

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

Hosts: Elyse Fitzpatrick and Eric Schumacher

Episode 28 — Guest: Pamela MacCrae

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Elyse Fitzpatrick 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 won't always agree on everything. But we do agree that God is glorious, the Bible is true, and women are valuable, and respectful conversation on this topic is essential in our day.

Hi there, and welcome back to the Worthy podcast. I'm here today with my co host, Eric Schumacher. And Eric and I are very happy to welcome to the show today a friend of a friend, someone we haven't met before, but Raleigh Sadler, who has been on the program with us before, introduced us to Dr. Pamela MacCrae. And let me talk to a little bit about her and, and you're going to love this, people. I have questions for her. What she does is so much what we're hoping gets done for particularly pastors who are learning to be pastors in their churches, but then also for women. So let me introduce her to you. She works at Moody. And she's the Professor of Ministry to Victims of Sexual Exploitation, and Ministry to Women. She is in the Applied Theology and Church Ministries division. And she's a contributing author in the Moody Handbook of Preaching, writing about how women hear the sermon and people we're going to talk about this because I think this is so important. She's also written "Finding Your Voice: Knowing and Being Known" in *Unseduced and Unshaken: The Place of Dignity in a Young Woman's Choices*. And for the past seven years, she's taught a class for the male students in the pastoral studies major, entitled Pastoral Care of Women. Thank you for that. And this course was designed to help future pastors learn how to shepherd the women in their congregation. Well, I'm so tempted right now to make a really sort of sarcastic remark like, oh, my goodness, who would ever think of anything like that? But anyway, welcome. Dr. McCray, we're happy to have you.

Pamela MacCrae 3:25

Thank you so much. I am just so happy a little beside myself, to have this conversation.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 3:33

We're really thrilled to have you as well. Thank you. So let's let you tell our audience a little bit about yourself about your faith journey, particularly how you ended up at Moody in teaching and pastoral studies. And then I do want to to also talk a little bit, maybe about getting the DMin, that's kind of unusual for women in certain spheres. So why did you do that? And what was your experience like there? So maybe, faith journey, and then education and teaching?

Pamela MacCrae 4:08

Well, thanks, I'd love to talk about that a little bit. And so to start with, in my faith journey, one of the delights of my life and also a setup that I see so clearly from the Lord is that I was born into a home where my dad was a pastor. And so, growing up, I remember specifically, that my perspective was, the church was almost like, another part of our home, like this was our family. I felt like people in the church were people that I was related to, and so my father also, I have memories of being included in ministry that he did. And so I would go with him when he would take baskets of food to the foreigner community. Go with him and visit people in a nursing home. I would go with him early - I had two sisters, and I was the only one that would go to the sunrise service on Easter. And yes, my mother didn't even go, like my dad and I did while everybody else was preparing for the day. But so at the time, it was

just, you know, being with my dad and whatnot. And I look back now and it was really the Lord. Kind of an invitation for me to consider what pastoral ministry and church ministry and engaging in ministry looked like and was all about, I mean, it really set a foundation for my thoughts. When I was in high school, I went to a Christian boarding school in Asheville, North Carolina, which is one of the events in my life that I look back and think it was such a great test, I loved it. So at the Christian boarding school it had exceptional biblical teaching, in fact, one of my favorite are the best Bible teacher I ever had in my life. Dr. Jack Layman, he was my Bible teacher my senior year and taught us the book of Isaiah through whole year, and that the depth of the theological engagement that he expected from us helped me to see that I could think theologically, and I could understand, you know, what Isaiah meant. Now, that was part of what then led me to Moody Bible Institute to study theology. So the moment of my salvation, I believe, was when I was four years old. It was then that I really felt like, I knew that I was naughty, and Jesus would take care of it. And then I heard about how and then after I was four or 5, 6, 7, I heard about how I was like, I knew Jesus would keep me out of hell. And so that was like this beginning stages. And I look back on that is so simplistic, and so like concrete, and like, I was bad, I knew it. I didn't want to go to hell, I knew it. But it was that I know that the Spirit came into my life and continued to draw me. And so then going all these different steps by the time that I got to Moody, and I just wanted to study theology. I'm old enough to not have been thinking as much about a career as I was thinking about what I wanted to do. And what did I want to know. And so I wanted to know God's word. And so thinking about what that would do, I knew that it would help me in ministry in a church. And that's what I wanted to do. When I was in high school, I had a lot of friends who were missionary kids. And I had to push was that what God wanted me to? I thought, really good Christians were missionaries. And I thought, I better figure out if that's what God wants me to do if I want to serve him with my whole life. And I know that in those days, God particularly called me to the church. And I didn't know what that looked like, because I'm a woman. Right? But I did know I needed to know God's word. And so I studied theology. And then I met my husband, who was going to be a youth pastor. I heard pastor, I heard church ministry, I heard that's what women can do. And so it felt like, that's God's confirmation, I should marry this man.

