

NT 586 NEW TESTAMENT BASIS FOR WOMEN IN MINISTRY

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Exegetical studies of crucial New Testament passages will assist developing a theology for relationships, an understanding of the role of women and men in ministry and in marriage. Exemplary women and couples in the New Testament will be studied as well as "feminine" images for God.

General Goals:

1. (general skill) To become creative, original scholars who employ primary source materials, allowing their conclusions to flow from a careful and accurate reading of the text.
2. (specific skill) To be able to do a word study and use contexts to study the New Testament in order to make applications to current life issues.
3. (affective goal) To further an enjoyment and awe of God and of the New Testament.
4. (cognitive knowledge) To develop an overview understanding of the New Testament view of women and a more specific understanding of a particular aspect of the New Testament as it relates to women.
5. To view positively the New Testament's understanding of women and to view women positively.
6. To increase estimation of original language study.

Course Requirements:

1. Research and write a brief (2-4 pages) paper on one woman (or couple) cited in the New Testament. Summarize her significance for ministry (30%). Choose someone who will enlighten longer paper. Due: Week 3 (2/9, grace 2/11), optional rewritten paper due week 7 (March 8) (include first draft).
2. Research and write a longer paper (8-12 pages double-spaced). Choose either one passage on which to focus or several books in the New Testament to overview (60%). Due: Week 8 (3/15, grace 3/17). Summarize significance for ministry or marriage. Optional rewritten papers due week 12 (4/12).
3. Complete all assigned readings and attend all sessions (except for health or family emergency) (4%). In the Bible, read at least Genesis, one Gospel, I & II Timothy, Acts, Galatians, I Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians, Titus, I Peter.

4. After long paper is written, read three books listed in the bibliography (minimum 600 pp.). At least one book must be a New Testament or first century historical study. The third book may be from outside the bibliography if approved by the professor. (Beyond the Curse is not one of the three.) Hand in 3 brief reviews, each on one page (6%). Complete this assignment AFTER long papers have been completed. Completion of all reading assignments, including image study, count for 10% of grade. Due last class session.
 - a. Write out full bibliographic information in correct format. Add Goddard library reference number and number of pages.
 - b. Is book listed under the appropriate category? If not suggest a better one.
 - c. Summarize the content in 1-3 sentences. Include the thesis and topics covered in the book and the type of data/resources used.
 - d. Analyze the book. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the book. To whom would you and would you not recommend it? Should the book be part of the recommended bibliography?

Required* or recommended texts:

1. The Bible is our main text.
 - a. If New Testament Greek known: Kurt Aland and others. The Greek New Testament & Dictionary. 4th ed. New York: United Bible Societies, 1975 OR Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece.
 - b. For those who do not read Greek, an interlinear Greek-English text may be helpful, such as Paul R. McReynolds, Word Study Greek-English New Testament (with concordance). Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1998. Ref. BS 1965.5
2. A concordance is necessary.
 - a. John Kohlenberger, Greek-English Concordance to the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
 - b. Young's Analytical Concordance, or Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.
3. *H. Danby. The Mishnah. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1933 (019815402X). (2 tractates will be read) Ref BM497.5 E5 or Jacob Neusner. The Mishnah.
4. *Aída Besançon Spencer. Beyond the Curse: Women Called to Ministry. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985 (9780801047749) (BS 680.W7.S64) Also available in Spanish & French.
5. _____, ed. The Goddess Revival. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995. 2d ed. by Wipf & Stock. (selections) (9781108999217) BL 473.5 G62
6. _____, W. D. Spencer, Steve Tracy, & Celestia Tracy. Marriage at the Crossroads. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2009. (9780830828906)
6. Three other books (at least 600 pp.) from the annotated Bibliography on Biblical Roles of Women and Men. Goddess Revival (196 pp.) & Marriage at the Crossroads (127 pp.) may be included.

Weekly Sessions:

Week 1 (Jan. 26):

Introduction to course, procedures and requirements. Choose a woman or couple to be studied. What questions do you hope to answer?

Assignment for next class: Read *Genesis. What is main purpose of the Book of Genesis? If possible, read Romans & Hebrews. Bring Old Testament (Hebrew Bibles?).

Week 2 (Feb. 2):

Genesis 1-3--foundational for marriage and ministry. Before the Curse: The Blessing. The Fall: The Wise Way to Wisdom. The Curse. Beyond the Curse?

Assignment: Read in Mishnah: Aboth and one other tractate: Berakoth "Benedictions," Shabbath, Ketuboth "Marriage Deeds," Kiddushin "Betrothals," or another tractate in Nashim ("women"). Bring to class *Mishnah* & any findings about women in Hebrew life. Review ch. 1 in Beyond the Curse, and read The Goddess Revival pp 81-92 on God as one.

