



EPHESIANS

LIVING THE NEW CREATION STORY



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Beyond
GOD
THE
FATHER

Toward a Philosophy of

Women's Liberation

With an Original Reintroduction

by the Author

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Photo Credit: The Wall Street Journal



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What do we do when the Bible
appears to be out of step with the
culture?

Discussion Q 1:

When it comes to what Paul's content concerning wives and husbands, children and parents, slaves and masters, what has caused the most internal fiction and why?

Wife + Husbands

Children + Parents

Slaves + Masters

Wife + Husbands

Patriarchy exists in the Bible because the Bible was written in a patriarchal world. Historically speaking, there is nothing surprising about biblical stories and passages riddled with patriarchal attitudes and actions. What is surprising is how many biblical passages and stories undermine, rather than support patriarchy.

- Beth Allison Barr (*The Making of Biblical Womanhood*)

[There is] by nature various classes of rulers and ruled. For the free rules the slave, the male the female, and the man the child in a different way. - Aristotle

"in terms of actual practices, Paul does in fact ask husbands to submit—in his command that they love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up to death on the cross that the church might live."

- Lynn Cohick

While Aristotle crowns the husband, Paul calls him to the cross.

- Dr. Preston Sprinkle

Wife + Husbands

Children + Parents

“A Roman father had absolute power over his family. He could sell them as slaves, he could make them work in his fields even in chains, he could take the law into his own hands, for the law was in his own hands, and punish as he liked, he could even inflict the death penalty on his child.” - William Barclay

Wife + Husbands

Children + Parents

Slaves + Masters

“...threats are a weapon which the powerful wield over the powerless. And a relationship based on threats is not a human relationship at all. So Paul banned it.”

- John Stott

Discussion Q 2:

In light of this cultural background, how does this help make sense of the passage?

New Creation life is expressed in (not separate from) our relationships

Discussion Q 3:

What are the implications of being a new creation for your relationships (neighbors, friends, family, etc.)?

Question and Response