

FOREWORD

Who in the world would want to join in the volatile, personal, sensitive, and always colorful gender debate? Why risk being misunderstood? Why put your neck on the line to be accused of chauvinism, feminism, ignorance, or worse?

Well, Jaye Martin and Terri Stovall have jumped in with both feet and I am glad they did. They are both clear complementarians who care about the home and the church. Both have extensive ministry experience and care deeply about women leading women. And both love the Word of God and want to see more and more women conform to it as they fulfill a Titus 2 ministry in the local church.

My role with the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood over the last eight years has taught me the difficulty of defending the complex biblical and theological nuances of the gender debate, while at the same time trying to express clear points of application for men and women in the home and church. Over the years I have been most criticized when I have tried to detail matters of application based on what I believe are the parameters of the complementarian position. Someone always disagrees. Yet if we do not continue to make these attempts, the gender debate will end up merely being fodder for discussions in seminary cafeterias.

What one believes about gender will naturally dictate the practice of ministry in myriads of situations. So we must continue to attempt to positively articulate the practical outworking of our understanding that men and women are equal in the image of God, but different in role and function according to the good plan of God.

This is why I am happy to commend this book – by women, for women – as a step in the right direction for complementarian women asking questions about what it looks like for them to serve in the local church. The authors understand that while there are clear parameters for ministry based on gender, there are hundreds of ministry opportunities for women to teach and lead other women in a Titus 2 fashion.

Thank you Jaye and Terri for sticking your necks out, opening yourselves to much criticism, and for helping Christian women take some steps in understanding and embracing the high call of leading other women.

April 2008

Randy Stinson, Ph.D.
President, Council on Biblical manhood and Womanhood
Dean, School of Leadership and Church Ministry
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Women Leading Women by Jaye Martin and Terri Stovall
978085447606 9x6x.85 \$29.99 retail