Week 3 (Feb. 9): Ancient Hebrew and Greek background of women.

- a) Five major variables (overview)
- b) What is Mishnah and how may it help give light to Hebrew life?
- c) Ancient Hebrew background

Assignment: Find out all you can about one woman (or couple) who is exemplary in the New Testament. Sequence of Study: New Testament, Old Testament, secondary literature. Optional--compare with one unexemplary woman. Why is the one condemned, the other praised?

Week 4 (Feb 15-19): Reading Week - No Classes

Week 5 (Feb. 23):

- a) Exemplary Women in the New Testament. "Lydia, seller of purple." Women at Philippi
- b) Bring to class results of studies on exemplary women and couples.

Assignment: Read one Gospel, and skim read Acts. (Bring Greek Bibles?) Read ch. 4 (pp. 96-120) in Beyond the Curse.

Week 6 (March 1):

- a) Mary's influence on Jesus
- b) Jesus' attitude toward women. (Luke 10) (1 1/2 hr.)
- c) Positive Evidence that Paul wants women to have authority. Examples

Assignment: Read pp. 64-71 in Beyond the Curse. Read I and II Timothy. Try to recreate historical setting and problems at Ephesus and discover main purpose of I Timothy. Bring notes to class. Review ch. 2 in Beyond the Curse.

Week 7 (March 8): Paul's teachings on women:

Call for education of women (I Tim. 2)

Assignment: Read all of Ch 3 in Beyond the Curse, pp. 71-95. Read 1 Corinthians & Galatians. Complete longer paper for next class.

Week 8 (March 15):

Declaration of oneness of male and female (Gal. 3:25)

Order and Women's Place. Headship (I Cor. 11)

Assignment: Read Ephesians, Colossians, Titus, I Peter. In Ephesians, try to determine the ways Christ and the church interrelate. Read Marriage at the Crossroads, chs. 2-3.

Begin reading 3 additional secondary books.

Week 9 (March 21-25): Reading Week - No Class

Week 10 (March 29):

Women and men in marriage (Eph. 5; Col. 3; I Pet. 3; Titus 1-2)

Team Ministry-Biblical data (optional)

Assignment: Read "Afterword" in Beyond the Curse and its study questions.

Week 11 (April 5):

Team Ministry - Theological and experiential data

Guest speaker: The Rev. Dr. William D. Spencer

Assignment: (1) Find metaphors and similes which explain God's nature or ministry in feminine terms in Isaiah esp. chs. 40-66 (at least 2 persons); Psalms esp. chs. 17, 22, 34, 36, 57, 61, 63, 71, 91, 123, 131; Luke; John; Hosea; Deuteronomy; Proverbs 1-9, Ruth; 1 Thessalonians, Galatians, 1 Peter (pick one group).

Optional alternate assignment: How many images are clearly masculine ones? Which images can be feminine or masculine or neither?

(2) Complete book reviews. Read chs. 5 & 6 in Beyond the Curse, chs. 5-6 in The Goddess Revival.

Week 12 (April 12)

- a) Feminine images for God and for ministry
- b) Question of Language about God
- c) Class Evaluation

Week 13 (April 19): optional class in case of snow cancellation

What I want in a word study:

Find all NT references including word families (noun, verb, adjective forms). Study each context to see if any light is given to topic,

Categorize uses of word before you compare your categories with a lexicon. (Optional: Find OT counterparts.) Make sure categories are parallel to each other.

Summarize: Light, if any, your word gives to topic.

Etymology of word (Thayer's). Important synonyms and antonyms.

Look at ways word used in contemporary Greek society (Liddell & Scott, Greek-English Lexicon).

Then, if you have time, check Danker's Lexicon or articles/books. Cf. to your findings.

Integrate all aspects. Goal: Understand Bible. "Original, exhaustive, comprehensive, insightful, thoughtful, succinct" and purposeful writing.

References

Paul R. Mc Reynolds, ed. Word Study Greek – English New Testament.

Wheaton: Tyndale, 1998.

Edwin Hatch & Henry Redpath. A Concordance to the Septuagint. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1983.

Greek- English Lexicons

Walter Bauer. A Greek –English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature. 2d ed.

Trans. W.F. Arndt and F. W. Gingrich. Chicago: University, 1979 3ed. F.W. Danker (BDAG)

Henry George Liddell and Robert Scott. A Greek- English Lexicon, ed. H.S. Jones. 9th ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1968. (LSJ)

Joseph H. Thayer. Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1889.

Concordances to Greek Extra- Biblical References

Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (TLG) computer data bank

Perseus (computer data bank; www. perseus. tufts.edu/cg

electronic edition. Florentino Garcia Martinez. Dead Sea Scrolls. Leiden: e.g. Brill, 1994.

