



cbeBookstore

dedicated to providing quality resources on biblical equality



Evaluation Criteria for CBE Resources

Because the bookstore is a branch of Christians for Biblical Equality, its purpose can be found in CBE's Mission Statement: "CBE affirms and promotes the biblical truth that all believers—without regard to gender, ethnicity or class—must exercise their God-given gifts with equal authority and equal responsibility in church, home and world.

The criteria for evaluating resources are first and foremost found in CBE's Mission Statement, and therefore all resources must adhere to CBE's Statement of Faith, in particular the first affirmation and the last three affirmations. This means:

- **All resources affirm that "the Bible is the inspired Word of God, is reliable, and is the final authority for faith and practice."** For instance, some materials claim that the Bible is patriarchal or that certain difficult biblical texts are not authoritative. We believe that while the ancient societies were patriarchal, the Bible itself is not. Our materials suggest understanding the biblical passages in historical and cultural context, instead of discounting the passages altogether.
- **All resources affirm "the equality and essential dignity of men and women of all ethnicities, ages, and classes."** As our name suggests, we believe the Bible teaches that all people are equal, and our resources reflect this belief. We also avoid using stereotypes to unfairly categorize groups of people, as each person is an individual made in the image of God.
- **All resources affirm that "men and women are to diligently develop and use their God-given gifts for the good of the home, church, and society."** We believe God gifts believers regardless of gender, and that these giftings should be used in our lives. Instead of operating according to roles, we encourage husbands and wives to mutually submit to one another. In the same way, we encourage the Christian community to recognize the gifts of men and women, and allow them to be used to build up the body of Christ.
- **All resources affirm "the family, celibate singleness, and faithful heterosexual marriage as the patterns God designed for us."** While we address the subject of homosexuality with kindness and carefulness, we do not affirm homosexual practices.

Every resource approved for CBE's Book Store was evaluated and assessed by a trained reviewer using specific standards. To view the standards, read [CBE's Full Review Evaluation Form](#). While these criteria seem rather straightforward, at times it is difficult to decide whether a particular title is appropriate for CBE. We also are only able to carry a limited number of titles, so in addition to the review criteria, the following list outlines CBE's order of priority.

1. The book service's first priority is to carry resources that teach the shared leadership, service, and authority of women and men from a biblical perspective.

- The resource offers a critical assessment of the biblical texts used to support traditionalist teachings, as well as the texts that support biblical equality. These

resources may be scholarly or popular in nature. Examples: [Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity without Hierarchy](#) Pierce, Groothuis and Fee, ed.; [Man and Woman, One in Christ: An Exegetical and Theological Study of Paul's Letters](#) by Philip Payne; and [10 Lies the Church Tells Women: How the Bible Has Been Misused to Keep Women in Spiritual Bondage](#) by J. Lee Grady.

- The resource informs readers about women of the Bible as examples of the shared leadership and authority of males and females, by assessing their strengths, and the ways in which God has used them. The resource may also address some of the difficult ways in which women were treated in the Bible. There are many books written on females of the bible, but CBE is interested in books that show how gender is not an obstacle to leadership; to holding spiritual authority; to preaching and teaching, etc. Examples: [The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules](#) by Carolyn Custis James; [Gospel Women: Studies of the Named Women in the Gospels](#) by Richard Bauckham; [Junia: The First Woman Apostle](#) by Eldon Jay Epp.

2. The book service's second priority is to carry resources that show how biblical equality affects individual lives. (These resources may not address gender equality to the extent that the first priority resources do, but it is still part of the discussion.)

