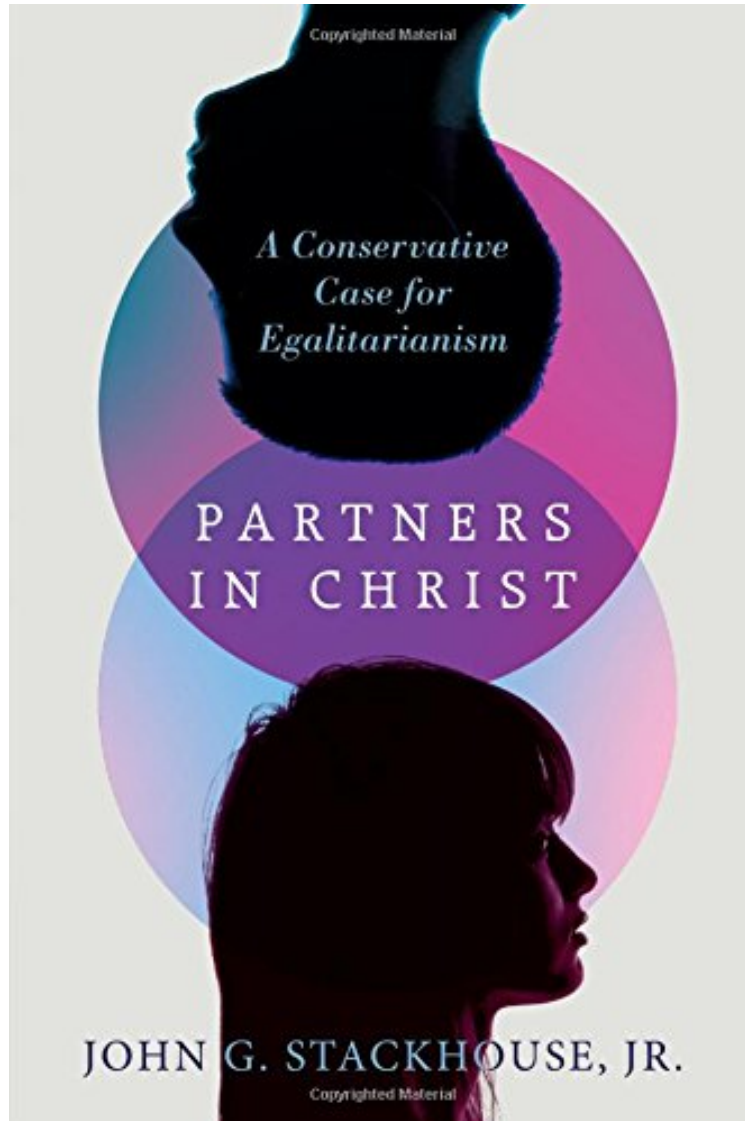


(Download pdf) Partners in Christ: A Conservative Case for Egalitarianism

Partners in Christ: A Conservative Case for Egalitarianism

John G. Stackhouse Jr.

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John G. Stackhouse Jr. : Partners in Christ: A Conservative Case for Egalitarianism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Partners in Christ: A Conservative Case for Egalitarianism:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Recommended: Solid Consideration of all SidesBy Robin VanzantThis is the best book I have found on this subject so far. It took me only a few days to read, but with so many articulate and well-considered points, it has taken me months to process.Be prepared: this is book is rather dense, and is not always an easy read. It's written more like a long scholarly article than a page-turning book. And as both an