And then I got into it and realized, youth ministry was not where I thrived, but ministry to women was, and so that's my trajectory. And so I did ministry to women for a long time, in that context, and then I did conferences for women I was on the board of a crisis pregnancy center, I did some parachurch ministries and those kinds of things. And then, fast forward. I worked at Moody Bible Institute for about five years doing conferences for women kind of being their coordinator for women's conferences, and I did like 17 events a year all over the country. And was in that training, and networking with women who were ministry to women leaders in their churches and doing trainings for them networking, along with setting up conferences. In the process, I met the chairman of the Pastoral Studies Department. And he asked me if I'd ever thought about what it would look like for Moody to have a ministry to women major. And so I said to him, I've only been thinking about that since I was a student. He asked me what classes do you think we need and I off the top of my head in a casual, off the cuff conversation said, well, you need these I've listed five courses, I thought, and it's really a fun story in my journey. But eventually he asked me if I would teach one of the courses as he was getting this major running. So it was a Ministry to Women major that was housed in the Pastoral Studies Department, because it was teaching women essentially, the pastoral elements of ministering to women. So what's the theology of women in ministry? What's our methodologies and strategies? And then how to teach women, other elements. So he asked me if I would teach the course. And I said, I don't do that. But I have plenty of friends. And so I gave him the list of friends. And whe came back to me and said, I essentially, I never got around to calling them would you do this? Again, I said, I don't do this, I'm not a teacher. Teachers usually have to learn how to teach and have an education course maybe. And then he said to me, do you

want this major to happen? Well, if you put it that way, all right. I'll teach this, but I don't do this. And that was one movement in my life that God used to show me that I did love to teach and encourage students. And it's a more complicated story. But anyway, a couple years later, I ended up being hired to be on faculty at Moody in the Pastoral Studies Department to be the head of this program, of Ministry to Women. And I credit him, and we talked about this in later years, that he saw in me something that I didn't see myself. And that is such a gift. Yes. And so I ended up being the only woman in the Pastoral Studies Department for 10 years. And learned and grew. And it's in that process that because I was obviously in an academic setting, the degree issue is important. And so, in the past, I just went to school, because I like school. I mean, I ended up having a master's and being qualified to teach and be on faculty only because I had gotten a degree just because I thought it was fun. And so when I was on faculty, I needed the additional credential. And what I wanted was a Doctorate of Ministry, that would help me because what I was doing was the work of the applied theology of ministry training, and that was most accessible to me through the DMin program that I was a part of.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 13:10

That's really a wonderful story. I love hearing about God calling you as a little girl, you knew that you were the one who wanted to go and minister with your dad. And you know, whether or not we have that sort of codified in our mind, like, this is a call -we don't know it. And there you are learning from your dad with your dad. And then also you have a man in your life, who is encouraging you, hey, these are your gifts, you need to use them. That's so beautiful. And when we have men in our lives who do that sort of thing, with women who perhaps as a little girl, as you were, or even a young woman, knowing you have, feeling some sort of a call, but not even knowing how that's going to play out. Because after all, you're a woman. Having a man to encourage you, is so helpful. So important. And you know, if we could say anything to pastors who listen to this, women need you to tell them, they can do it. You know, it's so it's so wonderful. And I know in my own life, I've been surrounded by guys, particularly my husband, who said to me over and over again, you can do, you can do this, do it. How important that is.

