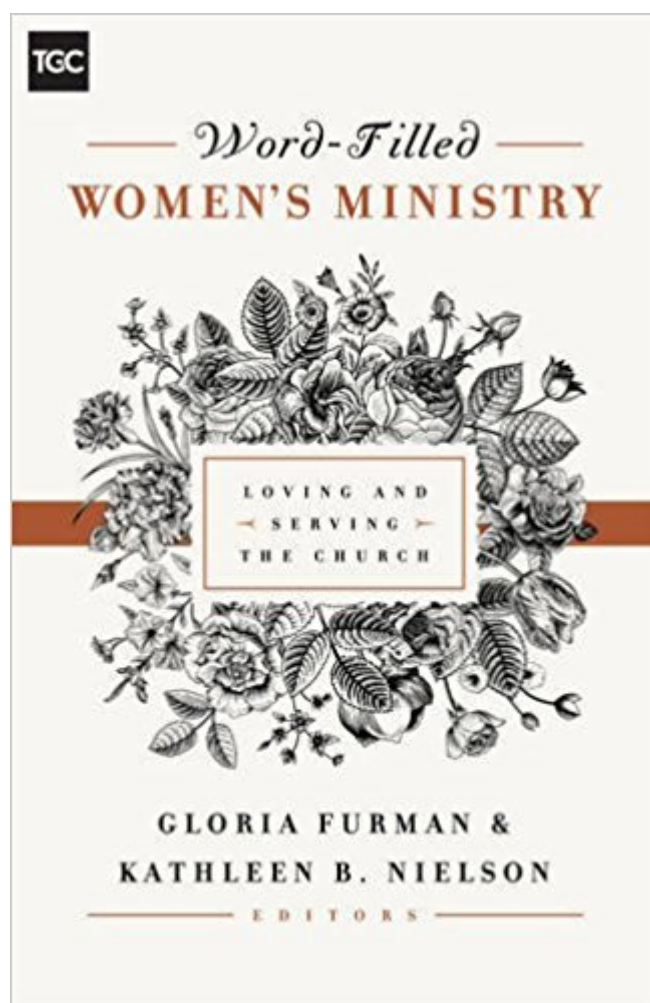


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Word-Filled Women's Ministry: Loving And Serving The Church (The Gospel Coalition)



Synopsis

A Practical Guide to Bible-Centered Ministry Among Women The Bible is clear that women as well as men are created in God's image and intended to serve him with their lives. But what does this look like for women in the church? Helping church leaders think through what a Bible-centered women's ministry looks like, this collection of essays by respected Bible teachers and authors such as Gloria Furman, Nancy Guthrie, and Susan Hunt addresses a variety of topics relevant to women. Whether exploring the importance of intergenerational relationships, the Bible's teaching on sexuality, or women's roles in the church and the home, this book of wise teaching and practical instruction will become a must-have resource for anyone interested in bolstering the health and vitality of the local church.

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Customer Reviews

Gloria Furman is a wife, mother of four young children, doula, and blogger. In 2008 her family moved to the Middle East to plant Redeemer Church of Dubai where her husband, Dave, serves as the pastor. She is the author of *Glimpses of Grace* and *Treasuring Christ When Your Hands Are Full*, and blogs regularly at The Gospel Coalition and GloriaFurman.com. Kathleen B. Nielson (PhD, Vanderbilt University) serves as the director of women's initiatives at the Gospel Coalition. She is a popular conference speaker and the author or editor of numerous books, including *Ruth and Esther: A 12-Week Study* (forthcoming), and co-editor (with D. A.

Carson) of *Here Is Our God*. Kathleen and her husband, Niel, have three grown sons, two beautiful daughters-in-law, and a growing number of grandchildren. Nancy Guthrie teaches the Bible at conferences around the country. She and her husband, David, are the co-hosts of the GriefShare video series used in more than 8,500 churches nationwide and they also host Respite Retreats for couples who have experienced the death of a child. Guthrie is the author of numerous books including *Holding on to Hope*, *Hearing Jesus Speak into Your Sorrow*, and the five-book *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament Bible study series*. Susan Hunt is the women's ministry consultant for Christian Education and Publications. She is also a mother, grandmother, pastor's wife, author, and the former director of women's ministries for the Presbyterian Church in America. Hunt has written a number of books, including *Spiritual Mothering* and *Big Truths for Little Kids*. Gloria Furman is a wife, mother of four young children, doula, and blogger. In 2008 her family moved to the Middle East to plant Redeemer Church of Dubai where her husband, Dave, serves as the pastor. She is the author of *Glimpses of Grace* and *Treasuring Christ When Your Hands Are Full*, and blogs regularly at The Gospel Coalition and GloriaFurman.com. Kathleen B. Nielson (PhD, Vanderbilt University) serves as the director of women's initiatives at the Gospel Coalition. She is a popular conference speaker and the author or editor of numerous books, including *Ruth and Esther: A 12-Week Study* (forthcoming), and co-editor (with D. A. Carson) of *Here Is Our God*. Kathleen and her husband, Niel, have three grown sons, two beautiful daughters-in-law, and a growing number of grandchildren. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

