



Men Need Liberation, Too!

THIS ARTICLE IS AN INVITATION to my fellow men ... to first look to our own attitudes and behavior so we can be freed to join women in mutual celebration and service in the kingdom of God. Can we help each other be liberated:

- From society's stereotypes of what we should be?
- From a need to control others?
- From patterns of thought, attitude, language, and behavior that demean, patronize, or do not take women seriously?

... Men have usually defined the shape and dynamics of power between men and women. For the emerging redefinition we will need to listen and to learn.... Servanthood has too often been a way for men to talk piously about the nature of our service, while retaining most of the positions of power. The fact that we deny that we are using "power" when doing the work of the Lord is only another indication of how blind we are to the realities experienced by many women.

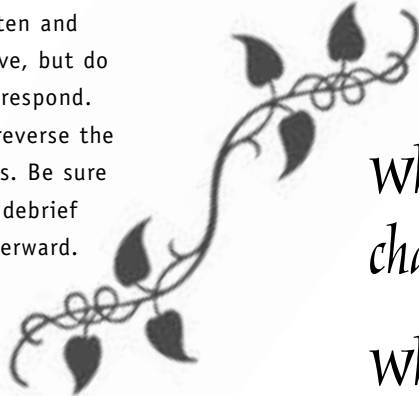
Can we learn that giving up and letting go can also be liberating? That we can discover a new kind of energizing power as we empower each other as women and men? —Edgar Metzler

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Circle Time

Try this experiment:

Invite women to sit in an inside circle and share about their experiences in the church. Meanwhile, the men sit in an outer circle and listen and observe, but do not respond. Then reverse the circles. Be sure to debrief afterward.



*What we choose
changes us.*

*Who we love
transforms us.*

*How we create
remakes us.*

*Where we live
reshapes us.*

*So in all our choosing,
O God, make us wise;*

*in all our loving,
O Christ, make us bold;*

*in all our creating,
O Spirit, give us courage;*

*in all our living
may we become whole.*

—Jan L. Richardson

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R E S O U R C E S

EQUAL TO SERVE: WOMEN AND MEN WORKING TOGETHER REVEALING THE GOSPEL, BY GRETCHEN GAEBELEIN HULL. BAKER HOUSE, 1998.

PAUL, WOMEN AND WIVES, BY CRAIG S. KEENER. HENDRIKSON PUBLISHERS, 1992.

"WOMEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: A MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURAL VIEW" BY KENNETH E. BAILEY, *THEOLOGY MATTERS*, VOL. 6, NO. 1, JAN/FEB 2000. AVAILABLE AT WWW.THEOLOGYMATTERS.COM