

Transcript for the podcast “Worthy: Celebrating the Value of Women.”

Hosts: Elyse Fitzpatrick and Eric Schumacher

Episode 17 — Guest: Beth Moore

Date Aired: May 25, 2020

Eric Schumacher 0:00

Welcome to Worthy, a Christian podcast that celebrates the value of women. Each week we'll bring you conversations with women and men, on the value of women in the church, home, and society. We will not always agree on everything. But we do agree that God is glorious, the Bible is true, women are valuable, and respectful conversation on this topic is essential in our day.

Welcome back to the Worthy podcast. I'm your host, Eric Schumacher here with my co-host, Elyse Fitzpatrick, and we've written the book Worthy: Celebrating the Value of Women. And this podcast explores respectful conversations about the value of women and today, we don't have a special guest, we have a special host. Her name is Beth Moore. And Beth is a Bible teacher who has taken the message of the gospel and taught the scriptures around the world through her ministry, Living Proof Ministries. She seeks to encourage women to know and love Jesus through the study of Scripture. She's written numerous books and Bible studies, along with a work of fiction. She and her husband of 40 years live in Houston, Texas. And Texas has a special place in my heart. My grandmother was from Texas. And uh,

Beth Moore 2:02

I didn't realize that, Eric!

Eric Schumacher 2:03

Yeah! My family-- my mom's family comes from Texas and from California. So the two of you together, I've told Elise before, her personality, and yours Beth, remind me of my grandmother.

Beth Moore 2:16

I love that! I love that.

Eric Schumacher 2:18

She was a strong woman who was going to say what she thought to be true. And I could tell you stories, that's another podcast. My mom would kill me if I told stories about her mom. So anyway, Beth is also

besides being a wife, she's the mother of two adult daughters and the grandmother of three delightful children. She's a connoisseur of cast iron skillets, and their proper seasoning, and a lover of good dogs. Beth, welcome back to the podcast, and it's all yours.

Beth Moore 2:52

You know, this is so exciting. I have to tell you guys that I've never gotten to switch sides of the desk on this because I don't have a podcast that I host I have podcasts, but they're messages. So you know, regular Bible teachings and the speaking engagements that I have been recorded and made available. But it's nothing like this. And I really enjoy this format. I've said so many times. And this becomes interesting to our conversation between the three of us because it's where we met, so to speak, on social media, and specifically on on Twitter. And that's where our paths crossed. But we get a chance to somehow get to know each other well enough to want to engage in further conversations. And that's what's happened here. So I, I just love getting to switch places, get over on this side and get to ask some questions. And I have to tell you guys something, I absolutely loved Worthy. So I get to interview the two of you, and host the two of you and ask you questions about the work that you have done together. And so I'm not sure that our listeners know exactly how it did connect through Twitter and how you guys-- it's just amazing to me that something of a thread then turned into a full on partnering project. And so I want you to tell us a little bit about that so that we can kind of picture how it all happened.

Eric Schumacher 4:28

Yeah. Well, Beth, in your book, you talk about how the dirt is a mixture of dead things and living things. And that's--

Elyse Fitzpatrick 4:38

I'm not sure where this is going.

Eric Schumacher 4:41

--that's Twitter, isn't it? Yeah, so I had been thinking about just listening to a lot of women and thinking about the stories of women, including you Beth for quite a while. And Karen Swallow Prior had tweeted out something about about neglected women being the the cause for the creation of the first deacons in Acts 6. And so I started thinking, well, where are women the first in the Bible, and just started reading, and came up with a list of 20 places where women were the first humans to do certain things in the Bible, or the occasion for something. Threw those tweets out, The Gospel Coalition invited me to write

an article on it, Elyse saw it, liked it, invited me on to her family podcast, The Front Porch with the Fitzes, which is a hoot. I didn't know what I was in for.

Beth Moore 5:34

I love that!

Eric Schumacher 5:36

And went on there, read it, and Elyse says, you know, you should turn this into a book. And I knew enough to know no one was going to publish me, because no one knew who I was. And I said, Oh, Elyse, you should write this with me. And she said, Well, sure. And so next thing we knew we had a book contract, and we're writing, and it was-- Elyse is just wonderful to write with. She's taught me a lot. And thank you, Beth, for what you've said about the book, we just-- it blesses us to know you...

Beth Moore 6:06

Listen, it's marvelous, it's marvelous. I want to say a couple of things about it, I loved it from beginning to end. But these, these were some of my favorite things. It is tremendously courageous, which we would have expected it to be, you would not have taken that particular theme on had you not been ready to be courageous. And if you hadn't been then we would not have lasted, we readers, would not have lasted to the second chapter. So I love that, I expected that, got it and got even more of it than I had hoped for. So I was so happy about that. But it's not only courageous, it is clear. And when I say that the two of you approached the topic in such a way that you took us in a very fluid, drawing, magnetic way yet also, with great method. I mean, it just, it builds, --just, I told you guys in our earlier time together, when we flipped sides of this desk and you were interviewing me, we-- we have the same tendency to approach a subject in that we like that order that this leads to this leads to this leads to this. I mean, your ducks were in a row. Some of the things that I wondered if you were going to take on, I cannot think of one that you did not ultimately somewhere in that book take on, and take on in such a way, I want listeners to hear this, that is so gracious. I think that we can write out of a defensiveness that only appeals to other defensive people. It completely shuts down the one that just simply wanted to learn and not feel somehow condemned, because they're not already there. And there just was nothing about that in the way you approached it. It's coming from a very gracious and warm and welcoming place. And I absolutely loved it. I have to ask you both-- but one of the things that I am so impressed with is that you got an idea, and then it really was the Lord. I mean, you do realize, you too, that this could have gone wrong.

Eric Schumacher 8:23

Oh, yeah!

Beth Moore 8:24

I mean, that doesn't just take place on Twitter, and then it just is going to work. So I love that the Lord was in that. But I'd love to know, from both of you with a particular interest in hearing from the brother side, Eric. I would love to know how the message, how the book has been received. I'm not asking how many people have read the book, that, that's not the same thing. People can read it and not-- but I'm asking what feedback, I'd love to know from both. What feedback are you getting?