“Out of both biblical conviction and years of experience, these women think seriously about discipleship, evangelism, intergenerational mentoring, and compassion. Their strength is evident, their commitment to Scripture robust, their joy in the gospel intoxicating, their anticipation of the consummation providing a lodestar to their lives and service. Although this is a book by women to foster Word-filled women's ministry, much of it will be read with equal profit by men. I hope that some of those men will be pastors who in consequence reflect on what they can do encourage such ministry in their own churches.” • D. A. Carson, research professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; cofounder, The Gospel Coalition “Women's ministry is ultimately not about women. Nor is it about programs. It's about the glory of God and the health of his church. *Word-Filled Women's Ministry* is a much-needed resource for both men and women to consider the necessity of ministry among women as well as the centrality of the Word for cultivating a church in

which women flourish. — Melissa Kruger, Women's Ministry Coordinator; Editor, The Gospel Coalition; author, *The Envy of Eve and Walking with God in the Season of Motherhood* — "There is no question that the women in your churches will be discipled. The only question is whether they will be discipled by the world or the Word. That's why I'm so excited about *Word-Filled Women's Ministry*. It's more than a book. These contributors represent a movement of teachers guiding women to find hope and freedom and salvation in the gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in his Word. I couldn't more highly esteem these writers, and I pray that you will take up their charge to take up the Word." — Collin Hansen, Editorial Director, The Gospel Coalition; author, *Blind Spots* — "Here is a book that focuses on the possibilities and not just the problems of ministry among women. It is written by women from a wide range of ministry contexts, but all with hearts that beat with a common gospel rhythm. Every chapter is grounded in Scripture and wonderfully practical. Women and men of the Word, read it and be encouraged by all the gospel possibilities." — Jenny Salt, Dean of Students, Sydney Missionary and Bible College — "This is a significant subject that I have long been interested in, and the voices of my sisters in this book are as edifying as they are encouraging. Pastors, teachers, elders, and women's ministry leaders alike will benefit from this Bible-based, gospel-centered, local church-focused work. I so resonate with their central thesis — "Profitable ministry among women is grounded in God's Word, grows in the context of God's people, and aims for the glory of Christ" — that I anticipate with joy the flourishing of this vision in the churches." — J. Ligon Duncan III, Chancellor and CEO, Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi — "Word-Filled Women's Ministry is written for the bustling daughters of Christ, who need God's Word to train and sustain them in their various labors. It acknowledges the vast diversity of women's ministries in different churches while calling them to a unified commitment to God's Word. Women grow best as they learn from Scripture, first as it is preached to the gathered church and then as it is explored and explained in the company of other godly women. This book is an incentive to the latter, casting a vision for what can and ought to happen when the Bible takes its rightful place at the center of women's ministry." — Megan Hill, writer; speaker; pastor's wife; author, *Praying Together*; contributor, The Gospel Coalition and CT Women; editorial board member, Christianity Today Magazine — "A marvelous resource for thoughtful Christians, male and female, who long to see the power of the gospel unleashed in their own lives, in the church, and throughout world." — Colin S. Smith, Senior Pastor, The

Orchard, Arlington Heights, Illinois

“Full of careful biblical teaching and many helpful applications, this book is an invaluable aid for all Christian women to think through their own ministry possibilities. But it is also a highly useful tool for pastors and elders to understand and then activate much-needed biblical opportunities for every ministry in the local church. I hope it will be on the must-read list of every church leader.”

•David Jackman, Former President, Proclamation Trust, London, England

“Gloria Furman and Kathleen Nielson, along with a host of other talented writers, help us explore a vision-guided practice of our theology. Too often in church ministry, gender is received as a problem to be solved rather than as a beautiful gift from God to be explored. This book is a marvelous map to enjoy God, lead in God’s church, and explore God’s world, whether a woman is stepping into ministry for the first time or is a seasoned veteran.”

