

July 11, 2021

The Question Behind the Question:

- Read as an encyclopedia, the Bible seems to clearly _____ female leadership. (1 Corinthians 14:32-35; 2 Timothy 2:12)
- As gender equality becomes more normal in our culture, this position has become an _____ to many.
- This makes it especially important that we ask: is this _____ what the Bible says?

The Bible as an Encyclopedia

- The “encyclopedia passages” are not actually as _____ as we think. (1 Corinthians 14:33-40; 1 Timothy 2:11-15)
- There are passages about _____ in the Bible (that are _____ by some translations). (Romans 16:1, 7; 1 Timothy 3:3-13)
- The Bible does not actually have a _____ on women in leadership in the church. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

The Bible as a Story

- God called many women to be _____ and _____ in Israel.
- Jesus always _____ and _____ women in his ministry. (Luke 8:43-48, 10:38-42; Matthew 15:21-28; 28:10)
- The New Testament church was full of _____ women.

Conclusions:

- The focus of the Bible is not on a _____ to follow, but on a _____ to live out.
- The story of the Bible includes many gifted women called to _____ and _____ in many ways.
- Our job as a church is to discern how to faithfully _____ that story in our own _____

Discussion Questions

1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- If the Bible was an encyclopedia, what topics would you want it to include?
- Did you come to this sermon with a position on women in leadership? Where did that position come from?

2. Into the Bible (Read Acts 2:1-4, 14-21)

- Who was present in the room when the Holy Spirit descended? (Check Acts 1:12-14 and Luke 8:1-3).
- Peter quotes from the Book of Joel. Who did Joel say was going to receive the Holy Spirit, according to verse 17-18?

- What role did the women play in fulfilling the prophecy of Joel?

- Why do you think God specifically included women the prophecy about Pentecost?

3. Going Deeper

- If the Bible is a story to live out rather than a rulebook to follow, how does that change the way we use the Bible?
- Why do you think we try so hard to turn the Bible into a rulebook?
- How can we faithfully live out the story that includes women like Deborah, Phoebe and Junia?