Eric Schumacher 8:59

So for encouraging feedback. We've heard from a lot of women who generally tell us that they have wept the whole way through the book.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 9:11

Yes.

Eric Schumacher 9:12

I have been amazed to hear how many women have said I've cried from cover to cover. I-- it, that has taught me a lot.

Beth Moore 9:21

I bet that's been eye opening.

Eric Schumacher 9:22

It has. And these these women have said, the other thing that's been eye opening about women's responses is they've said it's so good to hear a man say these things. And sometimes women who have been students of the Bible for 40 years in the church,

Elyse Fitzpatrick 9:41

Yes.

Eric Schumacher 9:41

--say I've never heard a man say this.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 9:45

Yes.

Beth Moore 9:45

I'm one of those, Eric. And Elyse is, too.

Eric Schumacher 9:49

And so that is incredibly sad. That-- that makes me cry when I hear that because these are women-- not all, but many who have suffered abuse, who have been devalued for being women, who have husbands or fathers who have put them down and made them feel worthless. And they come into the Lord's house into the body of Christ. And they don't hear that they have value. They hear the same message, reiterated,

Beth Moore 10:24

Yes.

Eric Schumacher 10:26

What we hear from men, particularly from pastors, I hear: I've never seen these things. We had a Presbyterian pastor, conservative guy of 40 years. He said, I've been preaching for 40 years, and I haven't seen these things. But I open up my Bible as I'm reading, and there it is.

Beth Moore 10:44

There they are.

Eric Schumacher 10:45

Yeah. And so and, and pastors along with that have said, I found myself repenting. Yeah, the whole way through. Yeah. So women are saying, I'm weeping because no one said this. Men are saying, I'm repenting, because of how I've been. The negative feedback has been and I think this exposes the reason for the positive feedback.

Beth Moore 11:09

Yes, yeah.

Eric Schumacher 11:10

The negative feedback has been, you didn't camp out on what women aren't allowed to do. You didn't have a full exposition of First Timothy 2:12, you didn't have a major emphasis on women being submissive in the church, and in the home, and, and fill out those passages. And what we've learned is that some people cannot conceive of a conversation about the value of women-- the value of women, unless it ends with telling them what they can't do. And that, really, that emphasis I think, is deadly. I think it's-- I think it's awful, regardless of where we land on that whole spectrum of egalitarianism, or complementarianism, or applications within different variants of it in the local church. If, if a woman's worth boils down to what she's not allowed to do, I wonder if she has worth? And I think that's what our sisters are hearing. And I think that's why many have turned away from the church. And, and that breaks my heart.

Beth Moore 12:26

Oh that's so powerful, Eric. Elise, how would you answer the same question? What-- have you gotten any response that was surprising to you or just noteworthy to you? What's something that stuck out to you that you've gotten as a reaction that has had you thinking?

Elyse Fitzpatrick 12:44

Yeah, thank you, Beth. And thank you, Eric, also, for what you said, it's so wonderful to be co-laboring with a pastor who really sees it. I have a very good friend, and she's actually my best friend. She has been one of the most godly, strong believing Christians that I have known. And-- but she's lived in a very

patriarchal, abusive relationship for years. And she said to me, a couple of weeks ago--she's read the book. She said to me, through tears, this is the first time in my Christian walk, that I think I have value to God.

Beth Moore 13:42

Wow.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 13:43

Now, let me just say, if I would have said to her six months ago, a year ago, do you think that God loves you? Your, you know, Does God love his people? She would have said, Oh, yeah, sure. But she said to me, this is the first time that I can see that God values me as a human being, and he doesn't look at me, and is ashamed of me, because I'm an idiot. And what's sad to me is, first of all, of course, that she has been in a very abusive, emotionally abusive, spiritually abusive, financially abusive relationship for decades. I would understand that from her because of that, but then that's what she's heard from the church as well. That over and over and over again when she would come and beg for help from her pastors, as she sought to love God, serve God. Love the Bible. I mean, she's-- she loves scripture, as she has come over over again, to pastors that she was seeking to submit herself to. And for pastors over and over again to say to her, Well, the problem is you, you're really not submissive enough, you have to do better-- if you would do better than he would do better. For her to finally come to the place-- I remember when she said to me, that she read the 21 ways that Eric talked about, of women doing the first things in Scripture. She said, How can this be true? Okay, that, that's what we're dealing with. On the one hand, and then on the other hand, we have come up against certain segments, that won't even give us a hearing. They won't even give us a hearing, because we're not coming out and saying, 1 Timothy 2:12, or 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, or Ephesians 5, those are the only verses-- or Titus 2, those are the only verses you can talk about when you talk about women. And they won't even give us a hearing. When we try to say they're two different topics. There is the topic of ontology, who you are in your essence, your being, and the topic of function, gender roles. Why can't we have a topic about your, your value, because you're created in the image of God? Why can't we have that conversation? First? I mean, not even just first, but at all?

Eric Schumacher 16:52

Yeah.

Beth Moore 16:53

Yes. Yes. You know, one of the questions that I jotted down for you guys, you're really already presenting to me on a platter, Elyse. So I'm going to go ahead and say it now. Why do you think it is? What are the reasons that people don't want to learn? When-- what what is it? When, when doctrineally, we will not take the chance,

Elyse Fitzpatrick 17:20

Yes.