Pamela MacCrae 14:43

And you know, I didn't recognize all of that until I looked back and I think that the benefit of age and experience is to look back and say, oh, my goodness, this dot connected, and I didn't even know it. I didn't even know there was a dot there. But all these dots in my life connect, and I don't think my father would have known that he was intentionally encouraging me. I think that's just what he did. And, and that makes it even more interesting to me. Because the assumption was very concrete in my mind. Now, I think that the chair of our department, Dr. Kessler, I mean, he knew what he was doing. I mean, he's like, he's like a crafty person and creates all these great things. And and that was great. But he knew better than to tell me to because that was scared me off. If, you know, if he had let me know that I see this in you and this is what I'm doing I would have probably freaked out. And said I know people - call my friends again.

Eric Schumacher 15:49

Do you think he actually forgot to call your friends or he just waited?

Pamela MacCrae 15:53

Well, I don't want to accuse him of it. But I'm pretty sure. I know. We never called anybody.

Eric Schumacher 15:59

But so what's your experience been like, as the user for 10 years, you were the only woman in the Department of was a Pastoral Studies. So I imagine the majority of students in that department were men. And so what was it like being a woman in that department? And how were you received by male students who are looking to enter the pastorate?

Pamela MacCrae 16:25

Yeah, that's very interesting. So my students, I taught a freshman class that was like a spiritual life, spiritual disciplines class. That kind of was an entree into this the doctrines of the church for for freshmen. But beyond that, I predominantly taught classes that were geared in the Ministry to Women major, although I had men in every single class. But my first year in one class, I had a man who very much did not think that I should be teaching and very much did not think I should be using - it was okay, you could teach the class, but God forbid you use the Bible. And he would walk out on me. And so by the time I realized that he was walking out on me, he wasn't just going to the restroom, I began to wonder what am I going to do with this. And then somehow, it just didn't become an issue enough for me to confront it. But I can tell you that the issues I had more were with students than I had with within my department in my faculty. So my department was the most affirming and wonderful place and the camaraderie was just beautiful and lovely. I mean, just supportive and wonderful. And when I would come back and talk about, you know, well, I had a student or there was this interaction, or this is what I heard women students are experiencing, what was so great as they would get as upset about things as I would, I mean, there were times I would go into our department meeting and go, Oh, my word, you have to hear what's going on. And they would go, this can't happen, you know. And, and so that kind of camaraderie was wonderful. And after I taught long enough, I realized students are supposed to be students. And so students come in with their perspective, and we are there to teach them. And so part of that is to teach them out of some of the attitudes that they came with that were dismissive of me as a woman professor.

Eric Schumacher 18:48

That is so interesting. I know in some seminaries, there's the mindset that women can't teach the Bible to students, can't teach theology to students. And I think the argument is that this is in some way parallel to the church and the professors, you know, are analogous to the pastor, and there's some dangerous precedent being set that I don't know what's going to happen. But anyway, what's the danger of, say me, a pastor going through, getting my MDiv of being trained for ministry, and never learning from a woman?

Pamela MacCrae 19:28

You're being set up to view women as being sentimental about the gospel, to be convinced that the ones who can plumb the depths of the theological beauty of the gospel and the depths of what we can know about God are reserved for men. And so to view that women are useful for sentimentality for emotionalism, for casualness or a more light-handed touch of the Scripture teaches men to see women predominantly as bodies. Not as spiritually mature souls.

