Workshop on Men and Women in Partnership for the Gospel

OVERVIEW

In a football/soccer game, no team would only utilize half its players. Yet in the church, beliefs and practices often sideline many of God’s workers. Not only do women lose something, but men lose something as well. Tragically, with reduced laborers, the broken world also loses.

This issue network, Men and Women in Partnership for the Gospel, seeks to advocate, explore, and provide tools to enable both men and women to navigate their cultural contexts, examine Scriptures with honesty and surrender, and discover how they can live out kingdom relationships on earth in ways that give freedom to the Spirit to call, empower, and release both men and women to use all their gifts for God’s mission.

Culture screams so loudly that sadly, often the church reflects the fallen world rather than God’s intentions. The biblical foundation for partnership begins with the triune God who relates eternally as co-equal in power, authority, and will. The Trinity serves as the ideal model for human relationships. God’s perfect design for shared dominion and mutual responsibility was marred at the Fall. But just as the cross of Jesus allows the possibility of a restored relationship with God, the cross also allows the possibility of a restored relationship between men and women as God intended. Jesus actually prays for his followers to ‘be one as we are one’.

Our issue network encourages the global church to empower both men and women to use every gift God gives, regardless of gender. This model requires humility and courage from both men and women. Yet, in the process:

1. God’s image bearers reflect his character of self-giving love and unity.
2. Humble men join their strong sisters.
3. Courageous women walk alongside their bold brothers.
4. God’s kingdom advances against Satan’s plan of divisiveness and abuse.
5. Entire lost communities can see, hear, and experience the good news of Jesus, the Reconciler.

It’s a ‘Win-Win-Win-Win-Win’ situation!

Our issue network is a developing body of solid, theological practitioners passionate about multiplying male and female laborers for God’s mission. Some in our network represent large organizations, others direct grassroots ministries. They include leaders from the East, West, North, and South, from churches, non-profits, urban and rural ministries, authors, bloggers, and multiple denominations and generations. We all want practical answers with deep biblical roots to help the whole church fulfill its purpose.

If you want to live out kingdom relationships that look different than the world, if you want to expand the worldview of your church members, if you want to see both men and women released exponentially, you are invited to join!
RESOURCES

Lausanne Foundational Statements, sections on men and women partnering in the gospel
  •  [Lausanne Covenant, 1974](#), section 5 on Christian social responsibility
  •  [Manilla Manifesto, 1989](#), Affirmation 14
  •  [Cape Town Commitment, 2010](#), section II-F-3

Presentations from The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization (Cape Town, South Africa, 2010)
  •  Claydon, David and Robyn.  ‘Men and Women: Husband Wife Partnership’. The potential and challenges associated with husband and wife teams working together in evangelistic ministry.
  •  Gill, Deborah.  ‘Men and Women: Making Room for Female Leaders in the Broader Body of Christ’. Historical discussion regarding the challenges facing female leaders within the Body of Christ.
  •  Hamilton, David.  ‘Men and Women: Partnerships in the Leadership of Ministry’. Realities associated with developing and maintaining men and women in leadership positions for evangelistic ministry.
  •  Segraves, Chad and Leslie Neal.  ‘Partnership – Men and Women’. Commitment to interdenominational facilitation of partnerships among least reached peoples and to full partnership of men and women based on gifts.
  •  Werner, Elke.  ‘Integrity – Men and Women’. The church must model the relationship between men and women as intended by God.


Segraves, Leslie Neal.  ‘Women in Lausanne’. Vevey, Switzerland: Lausanne Movement, 2014.  [https://www.lausanne.org/content/women-in-lausanne](#). The engagement of women in the Lausanne Movement over the past 40 years as part of Lausanne’s 40th Anniversary celebrations.

George, Janet.  *Still Side-By-Side*. This [free downloadable eBook](#) addresses briefly many practical and theological issues. This resource is available in Amharic, Arabic, English, French, German, Haitian, Hindi, Khmer, Nepali, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, and Swahili.
QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Introductory Workshop

1. Based on some of the Lausanne documents and materials, how do you understand this issue contributing to the completion of the Great Commission?

2. What are the obstacles in your cultural context to men and women both using their gifts fully, regardless of gender?

3. Why do you think women (or men) are hesitant to use all their gifts in your context?

4. Why do you think men (or women) are hesitant for women to use all their gifts in your context?

5. Can you share a story when men and women released one another to use their gifts for God’s mission?

Advanced Workshop

1. Based on some of the Lausanne documents and materials, how do you understand this issue contributing to the completion of the Great Commission?

2. How have you seen the partnership of male and female serve as a radical example in the context of Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, atheism, tribal beliefs, and the post-Christian world?

3. How has the discussion of ‘gender roles’ and ‘men and women are “different but equal”’ vocabulary either decreased or increased God’s laborers among the lost?

4. What movements are happening currently in your context in regards to the collaboration of men and women for the gospel that can encourage and challenge the broader church?

5. Let’s dream . . . how might the unchurched or unreached in your area respond to the gospel if they witnessed men and women working together in unity through gift-based partnership?