Beth Moore 17:20

--of coming into that information or coming into that knowledge? Have you all found that to be as baffling as I have in, in my walk that we won't give it a hearing? Because we, we have too much-- and I don't want, I don't want to put words in your mouth--There's too much at stake. But could you, could you speak to that? Because it's the one of the most frustrating things of all, is that, that people don't want to hear, they don't want to even consider the information. I have found that people have said, when people think that anyone that takes any other view than they, than they is, is unorthodox or heretical and you're just thinking, you know, there may be a different interpretation, but not every place you disagree puts you outside the breadth, that the fairly generous breadth of what we would consider to be orthodoxy through the centuries. So I'd love to hear if either one of you have anything to comment on about that.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 18:28

Um, I want to say I think there's two things Beth, and the first thing is, I'm going to try to be really careful. The first thing is, I think that there's a general fear among conservative Christians, that we are losing ground, that we're about to lose the store, that we're losing truth. And so they see themselves as warriors against a slide into secularism, and the culture where there is all sorts of gender blurring, and, and feminism and I'm not talking about, you know, women getting paid what men get paid, but you know, feminism that would really cry out for pro-choice, those kinds of things. So I think that on one hand, there is an honest fear that we're losing the culture war, and if we don't stake out certain territory, and then stake it out and stake it out and stake it out and make that our only message that if we don't do that, we're going to lose. The other thing. And I am want to be careful in how I say this, because I think it's more nefarious. I think it's, I think it's more devilish. I think it has to do with selfish ambition and power. And I think that there are people who are afraid that their power is being challenged, and that they might not lose it. Now, I don't want to be the person who is going to say, this guy, this person, this group, they are--

Beth Moore 20:19

Is one of them.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 20:19

Is one of them. I'm not going to do that. But I do think that as James 3 says, where selfish ambition is, there's everything that's demonic and earthly, and, and earthy. And so what I want to do is say, Okay, what we're coming at, on one hand, I want to say to the people who are afraid that we're going to lose the culture war, is to say, hey, please give us a listen. We're, we're aware you are, in a lot of ways. We agree. We're, we're conservatives. But on the other hand, to the people who are afraid that they're going-- that their power base is being threatened. I have nothing to say to that, except God, God will do what God will do to bring people where they need to be to face his truth.

Beth Moore 21:20

That's right. That's right. Oh, good. Thank you, Elise. What about you, Eric, any comments on that? Before I go to the next question?

Eric Schumacher 21:27

Oh, I echo what Elyse said. And I really think sometimes it comes from a failure to abide in Christ. It is a-- it's a gospel issue. And what I mean by that is, we replace the finished work of Christ, His perfect life, his death, his resurrection, as our imputed righteousness given to us by grace through faith, we begin to find our rightness with God through our theological correctness,

Elyse Fitzpatrick 22:00

Right.

Eric Schumacher 22:01

And we have heroes who have taught certain things and villainize certain people. And we know we're in the right, if we agree with them, and we hold to these things. And so for someone to come along and say, You know, I think differently about this, it's actually threatening our justification.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 22:25

Right.

Eric Schumacher 22:25

What's-- the thing that we have built our standing with God on, is being attacked. And so we turn all these things into gospel issues. And so, Beth, I think you're an example, even within our shared denomination of-- you have a, you know, a different interpretation from someone about you giving a sermon on Mother's Day when a pastor invites you into their church.

Beth Moore 22:50

Yeah.

Eric Schumacher 22:50

And I hear people saying that you're throwing out the sufficiency and the authority of the Bible, right, because you interpret it differently to them on a, on a matter of a doctrinally secondary issue of gender roles.

Beth Moore 23:07

Yes.

Eric Schumacher 23:08

And then a tier down from that. An application in the local church on that, and, and somehow, they make you out to be throwing out the Bible. And, you know, a friend of mine pointed out that these issues become lazy litmus tests.

Beth Moore 23:27

Oh, I read that. I read that in the book. I wrote a note down about it. I loved that. I love that portion.

Eric Schumacher 23:33

Yeah. So I think--

Beth Moore 23:35

No, go keep going.

Eric Schumacher 23:37

Well, I think I think that's it, I think, when we learn to find our righteousness in Christ, and in his finished work,

Elyse Fitzpatrick 23:43

Right.

Eric Schumacher 23:44

--it frees us not to be careless with our doctrine. But to say, my standing with God isn't based on it. I have the freedom to say, I could be wrong on this, and I'm not risking Christ.

Beth Moore 24:00

You know, I just think we have to be so careful. It can be-- sometimes it can get blurry to us, the difference between the inerrancy of Scripture and the inerrancy of man's interpretation of Scripture.

Eric Schumacher 24:13

Yeah.

Beth Moore 24:14

And those-- those are two, those are two very different things. But I've got-- I'm just, anxious to tell you, Eric, that when you said earlier in our interview, that you repented, you came to a place to repent, I

want you to know-- because for a moment there it could have sounded like to someone, well, men will need to repent here and, and women will just have relief here-- I want you to know that as I was coming out of some of the fog of this whole thing, and that's been a longer story, this is not you interviewing me, so this is not where I'm going to go at this point. But I want to just say this briefly, that coming to that place of realizing how complicit I had been in this whole mentality,

Elyse Fitzpatrick 25:12

Yes. Me, too.

Beth Moore 25:12

--was devastating to me. It was devastating to me.

Eric Schumacher 25:16

Yeah. Amen.

Beth Moore 25:16

And that I began to realize-- for me-- of course, I'm not saying that, that this would be across the board, but coming to the realization that there was part of what Elyse brought up earlier that also in play-- I will not say who, the Lord alone can judge motives-- but that you come to the realization that some of it was not about-- about scripture, but it was about power. And then you realize how you played into that. And, and, oh, you talk about coming to repentance. So you're talking about a woman, a woman who has served women realizing the times that I should have listened more carefully to what-- that-- why? I've always been a very empathetic person. And I've had my own struggles in marriage. So I don't-- I don't very often have a closed ear to someone. But when I think about some of the simplistic things I might have said, that might have kept them in harm's way, it devastates me. And I've never-- I can't think of ever telling anyone in physical harm. But man, some of the other areas of abuse get very, very gray. And it's hard to, to work through it. But I found myself in repentance. Now I want to say something to you two that I deeply appreciated about the book. And I'm hoping some listeners will grab it just for this reason. Maybe they came from the same kind of background. But I would tell you, if I were to narrow it down, accounting exactly how many churches that I've been very active in in the course of my life. So a little over six decades. So my church growing up, that was the primary one all the way until I was in the middle of high school. And then from that point, I would say about six different churches. And just because of the way I was raised, we didn't think about-- would, would we just go to church on Sunday, it was just something that we always did. You just served, you just served you, you-- you invested your life

