

Women in the Ministry of Jesus

Galatians 3: 26 – 28.

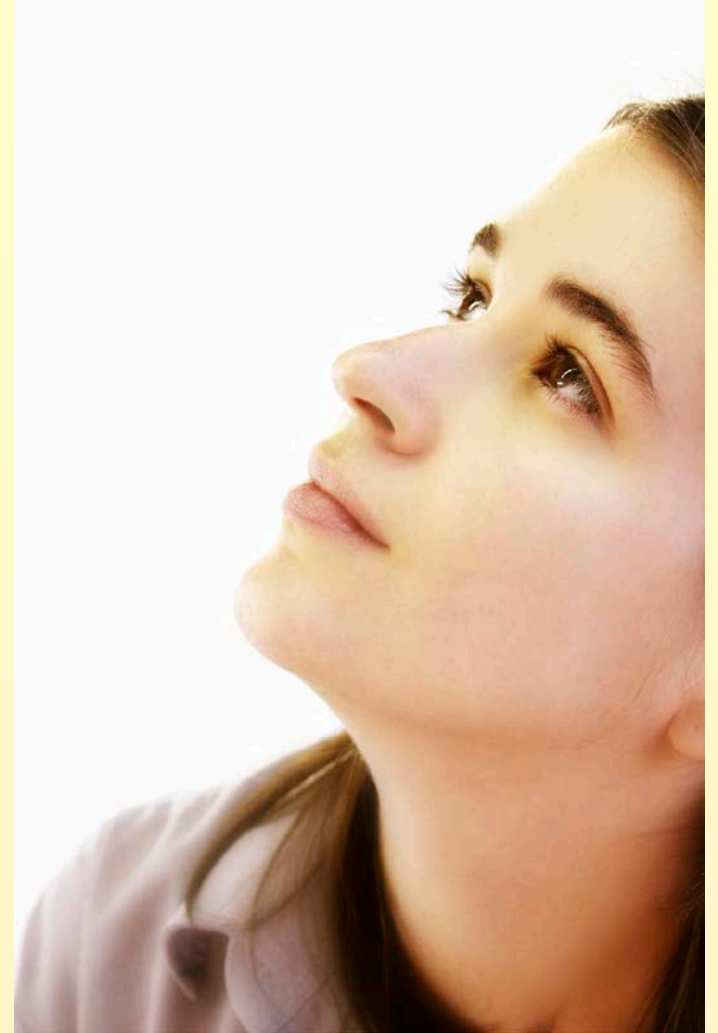


“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus... There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” Galatians 3: 26 - 28.



I. Introduction

The ministry of Jesus was to present God in the right way, to show His extraordinary love. At the same time Jesus helped men and women to become who they are: Children of God.



"Well, did she convince you? Ransom inquired.
"Convince me of what, sir?"
"That women are so superior to men."
"O deary me!" said Doctor Prance,
with a little impatient sigh;
"I guess I know more about women than she does."
"And that isn't your opinion, I hope,"
said Ransom laughing.
"Men and women are all the same to me,"
Doctor Prance remarked.
"I don't see any difference.
There is room for improvement in both sexes."
Henry James, *The Bostonians*, pp. 33.34.

“God Himself gave Adam a companion. He provided ‘a help meant for him’—a helper corresponding to him—one who was fitted to be his companion, and who could be one with him in love and sympathy. Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him. A part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, she was his second self, showing the close union and the affectionate attachment that should exist in this relation. ‘For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it.’ Ephesians 5:29. ‘Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one.’”
Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 46.

“His [Jesus’] actions and teachings raised the status of women to new heights, often to the consternation and dismay of his friends and enemies. By word and deed, he went against the ancient, taken-for-granted beliefs and practices that defined woman as socially, intellectually, and spiritually inferior. The humane and respectful way Jesus treated and responded to the Samaritan woman [at the well] (recorded in John 4) may not appear unusual to readers in today’s Western culture. Yet what he did was extremely unusual, even radical. He ignored the Jewish anti-Samaritan prejudices along with prevailing view that saw women as inferior beings.”

Alvin Schmidt, *How Christianity Changed the World*, p. 102 – 103.