academic and a professional theologian, the author at times speaks of issues of faith like a research scientist, but he always eventually returns to personal application. Because the author pushes for objectivity and embraces discussion, he at times feels wishy-washy. Wanting to bridge the impasse, he lands in the middle at times aligning with those who offend and at other times criticizing them harshly. But in the end, the author explains patriarchy as an accommodation. He shows how God used it to communicate with people and to illustrate aspects of his character, but goes on to show how it wasn't an installment - that God wasn't condoning it. He addresses the dualism in scripture that exists from the beginning regarding slaves and women - how scripture affirms their intrinsic value, offering them more freedom than the culture did and stretching the people of God, but never to a breaking point because the gospel message always takes priority over social justice. However, as esteem for these groups grew, so did freedom - the freedom that has always been available in Christ, but not always offered in this broken world. Today, the author concludes, patriarchy is considered archaic outside of conservative church life. Ironically, the very reason women were originally called to submit - to not cause a stumbling block to the gospel message inside a patriarchal culture - has now actually become the stumbling block, motivating his call for change encapsulated in this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book! Steakhouse presented a mature and complete case that challenged my thinking...By Mikayla Wiegell I read this book as part of a PSYC 345 offered at a Christian Liberal Arts University. The material that was presented in this book was interesting and very well articulated. Since the topic can be very controversial, I really appreciated how the author presented each side in a non-bias manner. It was good to have a comprehensive overview of each point, and I especially connected with how much Biblical analysis and support was given for each point. Relating back to the Bible was key for me to understand the positions of each side, because it validated them in a way that was credible. I really got a lot out of this book, and it stretched me to think about a different view point than I have been accustomed to. I was also really surprised at some of the material, because it broke down some things that I was not expecting to be apart of this course and yet are very real issues in our culture. All in all, this book was highly beneficial in helping me explore other, valid beliefs, that helps me to relate to others in a more loving and understandable way. I thought Steakhouse did a great job at portraying the conservative case for egalitarianism, and I am excited to explore it further in order to solidify my beliefs on this topic! Thanks for presenting this information in a mature and comprehensive way!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. While I may not have agreed with each individual point and actually was left confused at a few different points (reader error not author error) I still felt as if I was being educated on what a conservative egalitarian would look like. Approaching this book understanding the author as an egalitarian helps when you begin reading the intense egalitarian bias. This bias is not a bad thing but truly challenges you to think about what an egalitarian truly is and how being a conservative egalitarian can differ from simple egalitarianism. This challenges the patriarchal church history that has run most of the church up until recently. My only complaint would be that there were a few different times in which I felt Stackhouse strayed from intellectual conversation and was dismissing complementarian arguments as uneducated rather than trying to understand them. Otherwise I was challenged and this will open up conversations that will help us understand the gender inequality.

The Bible says that women should keep silent in church and that they should pray and prophesy. It calls wives the weaker partner and says that men and women are equal. When it comes to understanding what Scripture says about men and women, those on both sides of the debate can and do marshal strong evidence from the Bible. Why are they able to do this? John Stackhouse boldly contends it is because Scripture in fact says both things. Does the Bible contradict itself then? Not so. Rather, in this revised and expanded edition of *Finally Feminist*, Stackhouse describes the single approach in Scripture that guides us with clear direction on these important matters of relationships in the church and the family. Are you looking for an approach that takes the whole Bible into account and not just bits and pieces of it? While treating Scripture with utmost seriousness, Stackhouse moves us all beyond the impasse in this important debate.

"Unlike many writers on both sides of this debate, Stackhouse offers a hermeneutical approach that recognizes the diversity of Scripture and accounts for it. For many readers familiar with the texts and the debate, the effect of this distinctive contribution will be like viewing a familiar landscape from a new vantage point." (Richard Bauckham, senior scholar, Ridley Hall, University of Cambridge)"Stackhouse continues to challenge oversimplification in Christian conversation about gender, and he offers a model for real partnership in Christ. Readers will appreciate the care he takes with contested biblical passages. An evangelicalism that wishes to continue to be salt and light in the world will need to take that world seriously too, as Stackhouse does here." (Beth Felker Jones, associate professor of theology, Wheaton College)"This wide-ranging, patient and careful study by a leading Canadian theologian caps off the author's poignant pilgrimage, from conservative Plymouth Brethren to mainstream scholar and noted social commentator, regarding the Bible's teaching on the sexes. Along the way, John Stackhouse has hammered out a

hermeneutic that seeks to do justice to the truth of Scripture, the ways of God in cultures and today's unfolding views of human flourishing. Even those of us unconvinced by every point this book advances will find much of value to ponder, especially if our primary goal is to trace and learn from a comprehensive outline of egalitarian reasoning." (Robert W. Yarbrough, professor of New Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary)"John Stackhouse's *Partners in Christ* may be the most honest book ever written in the complementarian-egalitarian debate; it is without doubt the fairest book on the topic I've seen." (Scot McKnight, Patheos, November 3, 2015)"Stackhouse writes with a self-effacing, respectful spirit. He does not pretend to have the final word on gender roles and male-female relationships. *Partners in Christ* encourages believers to adopt the position with the fewest practical problems, rather than the one that ties up all loose ends. As important as it is to analyze (and debate) the Bible's take on gender roles, our disagreements shouldn't prevent us from coming together to love, serve, and advance the kingdom of God." (Craig L. Blomberg, *Christianity Today*, October 2015)"I recommend this book for anyone wanting to think through their position on women in ministry. . . . Regardless of whether you find Stackhouse compelling, he does a superb job of naming the contours of the complementarian/egalitarian debate." (James Matichuk, *Thoughts, Prayers Songs*, January 12, 2016)About the AuthorJohn G. Stackhouse, Jr. is the Samuel J. Mikolaski Professor of Religious Studies at Crandall University in Moncton, Canada, and the author of nine books, including *Humble Apologetics*, *Finally Feminist* and *Can God Be Trusted?*