in, in your local church. And so I can say, and truly now, I realize you two, that it was a true act of God. I was always in churches, where I was-- where I and my fellow female servants, were well respected. And it's not that I never came up with it against any misogyny in the church. Of course I did. But I do have to tell you that most of it was outside. It was a shock to me when I got out in, you know, in the rest of the world where people were not operating with that. And yet, at the same time, there was never any question in my churches, who-- like a pastor never, ever felt threatened. It was-- there was never any doubt in our mind, who was the, you know, underneath the headship of Christ, who was in authority. At that time, it never occurred to us to think any other way. But that the pastor, the deacons, this was a very clear understanding to us. But we operated shoulder to shoulder in all sorts of committees. We were Sunday school teachers in the same departments, we did these. So this was a big shock to me that the world didn't see it that same way. And I'm talking about the Christian world, really, but let me say your book did. So, this was the way I was taught; this was-- what, what you share in, in Worthy, this was the way I was taught to operate. That there was esteem, there was mutual esteem. There was gonna be that-- my pastor, I've said so many times, he did not let me speak. He pushed me out there, pushed me out there. And so-- but what your book did, that I could not have explained to someone verse by verse and passage by passage, how those decisions were made, and how that particular environment was built. I just would have known, Wait, that's not the way we did it. This was the way we did it. Well, why? Why? Well, you've, you've answered it. I mean, it is in-- it is in one book, and not even a super long one, and of the many things I appreciate-- right there, right there. If you want to see how it can operate in-- still in a way that I'm not sure you could-- you can't question that there's an umbrella of authority, here, that is it obvious in these pages, and yet such mutual esteem, so I just love that. I love that. Any comments on that?

Elyse Fitzpatrick 30:10

I'm, yeah, I'm so thankful. I'm like you, Beth. I didn't grow up going to church, but when I became a Christian. after living incredibly debauched lifestyle-- right before my 21st birthday, I ended up in church. But the church that I went to, even though we had a male pastor, it was a church that really would allow women to speak, to preach, I went to Bible college, I was sort of pushed forward,

Beth Moore 30:45

Yes,

Elyse Fitzpatrick 30:45

--like you were,

Beth Moore 30:46

Yes,

Elyse Fitzpatrick 30:46

To stand up there, you know, deliver the goods, you got to study, you've got to do it. And that was, that was really where I spent the first 10 or 15 years of my Christianity. Then after that, I, I became a member, members of other churches that saw women and their roles completely differently. And that was, it was kind of a shock to me. But I was trying to do-- and, and here's where I think we're very much alike. I was buying into a certain way of seeing things, and thought that that was the right way. And therefore I ought to stifle myself, I should silence myself, I should do-- try to do other things. And honestly, in some ways that I became involved in counseling, because that was something that was open to me as a woman. And, and we use the Word, but-- I look back at many of the things that I have said, because I was identifying with getting my justification, my okayness, from being associated with certain very conservative portions of Christianity, and the kinds of things that I said about people or to people, I terribly regret. I know that it was probably a year and a half ago, or maybe two years ago, I was on Twitter, and I was watching some of what was going on with you and other people, other women. And I made a determination. I think I even said it on Twitter, I said, I refuse from now on to ever criticize any woman who's seeking to serve Christ. I will not do it, I will not do it anymore. And part of that, honestly, Beth had to do with the fact that I was beginning to understand my justification, in-- in-- in a new way, that my okayness before God, no-- did not come from being identified with a certain group of men that I thought I needed to identify with in order to be okay.

Beth Moore 33:06

Yes.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 33:07

And then also to see that I had been wrong, I needed to repent, and that God had given me gifts, and I-- and I ought to be using them. And so I you know, I'm, I'm so thankful for this conversation. Because I, I come from a very conservative strain of Christianity, who-- who may or may not respect you, Beth. And I don't mean right to harm you at all in any way.

No, I'm, I'm, I-- am accustomed to that.

Eric Schumacher 33:50

I'm sorry.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 33:51

Yeah, I'm, and I'm sorry. But I you know, what I'm saying now is I think that-- I think that the church, particularly in America, is in such desperate need right now. And if women and their gifts are not being used, are not going to be used, if we are spending time sniping at each other, and firing at each other, instead of saying, You're my sister, you're my brother, hey, you know, what about the second tier things or third tier things? I don't even care. Can you say the Apostles' Creed with me? If you can, we're on the same page. And that's, that's where I'm at. And honestly, you know, in the milieu in which we're living right now, with, you know, so much division. I really feel certain that you know, we're going to get to the place where we can say, if you can say and believe the Apostles' Creed with me, then you're my sister, you're my brother. And that's how we have to live. And we got to use each other's gifts.

Beth Moore 35:02

Yes, yes. Oh, Elyse, I love that. I love that. Anything you want to add there, Eric?

Eric Schumacher 35:08

Yeah, I-- like Elyse, I grew up in a church maybe like-- well, like you, Beth-- I grew up in a church where-- I don't think I saw any disrespect of women, there was a lot of involvement in them. And even in, in campus ministry, and in college, you know, just ministering side by side with our sisters. Then I went to seminary, and I learned a little bit about the whole gender roles thing, and-- which is a term I don't like anymore. Then I landed in my first church. And I don't know if I've ever talked about this publicly. But my first controversy as a pastor was, I came into this church and the adult Sunday school class was taught by a woman, by a very godly woman who loves Jesus and loves you, Beth. And, there was division in the church about whether or not that was appropriate. And it, it threw me into studying this topic of men and women and all that throughout the Bible. And that's one of those areas where, looking back-- I mean, regardless of where you end up on that issue, I'm sure I made just a ton of mistakes and hurt a lot of people. And, and that grieves me. I-- it was my first pastorate, I was like a 26-year-old kid, you know, I, I didn't know what I was doing. But I was also in many ways, a theological legalist, where I had men I aspired to be like, who I respected, who I was afraid to disagree with. And, and so my understanding, I think, because of who I was reading, to resolve this in my mind, I-- my understanding of men and women became about what men ought to be and be doing and what women ought not to do, or what they should be cultivating in the men. There are movements that emphasize-- the men are to be doing this, and this and this, and women are to be cultivating the men to do that. It's-- it all works around the