And so it's a it's very much an objectification of women. And sometimes I have felt that it's sort of intended to be benevolent. You know, like, oh, what was the sweet women, aren't they great? God bless them. And, you know, I'm Southern. Oh, God bless. But there's a toleration of their presence, not a full engagement and welcoming of them as co heirs as co laborers.

Eric Schumacher 20:48

But how does that mindset transfer them to the church is that carried into the local church? And how should pastors fight that?

Pamela MacCrae 20:57

I have experienced it profoundly in the church. I mean, I, I think most Christian women, and ones, particularly who are serious about their theological and biblical engagement can tell you stories. I think of a time I remember when I was getting my, my doctorate. And so that can that can set you apart. Any kind of higher education degree that's of theological nature can be a roadblock for both men and women.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 21:39

Yes.

Pamela MacCrae 21:42

But I was talking to a new pastor in our church, and I had not had a conversation with him before. And I have been in a lot of churches, so nobody tried to figure out. So I was meeting him and just talking about what I did. So when I mentioned I was a professor at Moody Bible Institute, he sort of backed up a couple inches, but then when I said that I was getting my doctorate, then he backed up a few more inches, and then never had a conversation with me again, and essentially marginalized me from any kind of involvement in any kind of engagement. And I did not think twice about it. So that's a bad thing. I didn't think twice about it. But then there were some other women leaders in the church who were around that conversation, who noticed it and mentioned it to me later.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 22:46

Yes.

Pamela MacCrae 22:47

And so then, that became painful to me, and also tempted me to sin, by being angry and bitter. And by also withholding my gifts and pulling back. So his response tempted me to sin, which then it tempts me to be angry. But pastors really do hold so much power. And we have to engage with the kind of power that a pastor has to either encourage the women who are in their church, to righteousness or to sin, to do faithfully pursuing what God has for them, or to encourage them to hold back. So that's a heavy calling on a pastor to steward that well.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 23:52

And, you know, why do you think I mean, I have my own ideas about why I think some men have a very difficult time, I should say, with women who are strong theologically. What's your take on that? Why are some pastors very uncomfortable, very dismissive of women who are strong theologically, and then there are other pastors like, Eric, my co author, my co host, who is so incredibly welcoming and encouraging. What do you think? What do you think drives that, Pam? Do you have any ideas about that?

Pamela MacCrae 24:37

You know, it's, it's interesting, when you say, when you begin with that question, something rises up in me even there's like all these things flash like number one, I don't want to presume. And that I also have the ability to be snarky about that. And I don't want to be snarky. And I mean, I probably had a snarky phase, you know, or just kind of a annoyed phase. And then you know, I have to move into a really kind of compassionate because we all, we all sin on this

Elyse Fitzpatrick 25:20

Yes.

Pamela MacCrae 25:21

There's equal sin and equal temptation to sin to go around. But my experience has been particularly when I talk about teaching the theology of women in ministry that I teach that I am a faculty member at a Bible College. I have sometimes a sense that pastors sometimes look at me and like, Oh, she's that woman, you know. Or thinks that there... I liked in your book where you had this part that talked, I think it was actually a quote from a friend who said, that I have put people through a complementarian orthodoxy test. And depending where even where you fall on that continuum, if you're a softer, more conservative or more generous complementarian, that you can almost feel like you're your suspect. My takeaway is that I have felt like I'm suspect because of that. And I've had pastors who I feel have almost blackballed me because this is what I am studying deeply. Which leads me to wonder if they have not studied it as deeply and would not want to get in a conversation with me, because they might be bested theologically, and that would be humiliating. And so that is not just a an I wonder, it's I also know that is actual, in my experience. Because there have been some conversations where somebody comes back and says, I wasn't confident in what I thought about it. And now that I've studied a little bit, they just want you to know that that was part of why I distance myself from you.

