highly contextual.
- Women, who need to be called into maturity to live their call.
- A lack of male endorsement.

What Can We Do?
- Pray.
- Listen to one another's stories.
- Model, promote and celebrate shared leadership.
- Do the theological work.

Reading List:
Why Not Women? (Hamilton, Cunningham)
Half The Church (Carolyn Custis James)
Slaves, Women and Homosexuals (Webb)
Women's Service in the Church (Wright)

Discussion Questions

What stood out to you in this discussion? What did you learn?
How can men and women support each other in the context of Christian community?
Should all women and men always be expected to fulfill the same roles? Why or why not?
How do we decipher who should preform what role?