

Refuting unbiblical feminist ideologies in South African education

- Aims:
1. To share biblical *conceptual & hermeneutical* tools for the task of refuting unbiblical feminist ideologies.
 2. Recommend some helpful (if not perfect!) resources

Introduction: Conceptual toolbox

- Pearcey, N.R., 2005. *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity* (Study Guide Edition). Wheaton: Crossway.
- Trueman, C.R., 2020. *The rise and triumph of the modern self: cultural amnesia, expressive individualism, and the road to sexual revolution*. Wheaton: Crossway.

Part 1 → Sharing *biblical hermeneutical & conceptual* tools for the task of refuting unbiblical feminist ideologies in SA education

Thesis:

A Biblical-theological framework, i.e. the realisation of God's eternal purpose in Christ, is the proper hermeneutical and conceptual framework for a biblical understanding of the roles of men & women.

Biblical hermeneutical tools: Ephesians 5:30-32

By quoting Genesis 2:24 in Ephesians 5:31 the Apostle Paul sets the fulfilment of God's eternal purpose realised in Christ Jesus as the *hermeneutical framework* for understanding God's creation purposes for men & women.

- Chapell, B., 2009. *Ephesians (Reformed expository commentary)*. Phillipsburg: P&R publishing.
- Vanhoozer, K.J., 1998. *Is there a meaning in this text?: the Bible, the reader and the morality of literary knowledge*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Hugh, B., 2001. *Disciplines of a godly woman*. Wheaton: Crossway.

Biblical conceptual tools: a Biblical-theological framework

- ➔ Only in Christ do we fully understand God's good creation purposes for men & women as witnessed in the biblical **creation** account (Genesis 1-2).
- ➔ The **fall** (Genesis 3) marks the corruption of God's good creation purposes.
 - Robertson, O.P., 2002. *The Genesis of sex: sexual relationships in the first book of the Bible*. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing.
- ➔ In Christ the **redemption** of God's good creation purposes for men & women is accomplished,
- ➔ and will be completed at the **consummation** of all things.
 - Köstenberger, A., 2023. 'Geerhardus Vos: His Biblical-Theological Method and a Biblical Theology of Gender'. *Themelios* 48(3):505-523.
 - Köstenberger, A.J. & Köstenberger, M.E., 2014. *God's design for man and woman: a Biblical-theological survey*. Wheaton: Crossway.
 - Köstenberger, A. & Jones, D.W., 2010. *God, marriage & family: rebuilding the biblical foundation*. 2nd ed. Wheaton: Crossway.
 - Dolce, N., 2022. *The seed of the woman*. Leyland: Evangelical Press.
 - Rogers, T.A. & Tarwater, J.K., 2022. 'A biblical-theological framework for human sexuality: applications to private sexuality'. *Themelios* 47(3):559-572.

Part 2 → Putting the thesis to the test:

Genesis 2:4-17

1. What do you notice about the existence of the woman at this point of creation history?

- Kassian, M., 2017. *The genesis of gender*. The gospel coalition. Available at https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/conference_media/the-genesis-of-gender/ Date of access: 29 May 2025.

1 Timothy 2:8-15

2. What is the reason the Apostle Paul gives for a woman to learn quietly with all submissiveness & his not permitting a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man but rather that she is to remain quiet?

Genesis 2:18-20

3. What does God say in 2:18?
4. What does God do to address what He declares to be “not good”?

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

5. Of what is the women’s head covering a symbol according to the Apostle Paul?
6. What is the reason the Apostle Paul gives for a wife to wear this symbol?
7. What is the implication of the words in verse 12 “And all things are from God”

Genesis 1:26-28

8. Who is created in the image of God?
9. Who receives the cultural mandate?
10. What does this mean in terms of mundane and spiritual aspects of the cultural mandate?

Genesis 2:21-25

11. How does God create the woman?
12. Describe the man’s response.
13. What is the implication of the words in verse 24?

Ephesians 5:22-33

14. Why does the Apostle Paul give different charges to husbands than to wives in verse 33?
15. Which part of the gospel picture are women to paint?
16. Which part of the gospel picture are men to paint?
17. Describe how the concepts masculinity, femininity & marriage relate to our understanding of
 - 17.1 the gospel.
 - 17.2 the roles of men & women in the church.
18. Do you think it’s a coincidence that the Apostle Paul paints a picture of radiance and splendour in his call to husbands to love their wives?

Revelation 21:1-11

19. What is the significance of the words “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end”?