

Gender and Grace: Love, Work and Parenting in a Changing World

Stewart Van Leeuwen, M. (1990),
Intervarsity Press

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Gender and Grace is about gender behavior in the various aspects of life, including at home and in the workplace. It was published in 1991, is the winner of a 1991 Christianity Today Critics' Choice Award (1st place; contemporary issues), and is the culmination of 15 years of the author's research in the fields of psychology, sociology, and theology.

I approached this book as a female business professor desiring an understanding of the meaning of work and my place as a Christian female in the working world. I believe the book is still relevant today as it lays a theological foundation from which to evaluate the ever-changing aspects of gender behavior. It identifies all the major key issues and complexities in this area, and it answered my many questions:

- Can the Bible be used to judge scientific theories about gender?
- Should Christians who regard the Bible as authoritative reject any or all scientific theories of gender?
- Does the Bible give husbands a nonreciprocal authority over their wives and forbid them to hold certain offices in the church?
- What should a Christian woman's priorities be?
- Should Christian women work outside the home?
- How much effort should Christian women invest in their careers?
- Does the price of equality make women clones of men?
- What is God's intention for the role of women in the home, society and church?
- Should a woman preach in church?
- Is there room for free will?

The author believes we should look to the Bible as a source of basic truths about sex and gender. She constructs a theological framework about sex and gender and uses it to evaluate the social science theories and research.

The chapter titled "Gender, Work and Christian Vocation" is particularly useful for business professors.

This chapter surveys pre-Christian and Christian theories of work, including the theories of philosophers and theologians, such as Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, and John Calvin. In this same chapter, the author examines women and their relationship to work and service in the church.

In the final chapter, "All Things Made New" the author puts forward what she believes is God's intention for gender relationships in the various aspects of life.

I recommend this book for business professors as it is a good grounding on gender issues. An understanding of gender issues is essential; for as Trinity Western University's Gender Studies Institute proclaims on its website: "The working out of gender in all aspects of life will inform our teaching and research."¹

ENDNOTE

- ¹ <http://www.twu.ca/research/institutes-and-centres/university-institutes/gender-studies-institute/default.html>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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