"What women rightly long for
is spiritual and moral initiative
from a man, not spiritual and
moral domination."
John Piper

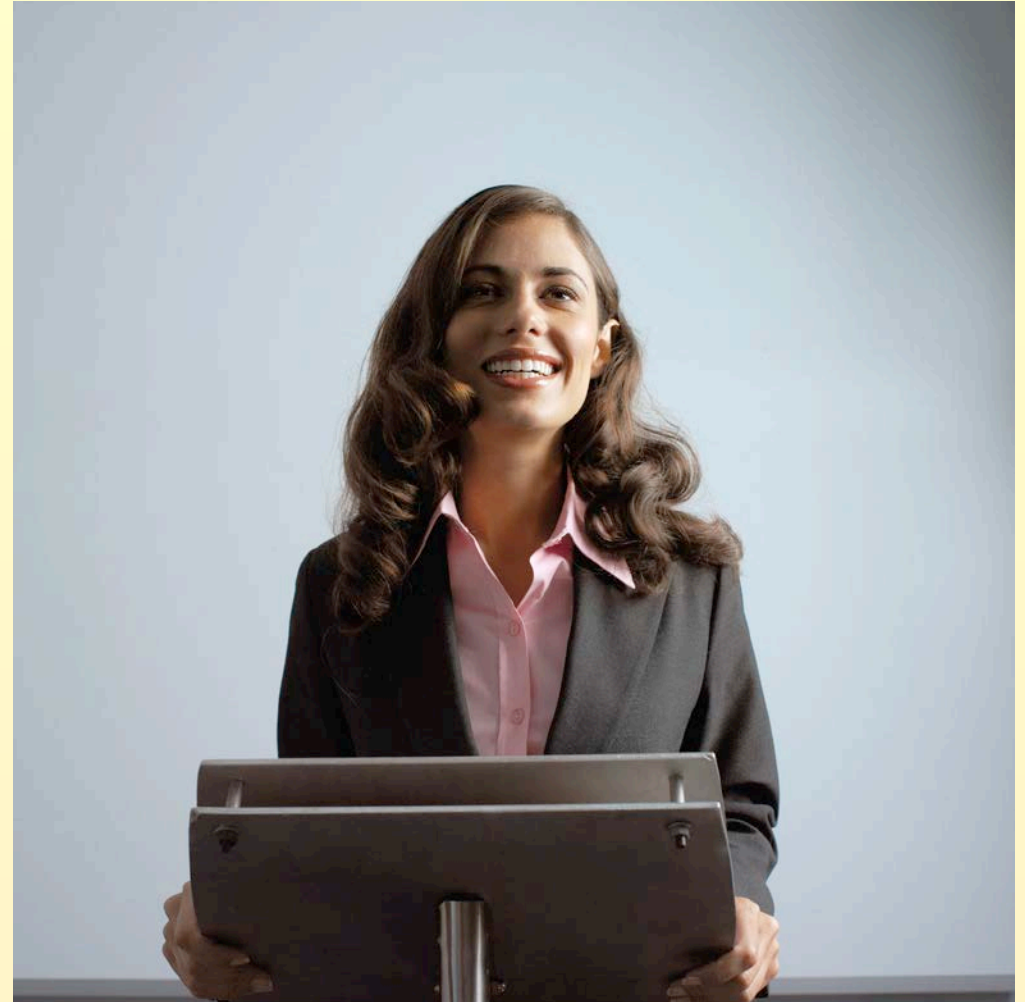


"I cannot tell you how much
I owe to the solemn word of
my good mother."
Charles Spurgeon



"A woman with a voice is by definition a strong woman. But the search to find that voice can be remarkably difficult."

