

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Gifted, Called & Affirmed
Title: Prescription or Description?
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Text: Genesis 3:14-19
Date: January 6, 2019



DISCUSSION

- Observing what has been taking place related to the #metoo movement, what do you note about the state of male/female relationships in our society today? In what ways do you observe brokenness in how men and women relate, and what do you think are the root causes that lie at the heart of this brokenness (attitudes, misconceptions, cultural influences, etc.)?
- Read the following statement, which reflects on some of the realities of patriarchy within the bible, and share your reaction to it. What do you agree with? What do you disagree with? What other thoughts does it surface for you?
 - * *"The muting of the #MeToos of the Bible is a direct reflection of the culture of silence at work in our congregations. An assumption is woven into our sacred texts: that the experiences of women don't matter. If religious communities fail to tell stories that reflect the experience of the women of our past, we will inevitably fail to address the sense of entitlement, assumption of superiority and lust for punishment carried through those stories and inherited by men of the present." (Excerpt from "The Bible's #MeToo Problem," a New York Times Opinion article written by Pastor Emily Scott.)*
- On Sunday the following assertion was made: "A woman's destiny is not to find a man and join his story, she has her own story." Do you agree with that statement, and if so, what are some of the practical implications in living that out?
- Read Genesis 3.
 - * *"The statements of judgment for disobedience (Genesis 3:14-19) are descriptive ones of future realities, which involved a supremacy/subjection relationship between man and woman. These statements are not creation mandates; rather, the relationship of mutuality, partnership, and equality portrayed in Genesis 1:1-3:7 is now sadly marred by sin." David M. Scholer*
 - * Do you agree with the assertion made on Sunday that Genesis 3:14-19 is descriptive and not prescriptive? What is the basis of your conviction?
- Read 1 John 2:7-10; 3:11-24 (note the "Brother" or "Brother"/"Sister" language, depending on your translation, which indicates here a specific vision for followers of Jesus are to relate to

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Gifted, Called & Affirmed
Title: Prescription or Description?
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Text: Genesis 3:14-19
Date: January 6, 2019



DISCUSSION

one another).

- * In their book "Exploring Ecclesiology," Brad Harper and Paul Metzger state that the church is a *"community that is fundamentally eschatological, drawing it's future back into the present"*. In other words, the church is to be transformed more and more in the present into that which we will one day fully be as the people of God in New Creation. How do you imagine men and women will relate to one another in New Creation? What does that tell us about how men and women of the church should already relate to one another today?
- Whatever your view of women in church leadership, how do you think women could be more fully empowered in the context of South Abbotsford Church to bring their persons and gifting to bear on building up our church body and accomplishing our God-given mission?