men. And while I would have never called myself a misogynist, and while, I would have-- I would have always said, women have equal value, there was so many ways I did not incorporate the value of women into the church because of a skewed understanding. And so it's not even about a theological shift. It, it's-- about seeing what God's put there in women. One of the things writing Worthy did for me was to see how central women are in the storyline of the Bible. You know, I love Biblical Theology, like you were talking about in our last episode, where you take a theme, and you see how it is developed and it grows through the whole of Scripture, and my bookshelves are filled with Biblical Theologies of different topics, and I can't think of a single one that develops a Biblical Theology of women. And so, as I'm writing this, I'm noticing Genesis 2, the climax of that passage, the culmination of it is Adam celebrating the worth of the woman, and that he's going to sacrifice to be unified with her. And the culmination of-- of Chapter 3 is that through her, the-- the son is going to come is going to crush the serpent's head. And Chapter 4 opens with her confessing what Yahweh has done for her and closes with her confessing what Yahweh has done for her, while Cain goes off the rails. And the rest of the story is-- I always thought of the Bible as a series of patriarchal characters, these men going along, and you can read it that way. But time and time again, you know, why did God say the seed of the woman? Why didn't he just say a child is going to come? Why say it that way? He's training us to look at the women,

Beth Moore 39:31

Yes.

Eric Schumacher 39:31

--through whom the seed's going to come. And that's-- the line of that seed is threatened again, and again, and again, as the Old Testament unfolds. And brave, courageous women of faith, like Esther and Ruth and Naomi-- you can go on and on, they step forward, and they rescue the line of the seed until He arrives.

Beth Moore 39:53

It's beautiful.

Eric Schumacher 39:54

And then when he's here, there's women who help carry the gospel through the book of Acts.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 39:59

That's right.

Beth Moore 39:59

Oh, I love that. Eric, I've got to tell you that the first question I wrote down to ask you, and then we, we kind of went about it from a different angle. And so I didn't go there from the start of our conversation. But I was just wanting to remark to the two of you that I was so thankful-- this is gonna sound so silly, but you're gonna know exactly what I mean, when we think in terms of the discussions that are present in Christian culture about, about women-- I'm just so happy that as pure chronological order would have it, that you launch the treatment of the value of both men and women, starting with Genesis and creation and the fall because, one of the things that was a real shock to me-- now remember, I was not formally trained, both of you have been. Now yours, well, your might, yours was in Biblical Counseling wasn't it, Elyse?

Elyse Fitzpatrick 40:50

Yes, yes.

Beth Moore 40:51

Yes. So now I'm not I-- I tried to go the route of seminary. But remember, remember my age, I'm a little over 60. And it just was not going-- it was not going to work. I was not going to get the training that I was looking for. But I can tell you that I had the hardest time wrapping my mind around the fact when I first began to try to have these conversations with, with brothers or trying to discuss through some of this, and I'm talking about when the worlds met-- I really feel like social media is what threw us all into the same big bowl.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 41:29

Yeah, that's a good point.

Beth Moore 41:30

Before that. We were sort of this, I don't know what you would call it. This, this cultural authors and all, we were over here. And then there's the, the ones that are seminary trained, or-- those worlds did not collide a lot until social media threw us all in the same boat. Well, I can remember thinking that the discussions were all around, like 1 Timothy 2, like 1 Corinthians Chapter 14, I thought, this is where the

conversation will-- No, come to find out, that no, no, we're starting all the way at the beginning. And my mind-- understand, not formally trained-- my mind going, Oh, my gosh. If the Cross has not even set us free as women,

Elyse Fitzpatrick 41:54

Right.

Beth Moore 41:55

--from the fall in the garden? I don't know-- I don't know where to even begin this discussion. If we, if, if--
- Are you telling me that we're going to stretch that thing across the whole spectrum of Scripture? So it was it was quite something. So I don't know, how many people will sort of be onto that, that are not formally trained, that you begin there. And then you begin kind of unraveling a knot that I think went somewhere-- I mean. It start starts, really in a really legitimate sound way, and then it goes someplace from there, that-- you have to wonder how in the world are we coming up with that, with that doctrine from those passages. So, I just couldn't have appreciated it more. You do-- I mean, you just start there. I mean, start there. You had me on page three, I was just like, Alright, I'm gonna listen. Because I-- there already talking. I didn't have to ever feel like you two were going to dance around it. It would have been so disappointing. I could have saved time.

Eric Schumacher 43:38

Yeah.

Beth Moore 43:38

So, but instead, you just, you know, just went there from the very beginning.

Eric Schumacher 43:43

Yeah. Well, if you're gonna say stuff, say stuff, I guess.

Beth Moore 43:47

Say stuff. Just say it.

Eric Schumacher 43:49

You know, we just went-- you know, we, we started with an outline, the worth of women and creation, the fall, the promise, we just outlined Biblical history, redemptive history. And then we put the worth of women in front of it, and we assigned our parts. And I took the Genesis chapters, Elyse took Israel, I took the Gospels,

Oh! Okay.

--Elyse took the church in the 21st century. And then we just went to our places, and started looking for the women. And then tried to say, What's there? That's as simple as it is.

Beth Moore 44:22

Well, I absolutely loved it. And of course, Elyse You had me with Miriam and Exodus 15. And that very, very early Psalm. I just-- I loved it. I am curious about something. This is strictly-- there's no, I'm not looking for you to answer a certain way. I'm just curious to hear from both of you. What do you feel like-- now I'm talking about for those of us in the faith, who-- who care. There are a lot of Christians that would not even know these terms, or care to discuss these terms, but for among those of us who care, do you see that everyone will would fall either under the label egalitarian or complementarian? Do you see that there are clear-- like, it's either one or the other? And I don't-- I don't have your answer. I, I'm curious what you think

Elyse Fitzpatrick 45:19

I am-- I'm not-- Okay. Do I think that people who are even aware of those labels, people either fall into one place to the other? There's such, there's so much baggage and such a broad spectrum at this point. A complementarian? Well, can you be complementarian, and what you're saying by that is simply that you affirm male leadership in the church and the home? Or are you complementarian in that you, you believe in patriarchy? Are you, egalitarian-- are you egalitarian in that you really do believe Scripture is inspired and inerrant and infallible, and yet, you read those three or four passages differently? Or are you egalitarian in the sense that you don't even believe that Paul actually wrote those letters?