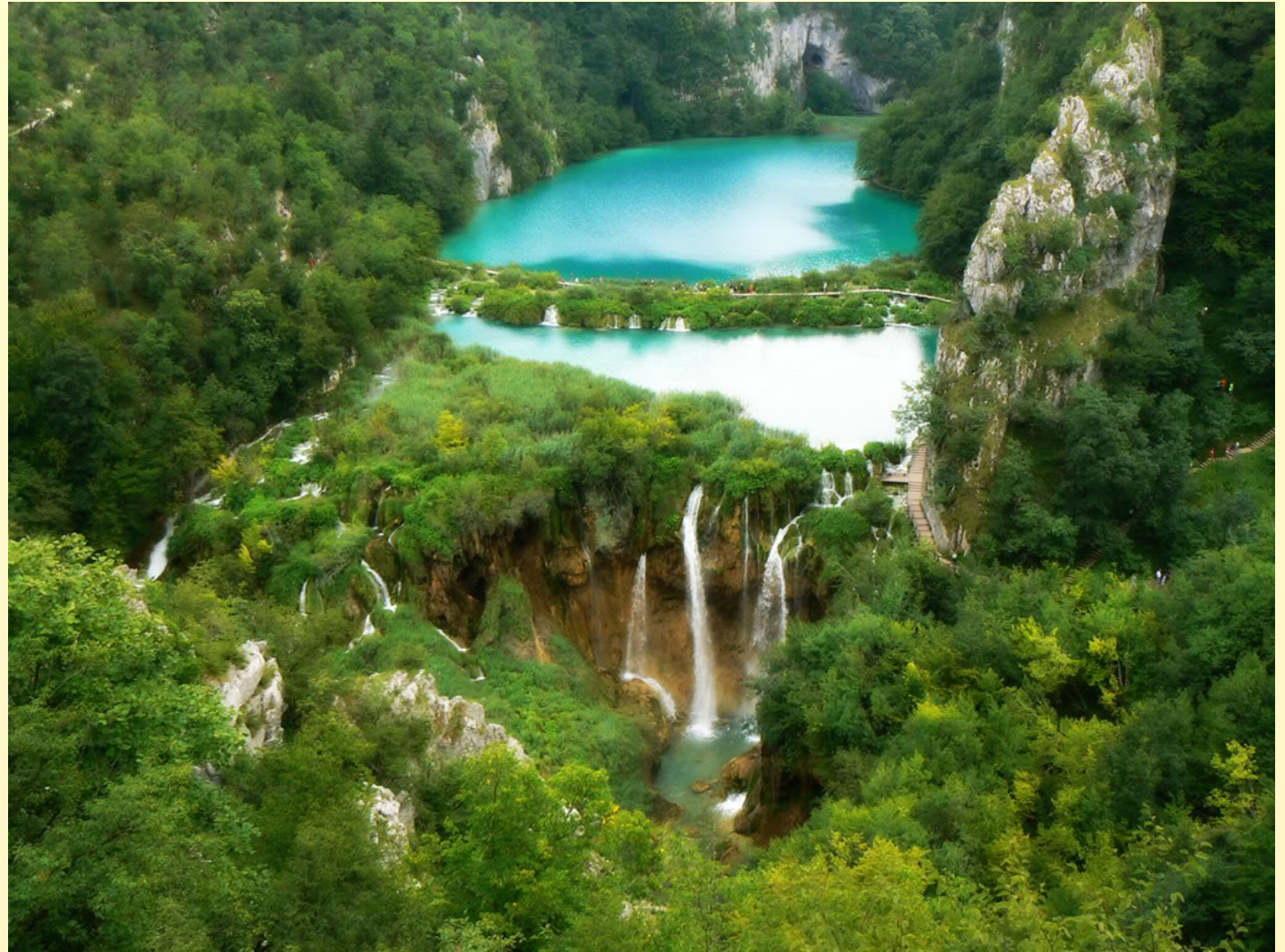
Melinda Gates



“He calls men to love their wives in the self-sacrificing way Christ loves the church. In a culture where a wife was property, and a disrespected piece of property at that, Paul elevates women to a position of honor previously unknown in the world.”
Sue Bohlin



II. Context



The Epistle of Galatians is presenting the major challenges that Paul is facing while preaching the Gospel to those who came to the Christian faith from among the Gentiles. He presentation of the Gospel affirmed that those who are uncircumcised in Jesus they have the same status as those who were circumcised. Some other Christian leaders from the Jewish background wanted to promote another Gospel: the salvation through works of the law and the circumcision.



The structure of the Epistle of Galatians

Intro.	1: 1 – 5	Salutation
PART I	1: 6 - 10	Challenge #1: THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST
	1: 11 – 2: 21	ANSWER #1: The Gospel means Justification by Faith and not by Works
PART II	3: 1 - 5	Challenge #2: THE GIFT OF SPIRIT (by Law or by Faith?)
	3: 6 – 4: 7	ANSWER #2: God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts
PART III	4: 8 - 11	Challenge #3: AFTER KNOWING GOD, TOUNING AGAIN TO BONDAGE
	4: 12 – 20	ANSWER #3: Christ has made us free
PART IV	4: 21	Challenge #4: CHILDREN OF SLAVERY OR OF FREEDOM
	4: 22 – 5: 1	ANSWER #4: Jerusalem above is Free
PART V	5: 2 - 4	Challenge #5: THE CIRCUMCISION
	5: 5 - 12	ANSWER #5: In Jesus Christ, only Faith Working through Love
PART VI	5: 13 - 15	Challenge #6: LIVING ACCORDING TO THE FLESH
	5: 16 – 26	ANSWER #6: Fruit of the Spirit
PART VII	5: 13 – 15	Challenge #7: CHURCH DISCIPLINE
	5: 16 – 26	ANSWER #7: Let Us Do Good to All, Especially to Those Who are of the Household of Faith
Concl.	6: 11 – 18	Summary and Benediction

Our verse is part of the second challenge that Paul is facing: **EQUALITY IN JESUS CHRIST**. As all Christians among the Gentiles were sure to receive the Holy Spirit, Paul is launching a thought-provoking idea: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith?



