

A detailed black and white botanical illustration of a flowering branch, featuring small, clustered flowers and elongated, pointed leaves. The branch enters from the top left and extends towards the center of the page.

# 11 myths you were taught about women

MEGHAN TSCHANZ

A detailed black and white botanical illustration of a flowering branch, similar to the one in the top left, featuring small, clustered flowers and elongated, pointed leaves. The branch enters from the right side and extends towards the bottom center of the page.

# 01 TO BE DESCRIBED AS A "HELPER" MEANS WOMEN ARE SUBORDINATE TO MEN

A lot of conversations about the identity of a Christian woman come from Genesis 2:18. It has been translated “I will make a helper fit for him.” But what exactly is a helper?

Historically that’s even been translated as “help-mate,” presenting us with an image of a 1950s housewife. One who watches the children, bakes the pies, and has dinner ready for her husband by the time she gets home. She is docile, she is submissive, and she is silent.

But the Hebrew word for “helper” is ezer—one that we’ll see carries more weight than the typical image of a woman simply helping a man with whatever vision they have.

The word ezer is used 21 times elsewhere in the Old Testament; most notably to describe God.

For instance, Psalm 121, “I lift my eyes unto the hills, where does my help come from?” The word for help used, here again, is ezer.

So, we in the 21st century might regard “help” as meaning subordinate, or as being someone lesser than, or not as capable. But the Jewish people would not regard their God Yaweh as these things. Eve is described as ezer, something God is also described as being. From this we can conclude that it does not mean inequality or under, in the same way that God would not ever be subordinate to Israel.

So when you hear Ezer think of God's role in our life and remember that men and women alike are called to be like God, in whatever capacities we have been gifted.



# 02 GOD ONLY HAS MASCULINE QUALITIES

Because BOTH men & women are created in God's image, God has BOTH feminine & masculine qualities.

Notice how God describes Himself as acting like a MOTHER to His people in this passage:

"For this is what the Lord says: 'I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.'" // Isaiah 66:12-13

While many see God as a Warrior, He is also gentle, kind & compassionate—like a mother with her children.

Even Jesus says "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings."// Matthew 18:9

Therefore, the picture of “strength” and our God cannot be determined by the masculine or the feminine—but by the God who embodies BOTH.



# 03 THE BIBLE ONLY HAS MEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

If you've ever wondered about whether or not God values women's leadership, read about Deborah in Judges 4 & 5.

She wasn't just a woman featured in The Bible, but a woman with authority.

Deborah was a wife, a prophetess & LEADING Israel as a Judge.

“Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. // Judges 4:4-5

She wasn't silent. People came to her for guidance & wise judgments about major conflicts in society.

& throughout the rest of her story, we see her working WITH men, not against them, to save her people.

Emotion was not her enemy. It was her catalyst to great leadership.

She ACTIVATED others for the change she wanted to see & then in Judges 5 we see she rose as a MOTHER to her nation.

Never underestimate the power of adopting a nation or a neighborhood with a mother's heart—this isn't merely emotion, this is sacrificial leadership.

Because you don't have to have a biological child yourself to take up the cause of God's children.

You are rising up as powerful LEADING woman right where you are.



# 04 THE BIBLE SAYS ONLY WOMEN SHOULD SUBMIT

Who has heard that a woman's primary purpose is to submit?

For a long time now, women have been told to submit to men in everything. There are even some Bible teachers out there who have told women to submit to abusive husbands.

Friends, this is not God's plan. God calls us to be co-heirs and equals and outlined in the early chapters of Genesis.

Where many Christians get this teaching is from Ephesians 5:22, where it tells wives to submit to their husbands. BUT what most people don't know, is that in the verse just before Ephesians 5:21 it says "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

In this passage, Paul calls women and men alike to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. That is how this particular passage of text starts.

As Christians, we're called to love one another--this can look like submission. What is submission but listening and acting on another's behalf?

Christianity is a religion is one of giving up your power on behalf of someone else. We see God doing this throughout scripture.

As followers of Christ we are called to imitate him. So when someone says that wives ought to submit to their husbands, remind them that husbands ought to submit to their wives as well.

Because as Paul said, "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."



# 05 THE BIBLE ONLY PORTRAYS MEN AS THE PROVIDERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Often it is assumed that only men should take up the role of provider in the household. But this isn't actually biblical. The weight was shared.

Check out how "a wife of noble character" is described:

"She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. // Proverbs 31:13-20

This is to mention nothing of the countless women who supported Jesus financially and otherwise during his ministry.

God created women to play a strong role in not just childbearing; but business, hard work & generosity.

God never limited women, neither should the Church.



# 06 THE BIBLE HAS CLEARLY DEFINED GENDER ROLES

Have you ever heard of complementarianism? Or the belief that the Bible has clearly defined gender roles?

I knew I grew up being taught in Church that my only role as a woman was to have children and submit to my husband. I struggled with that teaching for a long time because I felt there was more to my calling than that.

When I discovered that the Bible actually called people to function in their giftings and not their "roles" it was revolutionary to me.