Beth Moore 46:25

Okay, okay. Good point.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 46:26

There's so, there's so much that play in those words that at this point, honestly, I'm not even willing to use them, at least not about myself anymore. I know, it's shorthand. I know, it makes it easier. But I'm not even-- I don't even want to use those words anymore. I think that they have been-- they've been loaded down, both of them, with so much misunderstanding, and so much extra baggage, that-- to almost be worthless at this point. I've heard Amy Byrd, I think it was Amy Byrd, who said if you want to know what I am, I'm credal. Okay? So, I believe in the creeds,

Beth Moore 46:43

I love that.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 47:11

I believe the creeds. And, you know, if you want to ask me specific questions, I will answer those specific questions. But I'm not going to put myself in a camp anymore, where I'm going to say, I'm complementarian or I'm egalitarian. I'm actually neither. I tried to come up with a word like reciprocitarian, which means like, like, I'm going to, I want, I want sort of mutual benefit. Let's all work for mutual ben-- that's not gonna work. So, I'm credal.

Beth Moore 47:46

I love that. I'd be interested in your answer, Eric.

Eric Schumacher 47:50

Yeah, I am with Elyse in the sense that there is a broad spectrum. And, it depends on who gets to define the term. Because, a lot of guys, pastors, I think, my age and in my circles that I've ran in-- egalitarian is synonymous with a liberal who has thrown out the Bible,

Beth Moore 48:13

Exactly.

Eric Schumacher 48:13

--and is, is just going with the culture. And, and a complementarian is Biblical.

Beth Moore 48:23

Right.

Eric Schumacher 48:24

And so--

Beth Moore 48:26

And this is something that I have challenged, Eric. And I don't have the training that you do, I can't use the same terms that you would use, but I have found that same thing to be confusing, is that how do we have theologians that we all respect greatly that are egalitarian? And yet we would, so many of us immediately go, Anyone in that camp doesn't even care about Scripture?

Elyse Fitzpatrick 48:55

Right.

Eric Schumacher 48:56

Right. Well, some might be surprised to learn what theologians they respect are Egalitarian.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 49:02

Yes.

Eric Schumacher 49:02

And you know, so there's range within egalitarianism. And even you know, the word egalitarian focusing on equality that the sameness in worth and complementarity meaning different but they complement one another, they fill out each other, they complete each other. You know, from my understanding, the first camp to use the word complementarity was egalitarians seeking to describe how they understood men and women. So, no-- no egalitarian that I know that believes the Bible, would say that we're androgynous, with no differences between us at all. And, and then among complementarians you have some that it simply means men are the head in the home and are to be the ones leading the way and sacrificing for the good of the other, and, only qualified men should be pastors. But then, you have others where there's this whole expansion of this idea, to where-- I think what we have becomes-- it's understood as an-- it's an implication of an implication of an implication. And so there's this idea and we expand it out to the point where, a mailman has to have-- a male mailman has to deliver mail to a woman in a way differently than he would with a-- to a female.

Beth Moore 50:36

Yes.

Eric Schumacher 50:38

I'm looking through the Bible trying to find that, and I'm not finding a chapter and a verse--I'm not even finding that theme anywhere.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 50:46

Right.

Eric Schumacher 50:48

We're in this divisive culture, where if you don't follow us, through the secondaries, down to the tertiaries, then you're probably a liberal. And--

Elyse Fitzpatrick 51:02

Yes.

Eric Schumacher 51:03

And it's on this issue. It's this issue. Some people who would attack you, Beth, for a difference in interpretation and application on who should teach the Sunday assembly in the church, would gladly share a platform with someone who denies their view of baptism, or gifts of the Spirit, or church polity. But when it comes-- but they would not be caught dead with you. And it's, there is something going on in this gender issue,

Elyse Fitzpatrick 51:39

Yes.

Eric Schumacher 51:40

--that I think goes back to, I shall put enmity,

Elyse Fitzpatrick 51:45

Right.

Eric Schumacher 51:45

--between you, the serpent, and the woman.

Beth Moore 51:48

Oh, you made that so clear in the book. I love that, that you truly showed that the origin of that, of that-- disdain? I think that might be a good word for it, that has haunted the church throughout, that it-- that, that it is truly is coming from the kingdom of darkness. And, I was-- I was just so glad to see it put that way. Because I think it is true, I do think it is demonic in its in its origin, something I am so afraid we're going to lose the last moment or two of our time before I tell you a term or two that, that you two use, I've found to be so helpful. And one of the things that you challenge and I don't know which of you wrote this part of it, so I just see you together on it. But I love that you challenge that we sometimes call it servant leader as if serpent is this, as if-- not serpent! Throw that out. Servant is what is modifying leader and, and I love that you would you would have reversed that. And I truly think that the heart of it is remembering over and over again, that we are called to serve. And we are called to prefer one another. And one of the things that I hope so much we leave our listeners with that I have found in, in my own-- in my own walk, in being very very involved in church, is that it-- it is-- it's too easy to stay in the darkness of our stereotypes.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 53:38

Yes.

Beth Moore 53:39

If we will not get to know the people that would have challenged that.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 53:43

Yes

Eric Schumacher 53:43

Yeah, yeah.

Beth Moore 53:44

One of the things that I have found-- because I do a lot of moving around the body of Christ, because I'm in interdenominational ministry. So, I have been the gamut. I have gone-- I probably haven't gone to the most conservative, because they-- they would not have had me, but some of the gatherings have put me in those circles with people from the-- that, that far right, as well as the opposite extreme. But one of the things I've found, that sometimes in the worlds where they would say no, we're we definitely would assign-- because I don't know very many people that would honestly-- I'm talking about, true followers of Jesus-- that would go, women don't have the same value. I think a lot of them are going to say, no equal value, equal value, but definitely separate. And what I have found along the way, Eric, and this may not be fair to say, but it has been my experience, that-- that then being in those circles, I have found and been told by other women, that to try to engage in conversation is so awkward because there's so little practice. There's been so little interaction, and-- and serving anywhere close to one-- I'm not even saying serving in the same way, I'm saying in the same general atmosphere,--

Elyse Fitzpatrick 55:09

Right.