In this 2nd part of the Epistle, Paul insists three times on the importance of the Spirit:

“He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?” (3: 5)

“That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”
(3: 14)

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” (4: 6)

Gift of the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles by Faith and not by Work

#1

Promise of
Blessing
to
ABRAHAM

3: 8

#2

CHRIST
became
the Curse

3: 13

#3

CHRIST
has
Redeemed
Us from
the Curse
of the Law

3: 13

#4

Gentiles in
CHRIST

3: 14

#5

Gentiles
receiving
the Holy
Spirit
through
Faith in
CHRIST

3: 14

The structure of Galatians 3: 26 – 29.

A	3: 26	YOU ARE ALL SONS OF GOD Through faith in Christ Jesus
B	3: 27	YOU HAVE PUT ON CHRIST As many of you as were <u>baptized into Christ</u>
C	3: 28	There is neither Jew nor Greek, There is neither slave nor free, There is neither male nor female;
A'	3: 29	YOU ARE ALL ONE In Christ Jesus
B'	3: 29	ABRAHAM'S SEED AND HEIRS If <u>you are Christ's</u>

Therefore,
The Holy Spirit is for Jews and Greeks,
The Holy Spirit is for Slaves and Free,
The Holy Spirit is for men and women.



III. We are all ONE in Jesus Christ



1. Women are children of God in the same way as men

“For you are all sons of God
through faith in Christ Jesus...”



“Being a woman is a terribly difficult task, since it consists principally in dealing with men.”
Joseph Conrad



Jesus did not allow men to treat women as sexual objects. He advised them to control their own desires and to treat them with dignity
(Cf. Matthew 5:28).



"After all those years as a woman hearing 'not thin enough, not pretty enough, not smart enough, not this enough, not that enough,' almost overnight I woke up one morning and thought, 'I'm enough.'"

Anna Quindlen



2. There is no
discrimination in the
church. Especially not
regarding nationalities
“There is neither Jew nor
Greek...”



"She might be without country, without nation, but inside her there was still a being that could exist and be free, that could simply say I am without adding a this, or a that, without saying I am Indian, Guyanese, English, or anything else in the world."

Sharon Maas



“If you really have an open mind, you would surely discover that every race has some good and bad people in it. Therefore, it would be very unwise to condemn an entire race just because you encountered some negative minded individuals from it.”
Edmond Mbiaka