•Daniel Montgomery, Lead Pastor, Sojourn Community Church, Louisville, Kentucky; Founder, Sojourn Network; author, Faithmapping, PROOF, and Leadership Mosaic

This is THE book on women’s ministry. I love it so much. I had to read it slowly, and cried my way through it, as it describes everything I wish women’s ministry in the local church looked like, yet sadly often does not. The authors on each topic are the best-suited to write on it. I love, love, love the emphasis on God’s Word and why it should be central in the life of women’s ministry. I also love that it doesn’t spell out specific formulas that fit a specific cultural context, but rather frees the reader up to apply its truth in whatever context she finds herself. I especially appreciated the examples from around the globe, in demonstrating what Word-filled women’s ministry can look like in varying contexts. One caveat is that the chapter on Titus 2 was pretty disappointing to me. I felt like it did injustice to Titus 2, in which Paul instructs Titus how his "doctrine before deeds" theme relates to women teaching women. So often Titus 2 gets misunderstood, and unfortunately I felt this was the case when I read Susan Hunt’s words. However, I so appreciate what Kathleen Nielson wrote in a different chapter, about Titus 2 being about WORD ministry, not simply older women mentoring younger women in the practicals of womanhood. That did, however, make me wonder why they included Susan Hunt’s interpretation of Titus 2, since it seemed to contrast the rest of the book. I loved the chapter on training Bible teachers, and Carrie Sandom’s emphasis on the need for a high standard for women teaching women, and pointing out that the warning in James 3 that "not many of you should be teachers" is not a warning for men only. Being a woman in a complementation church who is seeking to give women the whole counsel of God and not only "pink passages" is sometimes a lonely and discouraging place. However, reading this book brought tears to my eyes

and a lightness to my heart in realizing there is a whole group of us who want women to be transformed by a firsthand knowledge of Jesus through Scripture. I have recommended this book to everyone I talk to about these things, and it is everything I wish I could write in a book :)

I got this book for my wife who leads the women's ministry at our church. She loved it and was able to share it with the leadership team and they have implemented much of what it spoke about. I have seen the ministry grow because of this book and am thankful for the authors!

I'm writing as a complementarian pastor who has been long interested in how to think about effective women's ministry. Many lament the shallowness that plagues the gender specific ministries in our churches. Yet many pastors are far more equipped to address this in men's ministries. I am thankful for the thoughtful, humble, pioneering work that Kathleen Nielson and Gloria Furman have been doing over at The Gospel Coalition. It was only a matter of time before this book was the result of their leadership. "Word-Filled Women's Ministry" will be a help to women of influence in churches and to women who simply want to grow in their understanding of ministry. Yet the benefits of this book are not just for the fairer sex but for pastors and perhaps even husbands. The thesis of this book is (best I can tell) that the Word is at the center of all life and vitality in the Christian life and so it should be for Women's Ministries which are uniquely susceptible to centering around many things other than the Scriptures. Robust theology is not just for the boys... its for all growing Christians. In chapter 9, authored by the book's editors, they even argue to teach the girls church history! This book provides a balanced mixture of practical wisdom and a defense for a Word-centered life. One of the most helpful chapters of the book is Ch. 5 where we get a defense of robust women's Bible studies as a method of evangelism. Later chapters address practical problems voiced through surveys from leaders of women's ministries. The authors conclude where they began, that all women's ministry is to be done with one end in mind, to foster an environment in the local church where women can mature and be presented complete in Christ. And that happens only through the Word. Therefore, we must have Women's Ministries that are Word-Filled. I recommend this helpful book for women seeking to edify others in their local churches as well pastors who seek to serve them.

I never expected this book to be so good! As someone involved in women's leadership at my church, I found it extremely helpful in helping cast vision - that the way you've thought it should be, that you've longed for it to be, is in fact both appropriate and achievable. It pushed my thinking way

beyond "normal" women's ministry as I've known it. I ended up buying copies for the women on my team to guide us as we start the work of developing not just where to take our part of the ministry, but how to get there.

If you are involved as a woman in ministry, this is a "must have" resource. Ministry isn't done in a vacuum. We must understand the privilege and also the responsibilities that come with that privilege. Leadership looks like something. Placing the greatest importance on exalting the The Lord Jesus, our Redeemer, Gloria Furman takes great care to not only instruct but to inspire women's ministry leaders.

very informative

An excellent, helpful, and challenging look at the place God's Word should have in all ministry! The audio version makes it even easier: listen on your commute, your trip for groceries, to pick up the kids.....

I AM NEW TO WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP AND I FOUND THIS A VERY HELPFUL GUIDE TO FOCUSING MINISTRY ON GOD'S WORK AND NOT PLEASING OTHERS. IT ALSO GIVES SERVING EXAMPLES OF MULTIPLE VENUES OF EDIFYING AND SERVING WOMEN OF ALL AGES. A WELL WRITTEN AND THOUGHTFUL BOOK.

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