Beth Moore 55:09

That if we get to know one another-- just here recently, I did not realize that I had spent three solid days with a guy that was driving us around part of my-- part of the book tour for Chasing Vines. He was driving us around-- great guy, I knew he worked for the, the publisher, but I did not realize that he was from the part of our tradition that I-- that I, prob-- that is probably most critical-- no, it's not probably, it is the most critical of me. And I had no idea. And on the third day that we were all together, I said something about how I had-- uh, how-- the frustrations I have felt with that world, only to realize he was part of it. Well, he was wonderful. And I said to him, I said, do not mess me up. I said, God-- it drives me crazy that God will not let me just be comfortable in my hate. I will decide who I hate. I y'all know that I'm using that further than, um--

Elyse Fitzpatrick 56:18

Yes.

Beth Moore 56:18

--and, more as hyperbole, but just like, I'm comfortable with who I decided I don't like, and who, who's in that category. And now you have messed me up. The Lord does that over and over. And so I just-- boy, I'm a big believer in dialogue, in as many things as possible, that we are hearing from one another, sitting across the table in committee meetings and things, where we, we-- where we get over some of these things that we've imposed on one another that simply are not true.

Eric Schumacher 56:55

Yeah, that's the-- I think that's the danger of social media, is you don't know a person, and they don't see Beth Moore, Heath's wife, the mother of these daughters, a grandmother, who loves Jesus, and is a friend of these women and who cries, and you know, who makes enchiladas, and all that. They don't see you as a human being.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 57:21

Right.

Eric Schumacher 57:21

And, so it's easy to tag an account, and just hate away on someone, or make a disrespectful meme, or GIF, with someone's face on it, and then throw it out there. Like you wouldn't do if it was a person in your own church that you disagree with.

Right, right.

And they are in the greater Church that you're in.

Beth Moore 57:44

It's so true. I have to tell y'all something so fun that I figured out about the three of us. Do you know, between the three of us-- so as we have this conversation about male, female, and I want to say to everyone that has not read the book, oh, my goodness, you're gonna love already from the very beginning. Because the very first illustration you use, I think is so profound. Eric, when you talk about stereo, and because what-- what-- what you're, this is not just the value of women, it's also the value of men. It's that we all have value in the kingdom and in, in the church. And so I love that, but I did a little math, very simple math, that's my favorite kind of math. And I realized that between the three of us, we have 100 years of experience in marriage. 100 years.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 58:37

Wow.

Beth Moore 58:37

40, 40, and 20. So I just, you know, I want to make that point. Because as we discuss these matters, these are not people-- none of the three of us-- that have not been face to face with trying to make a life with the opposite gender, and trying to do the give and take of it and, that we may think so differently. And how are we going to reconcile all this and who's in charge? And all of these things. Well, you know, there has to have been a lot of a lot of willingness to dialogue and to persevere and to endure when you're talking 100 years. A century of marriage in this conversation. How about that?

Eric Schumacher 59:30

Yeah, that's amazing.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 59:32

Yeah, that-- that is really, really amazing. I-- every time I say that Phil and I have been married as long as we have, I always say, well, it proves that there's a God. So, if you need proof, there you have it.

Beth Moore 59:49

Some time -- it's probably for another conversation because I know we're running out of time. But one reason why I'm very tender to this conversation and I am so grateful for your book is because I have known the paralysis of so very much wanting to be submissive to my husband, that I would be in situations where I-- I, I had no idea what to do, because I was terrified I would lose the favor of God, lose my very calling, I'm embarrassed even to tell you guys this, but this, this is the truth. And someday I'm gonna come out with it, all the ways, the kind of things that this look like, because I did not want to lose the favor of God. And I thought it was so-- that my calling was so fragile, that if I in any way, I would not-- I would not speak unless my husband had prayed over me, I still-- I spoke last Tuesday night, and he prayed over me before I spoke. But at least now I don't have to think to myself, no, my everything is dependent, somehow, whatever is on me is coming from Jesus through my husband to me. This is part of the mentality that women in my-- that were, that had my conservative upbringing, this was what was placed upon some of us, or how we interpreted it. When my husband was tremendously sick, I didn't-- I was going to have to enter in to the finances and-- and take control of some things for a while. And I can't tell you the crisis I felt, am I going to topple this whole, this whole authority thing, this chain?

Elyse Fitzpatrick 1:01:46

Right, right.

Beth Moore 1:01:47

And it's just, this is not what the Lord had in mind.

Eric Schumacher 1:01:52

Yeah.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 1:01:52

Right.

Beth Moore 1:01:53

And I want to be part of women-- I've got to undo some of that, that I have relayed, and not, in-- not in a long time. But I don't want that to be. I don't want women to be in that crisis. I don't want them to think they we've got-- I've wanted to ask these questions before and I throw this out. I know we're going to end with with this. But these are these are questions for people to have on their radar is, when a woman has a husband who is mentally ill, what exactly does submission look like? What-- what does-- could someone instead of just throwing out real general terms, could someone help me work through what's happening under one roof under conditions like those? And so I am so glad that in such a sound and organized and clear way, you guys have started us on such a great conversation. Thank you.

Eric Schumacher 1:03:05

Yeah, thank you, Beth. And I, I think I might have Elyse say something about that issue. Or just something general. I want to say something first, though, about what you just said. And that question will be a great thing to come back and do a whole nother podcast on. Those, those are the questions that are tough. You know, that weight of fear and guilt that you describe a put upon you, that happens with men too, by poor theologies-- over-extended theologies of manhood and woman.

Beth Moore 1:03:48

Over-extended, yes.

