

*2007 Calvin Symposium on Worship
Seminar: Gender Issues in Worship
Presenter: Alice Mathews, Ph.D.*

Introduction: Keeping First Things First

- A. Worship celebrates the "worth-ship" of God; it's all about God, not about us.
- B. Yet we all bring our gender with us to worship.

I. The theological issue of gendered language in worship

- A. Does God have gender?
- B. All language about God is analogical.

II. The nature of gender

- A. What we cannot say about gender
- B. What we can say about gender

III. Biblical and historical notes on gender in worship

- A. Worship leaders in the first-century church
- B. Worship changes in later church history
- C. A "feminized" Church vs. a "muscular Christianity"

IV. What men and women each bring to worship

- A. How men and women might differ in what they bring to worship
- B. How men and women overlap in what they bring to worship

Conclusion: It takes both male and female together to image God fully in our worship (Genesis 1:27).

Short Book List for Gender Issues in Worship

Most of the following books were referenced in the seminar; all of them contribute in some way to understanding gender issues in the church and in worship.

Beck, James R., Craig L. Blomberg, eds., *Two Views on Women in Ministry*. Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan Books, 2005.

Berger, Teresa, *Women's Ways of Worship: Gender Analysis and Liturgical History*. Collegeville MN: The Liturgical Press, 1999.

Bilezikian, Gilbert, *Beyond Sex Roles: A Guide for the Study of Female Roles in the Bible*. Grand Rapids MI: Baker Book House, 1985.

Bilezikian, Gilbert, *Community 101: Reclaiming the Church as Community of Oneness*. Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997.

Boyd, Stephen B., W. Merle Longwood, Mark W. Muesse, *Redeeming Men: Religion and Masculinities*. Louisville KY: Westminster John Knox, 1996.

DeBerg, Betty A., *Ungodly Women: Gender and the First Wave of American Fundamentalism*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990.

Gilligan, Carol, *In A Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1982.

Mathews, Alice P., *Preaching That Speaks to Women*. Grand Rapids MI: Baker Book House, 2003.

Podles, Leon J., *The Church Impotent: The Feminization of Christianity*. Dallas TX: Spence Publishing Co., 1999.

Scorgie, Glen G., *The Journey Back to Eden: Restoring the Creator's Design for Men and Women*. Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2005.

Underhill, Evelyn, *Worship: Man's Response to the Eternal*. New York: Harper Touchstone Books, 1936.

VanLeeuwen, Mary Stewart, *Gender and Grace: Love, Work and Parenting in a Changing World*. Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 1990.