Eric Schumacher 27:29

Hmm, wow. So what particularly can pastors do to help affirm women like yourself to use your gifts in the church? You obviously use them in serving the church through your role as professor, but I'm thinking about even in the local church, maybe where you have a complementarian church where they're not going to have women be pastors. They may not have women giving the sermons. And it would be easy to think, well, we don't have women teach the men in here. So there's not much to think about that. Like, what would it look like to encourage you to use your gifts in a local church?

Pamela MacCrae 28:18

My husband was a youth pastor for 18 years, and I did ministry in a church that way. And then I was on a ministry to women board where I served for 18 years very specifically in a church. And so I can tell you that for me, for a pastor, to have a conversation with a woman who says, you know, I really feel like God is calling me to fill in the blank. First, I think that he should believe her. And be curious. And draw her out. And know the questions to ask that she doesn't know to ask, maybe. So a pastor should have this multifaceted perspective on what is required, and might be required for her -might be ways she could serve that she might not even see or think about. And he should be able to peel back some of those onion layers for her. And say, you know, if you think you have the gift of teaching, have you thought of getting this training? Have you thought of going to seminary? Have you thought of this particular course of study, and then providing opportunities for her to grow and develop and those gifts in whatever way is open and possible? And I think this is the call of any pastor to look at their congregation and say, where are the gifts and the people that I am to shepherd? It is my job to create space for their gifts. And that's what I think is lacking, instead of saying, oh, we need to have this program at church and then we're going to train people for this program. Look at the people in your church and go who do I have sitting in front of me and how can I make space and create the ministries that represent the gifts that are in my congregation. And that means really talking to women and not keeping them in these boxes of this is what we've always done here. You know, we're in the middle of sheltering place, this may be aired at a time when God willing, everybody's back hugging everybody. And I need to hug my grandkids soon! We are in a time where I think the Spirit of God is showing us so much, and one is that ministry

can look differently in a quick hurry. And we have to think about it differently. So why don't we do that on a normal basis and look at gifts and say, let's think about how ministries may look different than just the ways we have traditionally, and whatever ecclesial tradition you are in, in whatever doctrinal frameworks that we have, there's still a lot of room to look at how it can be applied. So we're learning that in this. I mean, does anybody Zoom exhausted at this point? Because everybody's Zooming about something.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 31:17

That's so good. Thank you. I would pray that many pastors would take what she said to heart, particularly about let's start thinking that we don't have to do things the way we always have done them, you know. If you're going to talk about women, then it's going to be women will have a tea, or women work in the nursery. So to try to think more broadly about that. So thank you for that. I know that you teach and I've written about how women hear sermons. And I would love for you to talk about that for a few minutes if you would, please, Pam,

Pamela MacCrae 32:03

You know, I've been teaching a class called Pastoral Care of Women that has been a class for all male pastoral studies students to kind of, say, let's spend three hours of academic credit to talk about how men shepherd and pastor women. And one of their assignments has been to I have every student do a devotional on a woman in Scripture because I don't even think that men or women typically hear sermons on women in scripture. And so typically, at the beginning of every semester, I asked students, do you know who, whose Zelophehad's daughters are and they're like, who? Do you know who Huldah is? And so I think, more and more of these, in these recent years, there's been more knowledge, but predominantly, we don't really know often about women in Scripture. But I do this because I want men to understand how to teach about women to women. What I find interesting is that, and what I tell my students is, if a pastor is going to preach on a woman in Scripture, he better do a great job because women spend a lot of time in Bible study studying women in the Bible. And if you trivialize some of the influence and impact of some of these women, you're going to lose them. And they're going to be suspect of your scholarship in other areas as well. So with that said, what I will say is that, to take seriously that women engaged theologically, and biblically in ways that are probably deeper than they might anticipate, you know, if you pay attention who the Bible study teachers are that women are drawn to, you see the depths, and so women want that. And so when they come to a church service, they've got that and pastors should be careful to imply and infer in the sermon that women are going to be keeping up with them. And that means in certain application and certain acknowledgement of their particular situations in life. Women may or may not notice that they are not being addressed in the sermon because women have developed down through the years a great capacity to sit in a sermon and translate it...