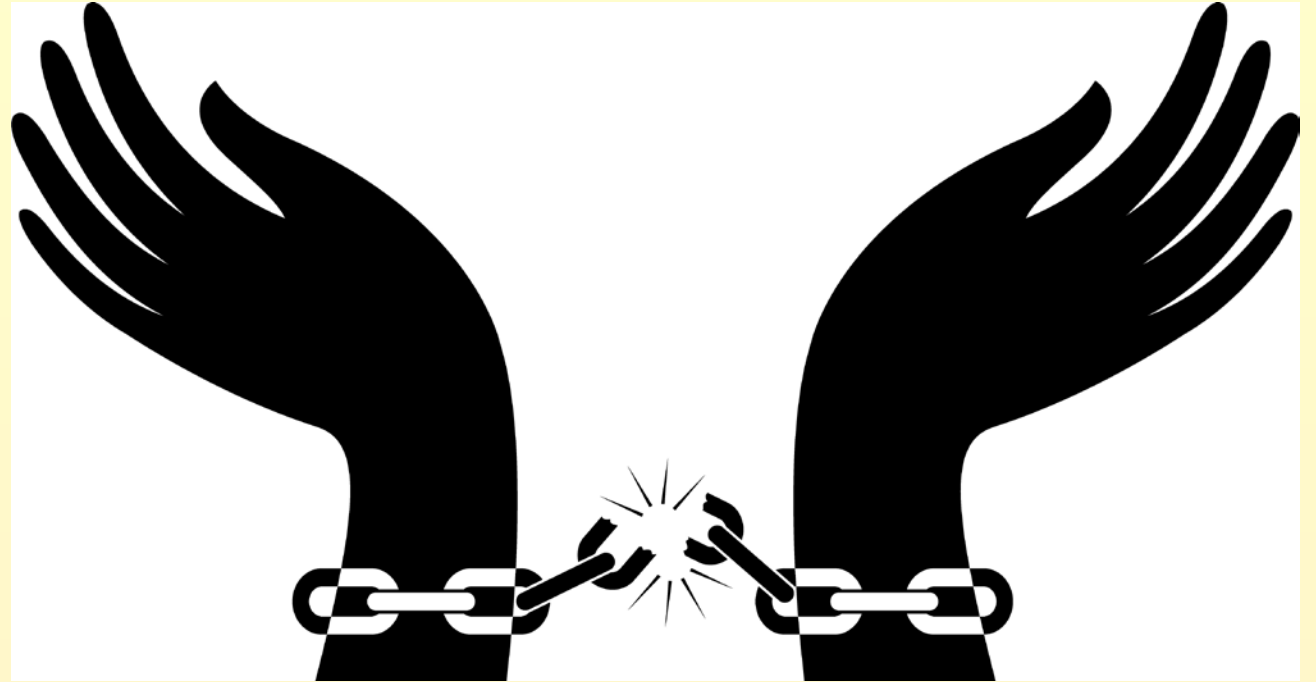


"You can't call yourself a university
and exclude whole ethnic groups."
Bobby Seale



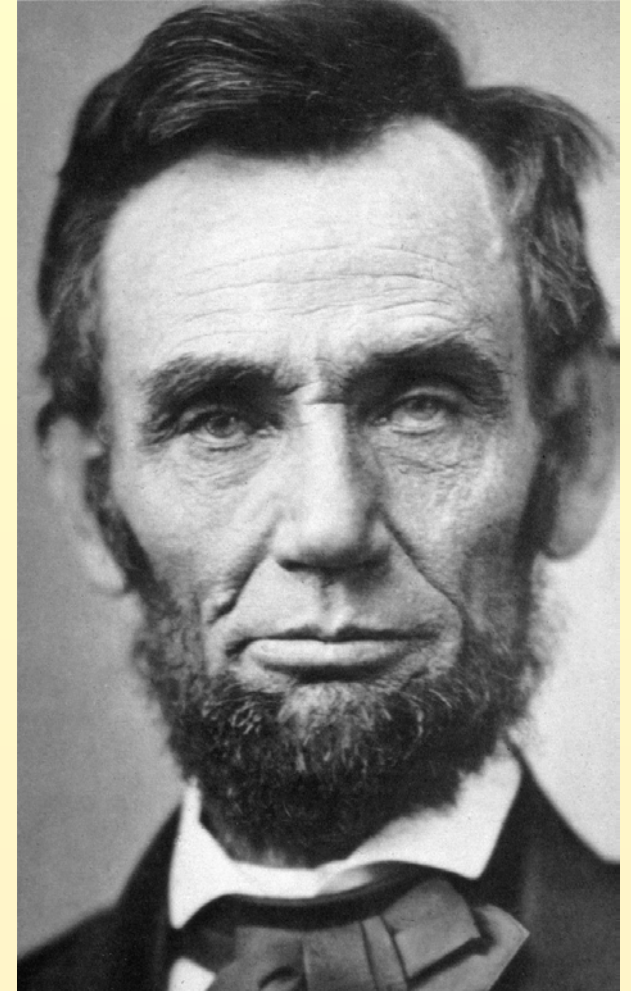
3. In Christ we are all free. There is no slavery for Christians

"there is neither slave nor
free..."



“Those who deny freedom to others, deserve
it not for themselves”

Abraham Lincoln,
Complete Works - Volume XII



“And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery—the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.”

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



“From a race of slaves the Israelites had been exalted above all peoples to be the peculiar treasure of the King of kings. God had separated them from the world, He had made them the depositaries of His law, and He purposed, through them, to preserve among men the knowledge of Himself.”

Ellen G. White, From
Eternity Past, p. 218.



V. Conclusion



"We may do a noble work for God if we will. Woman does not know her power. God did not intend that her capabilities should be all absorbed in questioning: What shall I eat? What shall I drink? And wherewithal shall I be clothed? There is a higher purpose for woman, a grander destiny. She should develop and cultivate her powers, for God can employ them in the great work of saving souls from eternal ruin."
Ellen G. White, 4T p. 642.



It is through the social relations that Christianity comes in contact with the world. Every man or woman who has received the divine illumination is to shed light on the dark pathway of those who are unacquainted with the better way. Social power, sanctified by the Spirit of Christ, must be improved in bringing souls to the Saviour. Christ is not to be hid away in the heart as a coveted treasure, sacred and sweet, to be enjoyed solely by the possessor. We are to have Christ in us as a well of water, springing up into everlasting life, refreshing all who come in contact with us.—Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 495, 496.

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