Let's first begin with the teaching on spiritual gifts that we see throughout New Testament.

1 Peter 4:10 says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

This shows us that we all have gifts, and they are not the same. Women are not given a certain set of gifts and men another, we both are given unique gifts.

And in Galatians 28, Paul even removes the distinctions between us: There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

If we have giftings that aren't gender specific, and on top of that we are all one in Christ Jesus, why should some believe that women aren't gifted to preach or lead?

In fact, we see many women throughout the Bible pushing past their gender roles of their heavily patriarchal culture.

Esther disobeyed her husband and saved a nation. Ruth broke societal norms with Boaz and became part of Jesus's line. Jael and plenty of other women also break with submission to do God's will, because they are submitted not to men, but to God.

Furthermore, we see Jesus completely dismiss patriarchal gender roles in the story of Mary and Martha. When Mary chooses to sit at his feet instead of functioning in the gender roles of that time, Jesus responds by saying "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

God calls us to function in our giftings, not gender roles culture has given us. What a liberating message!



# 07 THE BIBLE SAYS IT'S A WOMAN'S JOB TO KEEP HERSELF FROM BEING OBJECTIFIED

Often 1 Timothy 2:9-10 on modesty is used as a basis to say that women are the only ones responsible for their objectification.

First, that is a misunderstanding of the verse, for what Paul is referring to here is flaunting your wealth to gain social status and has nothing to do with anything sexual.

Furthermore, instead of holding women responsible for a man's lustful thoughts, the Bible tells men and women alike to be responsible for their own thoughts. Check it out:

"And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away" // Matthew 18:9

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. // Matthew 5:27-28

"Whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things."  
//Philippians 4:8

Women are not responsible for a man's thoughts or actions. Full stop.



# 08

## A STRONG WOMAN IS ONE WHO IS LESS EMOTIONAL

“Jesus wept.” —John 11:35

If you need a reminder that emotion & sensitivity is NOT a sign of weakness, simply look at Jesus.

In one verse, we are instantly able to understand that Jesus wasn't afraid to cry about what broke His heart.

And if Jesus, who fully embodies the strength & heart of God, wasn't afraid of emotion—why are we?

So often, women are touted as weak because of their emotions. However, emotions are what MOVE us to make a difference.

If our hearts were never moved, WE would never move at all.

We've got to stop fearing feelings. Emotions are what drive us to fearlessly love our people, start businesses & nonprofits, take care of strangers & ultimately do the H A R D things that matter to us.

My dear, your feelings are not something to fear. Let God work through them to make your true path CLEAR.



# 09

## SINGLE WOMEN ARE IN A SEASON OF WAITING

Society portrays singleness as a time of heart starvation, when it was really made to be a time of heart ACTIVATION. ••

Some churches and aspects of our culture often uses the term “waiting” for marriage as an excuse to be passive in our passions.

However, life starts now, not just in the context of relationships.

And while God designed marriage, He didn’t design it to be our sole focus, no matter how some churches or media outlets portray it to be.

What we really should be asking is: what is it that we are “waiting” on that Jesus hasn’t already supplied?

Waiting denotes that we aren’t feeling complete until we have something.

But God created you complete ALREADY in Christ:  
“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.” // Psalm 23:1

So, as COMPLETE women, let’s start WALKING into our purpose in Christ instead of WAITING for it to begin....because if you are breathing—it already has.



# 10 TO BE A STRONG WOMAN YOU HAVE TO BE MORE THAN JUST A MOM

No one is “just” a mom.

Sometimes motherhood is portrayed as something less valuable than a career...that if you're not in the corporate workforce, you're not working hard at all.

Or if you are a mom who works, you are often subjected to mom guilt.

Yet, behind almost EVERY person who has contributed to society is a very hard working mom that raised them up to be who they are.

As a result, the business world wouldn't stand without the prior busyness of moms.

The athletes of the Olympics largely wouldn't exist without the moms who first took them to practice.

We've got to stop talking about mothers in a way that makes them seem less-than. We've got to stop shaming their choices.

Because one of the biggest lies is that motherhood isn't that being a mother is unimportant.

No one is “just” a mom, but “just” a world changer—shaping the future generations one child at a time.

Let's not forget that it was the M O T H E R of Jesus that stayed faithfully with her Son all the way to the cross:

“Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.” // John 19:25



# 11 FEMINISM IS ONLY FOR WOMEN

If we are to work with God to create a better world for women, we need to do so with men. >> Unity in love is what changes the world, not superiority in divisions.

From the start, it's clear to notice that God uses the pronoun THEM, not just men, to describe a healthy world ideal:

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." // Genesis 1:27-28 .

It was never man vs. woman, but men & women rising up to make the world beautiful together.



SUBSCRIBE TO  
THE FAITH AND  
FEMINISM  
PODCAST TO GET  
ALL OF THE  
ABOVE AND MORE  
COVERED IN  
GREAT DETAIL

WANT  
MORE?

© meghantschanz 2019  
all rights reserved