Elyse Fitzpatrick 35:03

And to contextualize it for yourself.

Pamela MacCrae 35:05

Yes, and so that means that when a pastor does address a woman, it probably has a greater impact because it's surprising. And so to note that means to recognize that pastors need to ensure that that happens regularly. And I would say also, that that means that men need to study women. And men need to study issues of women. I've had men in my classes say, Well, I don't know, and this is also in regards to pastoral care, and pastoral counseling, I don't know how I could do that effectively, how I could preach in a way that would be different, because I'm not a woman, and I can't understand a woman.

And I essentially say, but you are human. And women are human. And they have issues that there is a great commonality in their humanity. And so you start there to just acknowledge that we are common in our humanity. And then men need to do a good job of studying the issues that are important to women. And I think there's a book that I use one of my textbooks is Bev Hislop's book called *Shepherding Women in Pain*. She edited it as she taught ministry, I think it was called pastoral care of women at I think Western Seminary. She edits a book that has experts talk about issues that are specific to women infertility, PMS, depression and anxiety and suicide and sexual issues, but through the lens of being a woman, and then she gives a great list of do's and don'ts for how to shepherd them. This is a book that pastors need to read and study and have on their shelf so that they can think about some application in their sermons and then go what issues might this hit with women and then make their applications applicable to women. So there also is a way that so many different learning capacities that not only women, and men have the men and women within the scope of their engagement with a sermon, and to make a sermon too heady or, to make it too simplistic is an error, and in preaching, and in the same way to hit only men and not women, or to hit men and women and not the adolescent in the congregation is an error. And so I think pastors just need to be encouraged that we need to speak to the whole congregation. So pastors are helped when they consider their whole congregation.

Eric Schumacher 38:19

That's really good. And I appreciate what you said about women have developed the ability, or just the habit, of translating the sermon as they listen to it, because they're not used to being addressed. And it's kind of sad to have the mindset of I know, I'm not going to be addressed so I have to take this and apply it to me. It reminds me of in our church, we're a Baptist church, but we have a fairly structured liturgy, and we'll have our song leaders be the service reading leaders as well. And so we have both men and women leading those readings and men and women do our scripture reading and so forth. And one of our members commented, after maybe a year or two of doing this, she said she had visited another church over the weekend, and there was no female voice heard at all in the entire service. And she missed it. I think, for some people to hear a female's voice in service would be startling. And that just isn't something that I had thought about before. Definitely the women, the women notice. I loved what you said about men needing to study the women in Scripture and studying women's issues. On the one hand, I think it's beneficial as we as men learn to minister to women, but what would you have to say about learning from the women in Scripture? Sometimes I've seen the passages, both known and the unknown ones you referenced, they're often taught on as, well, these are passages for women. We as men need to learn from Ruth and Elizabeth as well. They're there to teach us. How would you encourage a pastor look at the women in the Bible?

Pamela MacCrae 40:14

You know, I think what that first leads me to think is this is the beauty of doing some theology together. So when a pastor prepares a sermon, regardless of what sermon it is, he is helped and strengthened by the perspective of a woman in the passage that he's preaching on. I hear often that a pastoral team will do collaborative work on sermon series and plan for that. And then there's the collaborative work of the worship, and, you know, on all these elements in the service. And so for a pastor to have a collaborative session with women who have looked at this passage and get their perspective, this really, to me goes back to what it means when God says, it's not good for a man to be alone, and he gave her. A woman needs to be part of that help, and, and help the, a woman needs to help a man in his preaching. And I think that that's very important. And I think that is so clearly seen. One of my favorite passages, and I think that this is important, is in Philippians, 4, where Paul is talking about Euodia and Syntyche. I always heard that taught as well, you know, women can't get along, you know, and, and it used to be, you know, like this prick in my spirit, like, ugh! But anyway, so then when I studied it to teach on it and go,