- The resource demonstrates how an understanding of the Bible (and biblical equality) affects relationships with others. This may include titles relating to marriage, family, relationships, abuse, or psychology. Examples: [Responding to Abuse in Christian Homes: A Challenge to Churches and their Leaders](#), Catherine Clark Kroeger, Nancy Nason-Clark, and Barbara Fisher-Townsend, ed.; [Ending Violence in Teen Dating Relationships: A Resource Guide for Parents and Pastors](#), Al Miles; [Heirs Together: Applying the Biblical Principle of Mutual Submission in Your Marriage](#) by Patricia Gundry.
- The resource demonstrates how men and women can work together to further the gospel. This may be accomplished by informing the reader about spiritual gifts. Examples: [Making Room for Leadership: Power, Space, and Influence](#) by MaryKate Morse; [Gifted to Lead: The Art of Leading as a Woman in the Church](#) by Nancy Beach; [Equal to the Task: Men and Women in Partnership](#) by Ruth Haley Barton.
- The resource shares the personal stories of people coming to an understanding of biblical equality in their own lives. Examples: [A Sword Between the Sexes?: C. S. Lewis and the Gender Debates](#) by Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen; [How I Changed my Mind About Women in Leadership: Compelling Stories from Prominent Evangelicals](#), Alan E. Johnson, ed.
- The resource brings to light the contributions of past or present women who have followed their callings, providing tangible examples of biblical equality being lived out. Examples: [Women as Risk-Takers for God: Finding Your Role in the Neighborhood, Church, and World](#) by Lorry Lutz; [Why Not Women?: A Fresh Look at Scripture on Women in Missions, Ministry, and Leadership](#) by Loren Cunningham and David Joel Hamilton with Janice Rogers; [Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels](#) by Kenneth E. Bailey.
- The resource provides historical information relevant to the discussion about women and men in the church, home, and society. Examples: [No Time for Silence: Evangelical Women in Public Ministry Around the Turn of the Century](#) by Janette Hassey; [Lessons in Leadership: A Biblical Study of Women in Ministry](#) by Lorry Lutz; [Bold Girls Speak: Girls of the Bible Come Alive Today](#), Mary Stromer Hanson.

3. The book service's third priority is to carry resources that address issues related to biblical equality. (These resources may not address gender equality as directly

as the first two priorities, but may further biblical equality because of their relationship with it.) In other words, the resource is related to biblical equality in that it— in some way—dismantles patriarchy. So if the resource deals with sexuality, economics, education or some other aspect of life, it must address the effects of patriarchy in a way that dismantles it.

- The resource addresses equality as it relates to ethnicity and/or class. The resource may address the issue from varied perspectives, but we are especially interested in resources that address reconciliation. Examples: [A Credible Witness: Reflections on Power, Evangelism and Race](#) by Brenda Salter McNeil; [Coming Together in the 21st Century: The Bible's Message in an Age of Diversity](#) by Curtiss Paul DeYoung; [Social Justice Handbook: Small Steps for a Better World](#) by Mae Elise Cannon.
- The resource addresses the way in which language or culture affects our understanding of the Bible and God. Examples: [Abusing Scripture: The Consequences of Misreading the Bible](#), by Mafred T. Brauch; [Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels](#) by Kenneth E. Bailey.
- The resource helps readers come to a clearer biblical understanding of gender and sexuality. Examples: [The End of Sexual Identity: Why Sex Is Too Important to Define](#), Jenell Williams Paris; [Authentic Human Sexuality: An Integrated Christian Approach](#) by Judith K. Balswick and Jack O. Balswick.
- The resource provides information about theological ideologies in order to help the reader understand the similarities and differences between these ideologies and biblical equality. Examples: [Who's Tampering With the Trinity? An Assessment of the Subordination Debate](#), by Millard J. Erickson; [The Eternal Generation of the Son: Maintaining Orthodoxy in Trinitarian Theology](#), Kevin Giles; [The Goddess Revival](#) by Aida Besancon Spencer, et al.
- Over time, we may discover other areas that are related to the discussion of biblical equality, but not outlined in these examples. CBE has the freedom to evaluate these resources to determine if they would aid the discussion. Examples: [Accepted in the Beloved: A Devotional Bible Study for Women on Finding Healing and Wholeness in God's Love](#) by Leslie Ann McKinney; [Women in Ministry: Four Views](#) by Bonnidell and Robert Clouse, ed.

The reviewing team will also evaluate resources based on cost, availability, appeal, and other factors to determine if they should be carried. Final selection of all material carried in CBE's book service is entirely up to the discretion of the Book Service Coordinator and the President of CBE.