

## Book Review

### **Christian Egalitarian Leadership: Empowering the Whole Church According to the Scriptures.**

Edited by: Aída Besançon Spencer and William David Spencer. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2020. Pp. 326. Paper, \$38.00.

In our postmodern world, godless virtues are preached as the good that organically emerges in humanity. Yet postmodern statements like this are quickly thrown to the ground when a group of people come together to work, or parents try to raise children, or when a couple comes together for marriage, or in a church setting as people begin to face problems.

Egalitarianism as a concept or a virtue is not an organic concept that arises naturally in interpersonal relationships. On the contrary, what we observe is that hierarchical relationships come more naturally to us, almost as an intuitive response from our DNA. There is much to be commented on in this book; unlike many postmodern studies on the subject of egalitarianism, this book seeks a biblical perspective on egalitarian leadership.

The book is a joint response of fifteen articles related to the central theme of egalitarianism. Around this central theme are subjects such as egalitarian Christian leadership, gender relations, God's intention in creating man and woman, and the influences of philosophy on the interpretation of the original text when it comes to the role of women. One finds here a biblical model of gender equality for Christ's church.

Besides egalitarianism another main sub theme of this book is leadership and the church. In this sub theme some chapters address multicultural and multiethnic aspects as fundamental elements for an egalitarian Christian leadership. The book then goes on to deal with the family and the importance of being a biblical disciple.

Finally, the book returns to the ecclesiastical universe with a chapter on the decision-making process for the retirement of pastors, and the importance of an egalitarian leadership in global missions, respecting and including different genders, cultures, and ethnicities.

This book is necessary, because with a sensible and cohesive biblical foundation and reflection on the external influences on biblical interpretation, it can point us to the importance of teaching the virtue of egalitarianism not as something inherent in the human being or as a political agenda, but as something to be learned through the principles found in the Holy Trinity and the Holy Scriptures. All this so that we can have healthy relationships that reveal God's love to the world.

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