G. H. R. Horsely, ed. New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity: A Review of the Greek Inscriptions and Papyri. 5 vols. North Ryde, Australia: Ancient History. Qumran Documentary Research Centre, Macquarie University, 1981-1989. (New Docs)

James H. Moulton and G. Milligan. The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament: Illustrated from the Papyri and Other Non- Literary Sources. Peabody: Hendrickson. 1930. (MM)

B. Grenfell & A. Hunt, eds. Oxyrhynchus Papyri. 18 vols. London: Egypt Exploration, 1898-1994.

Edgar Goodspeed. Index Patristicus. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1993.

Biblia Patristica. 2 vols. Anatole: Recherche Scientifique, 1975.

Heinrich Kraft. Clavis Patrum Apostolicorum. Muenchen: Koesel, 1963. (CPA)

List of Women: (Obtain the complete biblical references)

Exemplary

Rahab (James 2, Heb. 11, Matt. 1)
Sarah [Rom. 9, Heb. 11]
Rebecca [Rom. 9]
(Elizabeth & Zechariah) (Luke 1)
Anna (Luke 2)
*Mary (Mt. 2, Luke 1-2, John 19, Acts 1)
*Mary Magdalene (Luke 8, Mark 15-16, Mt. 27)
Joanna (Luke 8, 24)
Mary, mother of James (Luke 24, Mk. 15-16, Mt. 27)
Mary, mother of sons of Zebedee (Mt. 27:56)
woman with issue (Mt. 9, Luke 8, Mk. 5)
Syrophoenician/Canaanite woman (Mt. 15; Mk. 7:25)
bent over woman (Luke 13)
Simon's mother-in-law (Mark 1)
woman who anoints Jesus (Mark 14, Matt. 26)
woman with alabaster (Luke 7:35ff)
Woman at well (John 4)
(Mary and Martha [John 11-12])
Tabitha (Dorcas) (Acts 9)
(Priscilla & Aquila [Acts 18, I Cor. 16, Rom. 16])
Philip's daughters (Acts 21)
Euodia and Syntyche (Phil. 4)
woman with child (Rev. 12)

Unexemplary

Eve, [II Cor. 11] and Adam
Sapphira & Ananias (Acts 5)
Babylon
Jezebel (Rev. 14, 17-19)

(Women and couples in parenthesis to be covered by teacher in class, as well as Phoebe [Rom. 16], Lydia [Acts 16], elect lady [2 John]. Women and couples who are starred are essential.)
Papers should have complete Bible references, original work, proof, application and be well written (with thesis).

Suggested Topics for 8-12 page paper. All topics need to be made more specific. Choose one passage on which to focus or overview several passages in the New Testament. Write a purposeful, succinct essay (with a thesis) relying on your own contextual study of the Bible. If you know Greek use it. Include footnotes and a bibliography. Endnotes must be stapled separately from paper and clipped together. Paper (or at least an oral summary) is due the day topic is discussed in class or on Session 8.

1. *Language in the New Testament: pronouns and metaphors for God; pronouns and descriptions of ministry. Is there any biblical warrant to call God "Parent"?
2. "feminine" and "masculine" nature of God.
3. Jesus' message of liberation as it relates to women (Luke 4, 6). Jesus' relation & treatment of women. How did Jesus counsel women? Study one gospel.
4. *Disciples of Jesus--12, 72 (Luke 6, 8, 9, 10, 22). Galilean women disciples Rough draft due session 6.
5. Divorce and women in the New Testament. Rough draft due session 6.
6. *Women as witnesses of the crucifixion and the resurrection. (session 6)
7. Jesus as "born of woman" (Gal. 4), or early church interpretation of Gal. 3:28.
8. *Mary's position in the early church (Acts 1, 12). (session 5)
9. *Women as coworkers (Phil. 4). (session 5)
10. Women as workers (or as having careers).
11. *Women mentioned in passing--at the end or beginning of letters. For example, Mary, Rufus' mother
12. In-depth study of one of the lists of duties as it relates to women and men: Col. 3, Eph. 5, I Pet. 3, Titus 1-2.
13. Study one church father (or several) on one topic related to course. Read on church mothers.
14. Choose one word to study in depth especially as it relates to women:
diakonos, prostatis, prophecy; preach, silence, head vs heart vs nous vs arxe;
Eikon vs Doxa (I Cor. 11:7). (session 5)
15. "The law says" - 1 Cor. 14:34. How is nomos used by Paul? Does Paul ever use nomos for Genesis or the Rabbinic traditions?
16. Household = were women ever only mentioned if a husband was also present? e.g. Lydia
17. The order of widows