can we not talk about how Paul was saying of these women, these are my fellow heirs of the gospel, that means the fellow heirs that the co-heirs of the gospel together, this is an incredible equality of the relationship that we have in Christ together, but he calls them co-laborers, they labor together, and when men forget that they need the help of a woman in laboring together for the Gospel, then they might miss what passages mean, from a perspective of a woman that they need help to see. So I think that's incredibly important. And I think that us not doing theology together is not the unity that Jesus wanted. Because in John 17, Jesus didn't say want them to be one as we are one. He didn't say men with men and women with women,

Elyse Fitzpatrick 42:59
Right.

Pamela MacCrae 43:00
And so we have taken some cultural issues of kinds of the separateness of men and women that are cultural issues. And we have infused them into our biblical issues and our theological issues. And that is so damaging. And we need to own it that that is from our culture, that is not from Scripture. And so I think when we own it, that we're to be together, theologically and one in this union with Christ and with one another, then we will reject the separateness of men and women that our culture has down through all of history. And we will eliminate that from the church.

Eric Schumacher 43:49
You've been listening to the Worthy podcast with Elise Fitzpatrick and Eric Schumacher. Our guest today has been Dr. Pamela MacCrae. She's a professor at the Moody Bible Institute. She's a professor of applied theology and in church ministry department. She's the program head of the Ministry to Women and program head of Ministry to Victims of Sexual Exploitation. And I wish that we had about three hours to continue this discussion. So if Pam is willing, I'm hopeful we'll have maybe a part two or part three following this discussion up from time to time. We'll come back with one more question for Dr. MacCrae, from Elyse. But for now, I want to encourage you if you've been enjoying this podcast, I hope that you'll pass it along to your pastor, and encourage him to think about these things and check out the resources that Dr. MacCrae has referenced. And we would welcome and encourage you to consider being a Patreon supporter of this podcast, to help us with the costs of keeping it going and having these conversations that we think are important for our church and for our world.

Elyse Fitzpatrick 44:56
Thank you, Pam. This is this is really been wonderful. And, you know, one of the things that we've been talking a lot about on our podcast, and that we talked about in the book, is the fact that there is a lot of abuse in the church, and that abuse is not always handled well. And so can you just help us understand how having a right view of ministry to women will help pastors and people in the congregation respond better to any form of sexual exploitation, but maybe particularly in the local body?

Pamela MacCrae 45:41
It is such a big question. And we don't have to go very far at all to agree in conversation, to agree together, that anything that involves sin and hurt and pain in a way that offends God's original intended design for men and women, is horrific, and causes horrific damage. And we should be identifying and rejecting that at all cost.

To reject that means that we can't ignore that. And so I would say that this is the work of the church. Our Lord is a healer, Our Lord is true and honest and pure and righteous. And this is what we seek. And

what is our task that we have been we have been given by the Lord to do this work on this earth, and that involves with each other and in the church. So there's so much to be said about what it means to make sure that that is not ignored, or that is not neglected. We all know that when it is neglected, it keeps people from the Lord and it puts barriers up from being able to be responsive to the Holy Spirit as he reveals to us the truth of our Lord. And would that we all reject that and run from that. We want to be the fragrance of Christ that draws people to the Lord and works out our calling as his ambassadors.

Eric Schumacher 47:50

Pam, thank you for joining us today.

Pamela MacCrae 47:52

It was my pleasure. Thanks so much for inviting me.

Eric Schumacher 47:56

You've been listening to the Worthy podcast with our special guest Dr. Pamela MacCrae of Moody Bible Institute. Join us next time on our next episode of Worthy.