Eric Schumacher 1:03:49

Yeah, I, you know, as, as a, in my youth, in my zeal, I would love to preach on this and emphasize how, men you need to be the leaders, and you need to step up, and you need to not be passive and all these things. And there's truth in a lot of those things. I would hammer that home. But what it looked like practically was really hard to flesh out. And there was a lot of fear for me, in terms of failing to be the leader, to be the initiator in all things in my home. And I'm trying to pastor a church, working full time, and we're starting to have kids, we've got finances-- you know, we've homeschooled our kids. Some of them are in public school now. But-- you know, there's curriculum and all these things and, my wife is-- Jenny is just just such an amazing woman. She's--

Beth Moore 1:04:47

I can tell that from your gratitude page.

Eric Schumacher 1:04:49

She is a behind the scenes woman, she would not be even behind the microphone ever. But you know, when it came to like, homeschooling, I felt this pressure that I as a father needed to be picking out all the curriculum, understanding what's going on in anything. And if you ask Jenny, she would laugh and say he doesn't have a clue what we're doing in homeschooling. And now when people ask me that I'm okay with saying, I don't know what's going on in homeschooling. And it's not because I'm passive or disinterested. It's because I trust my wife.

Beth Moore 1:05:07

Right.

Eric Schumacher 1:05:10

And these are her gifts and her skills. She takes care of our finances. There's, there's a ton of things she does. And she may ask me questions, but most of the time, she's smart enough to figure it out and do it on her own. And, I had to get past--

You know, when when the Bible tells-- when the Bible speaks about what it means to be a husband, living with a wife. But like, Jesus said, Whoever be great amongst one who serves. And I think this is where the Biblical manhood and womanhood movement can get it wrong. But I go to these passages about husbands, and it's, love your wife like Christ loved the church, and lay down your life for her. Understand her weakness, and live in a gentle way with her that that, that takes that into account. The apostles are telling us to be these self sacrificing servants. They're not laying steps out on how to be the world's greatest leader, whatever that means. It's, it's leading through sacrifice. And it's all pursuing unity. And so, Elyse did you have anything to say to Beth's question before we go?

Elyse Fitzpatrick 1:06:40

I just, you know, I just want to say this. I, there was a time in my life when I thought just like you, Beth, you know, I had to be perfectly submissive. And if I were not, if I wasn't doing all the wifey things right, then somehow I wouldn't have God's blessing on me.

Beth Moore 1:06:59

Yes.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 1:06:59

What that did to my relationship with Phil, was that it made him the arbiter of my godliness. In other words, he had to be the right kind of guy, so I could be the right kind of woman. And I am just so thankful, you know, finally a day came in, in my walk with the Lord, where I realized that my husband is not the arbiter of my godliness. My relationship is to Christ. And my husband is a fellow servant. And that for me was so immensely freeing.

Beth Moore 1:07:33

Yes. You know, Elyse, in my situation, you know, it was so you cannot imagine what a challenge this was, because I was in this whole paralysis here trying to figure all of this out with a man. I don't think Keith would mind me saying this that really, you don't just did not even-- he did not really even care about thinking about life in the Spirit. He just, we, we were both so messed up when we met and brought so much of that into one home and did not think through so many things. And we know that God has had his way and we are a miracle, but all that to say, you talk about a complicated situation, because like you're saying, if he's gonna be my arbiter, if he's gonna be the one that's almost my intercessor. And someone's thinking that this is this is crazy. Well, you've never perhaps been a woman in ministry in a conservative world. Because honestly, honestly, we live as those on probation. That we're gonna mess up. And we're going to, we're going to get it.

Eric Schumacher 1:08:46

Yeah, I'm gonna get only get one strike.

Beth Moore 1:08:48

Yeah. And so it's this fear. And one of the things that's come from just years and years of, of being a just being in journey with Jesus is just knowing that I somehow have not managed to wreck it up. He still, he still is not embarrassed to have me. And somehow, we three want to continue to convey the permanence of the love, acceptance, and the calling and choseness of Christ, and that it was based in his finished work and not how good we are at this.

Eric Schumacher 1:09:38

Amen. Well, you mentioned you know, we have between us 100 years of marriage experience and the Lord's covenant with us as His Bride is eternal. It's-- It's never gonna end. Unfortunately, our time needs to come to an end.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 1:09:58

This is sad.

Eric Schumacher 1:09:59

I think I could sit and talk to both of you, oh, all day long.

Beth Moore 1:10:04

I cannot thank you enough for having me-- and letting me, our listeners don't know that I said, Well, let me have it the second hour and let me do the hosting. So thank you for allowing this novice at that to get in there and ask you some questions. You are both a tremendous blessing and gift to the body of Christ. And I pray his tremendous blessing on this book. It is excellent and it will forever live on my shelf.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 1:10:36

Thank you. Thank you.

Eric Schumacher 1:10:39

Yeah, thank you, Beth, you are a great blessing to both of us. You've done a wonderful job with your first time hosting a podcast. And you are-- you are more than welcome to be a guest on the worthy podcast anytime you'd like it. And you can even host it. You want to host it and get an interview, you just say the word and you will be back here. But Elyse and I are going to insist that we get jars of grape jelly from your vines when they're producing.

Beth Moore 1:11:11

Do not let me forget that. And I guarantee you that you will have it.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 1:11:17

Thank you!

Eric Schumacher 1:11:17

It's gonna be like three years, right?

Beth Moore 1:11:19

It will be three years, it'll be a little bit over that. But yes, yes, it will be but you know, we're gonna be patient.

Eric Schumacher 1:11:26

Yes, well, we like to watch things grow. Like, like our Father in Heaven. Yeah. Well, it's been wonderful to have you Beth. And we have absolutely loved it. And thank you to our listeners for we hope it hasn't been bearing with us for an extra long podcast. This time has flown for us and we thoroughly enjoyed it. Hope you as listeners have enjoyed it too. If you have, would you consider subscribing to the podcast, rating it and sharing it with your friends or perfect strangers? We don't care if you spam people with it. Just do it kindly. And consider supporting us on Patreon so we can keep these podcasts going. This has been the Worthy podcast with Elyse Fitzpatrick and Eric Schumacher. And our host today was Beth Moore, the author of Chasing Vines. Thanks for listening, and tune in next time.

Beth Moore 1:12:18

Thank you!

Elyse Fitzpatrick 1:12:18

Thank you.

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>