



GENDER ROLES AND RELIGION



Historical perspectives

- Ancient Near Eastern and Greco-Roman religions:
 - *Priests and priestesses*
 - *Gods and goddesses*
- Biblical Israel
 - *Presence of goddesses recognized (but not accepted) – texts mention Asherah (e.g. Deut. 16.21) and Queen of Heaven (see Jeremiah 7.18; 44.15-18)*
 - *No explicit mention of women priests in Hebrew Bible, but women could be prophets or sages.*
 - *Archaeological evidence of household religious cult – female involvement?*



Religions today

■ Hinduism

- *Long tradition of female gurus, priests, and sadhu (ascetic, holy person, monk)*
- *Goddesses in Hindu pantheon, e.g. Shakti, Durga, Lakshmi*

■ Buddhism

- *Ancient tradition of ordained nuns (bhikkhunis), although this has died out (or has been forbidden) in some Theravada Buddhist countries (e.g. Burma, Thailand).*
- *Continues to be permitted in Mahayama Buddhism (e.g. in Japan, Taiwan, China).*



Religions today

- Sikhism: women can participate in any religious function, perform any Sikh ceremony or lead the congregation in prayer.
- Taoism: ordain both men and women as priests.
- Shinto: both men and women can be ordained as priests.
- Islam: in some Western countries, women can serve as imams (spiritual leader, authority, teacher, leads a congregation in salat, or prayer). Elsewhere, women are forbidden from serving as imams.
- Judaism: Orthodox Judaism forbids female rabbis or cantors. Reform and Conservative Judaism permits them.



Amina Wadud

New Religious Movements

Varied relationship with cultural gender norms:

- Some, but not all, NRMs imitate traditional patriarchal hierarchies.
- Others deliberately subvert or ignore these hierarchies, offering women new opportunities in religious leadership/membership.
- Neo-Pagan and New Age religious movements are particularly explicit in affirming women's roles in religious life.



Christianity

- Long and complex history of women's ordination, and participation in religious life.
 - *In NT, see Luke 8.1-3; John 20.17-18; Rom. 16.1-4*
 - *19th Century – first women's ordination*
- Resistance to women's ordination continues in Roman Catholic Church and some Protestant Evangelical and fundamentalist traditions.
- Complementarianism: men and women are fundamentally different. Men lead, women do not.
 - *Based on biblical texts and church traditions (e.g. 1 Tim. 2: 11-14; Eph. 5.22-33).*

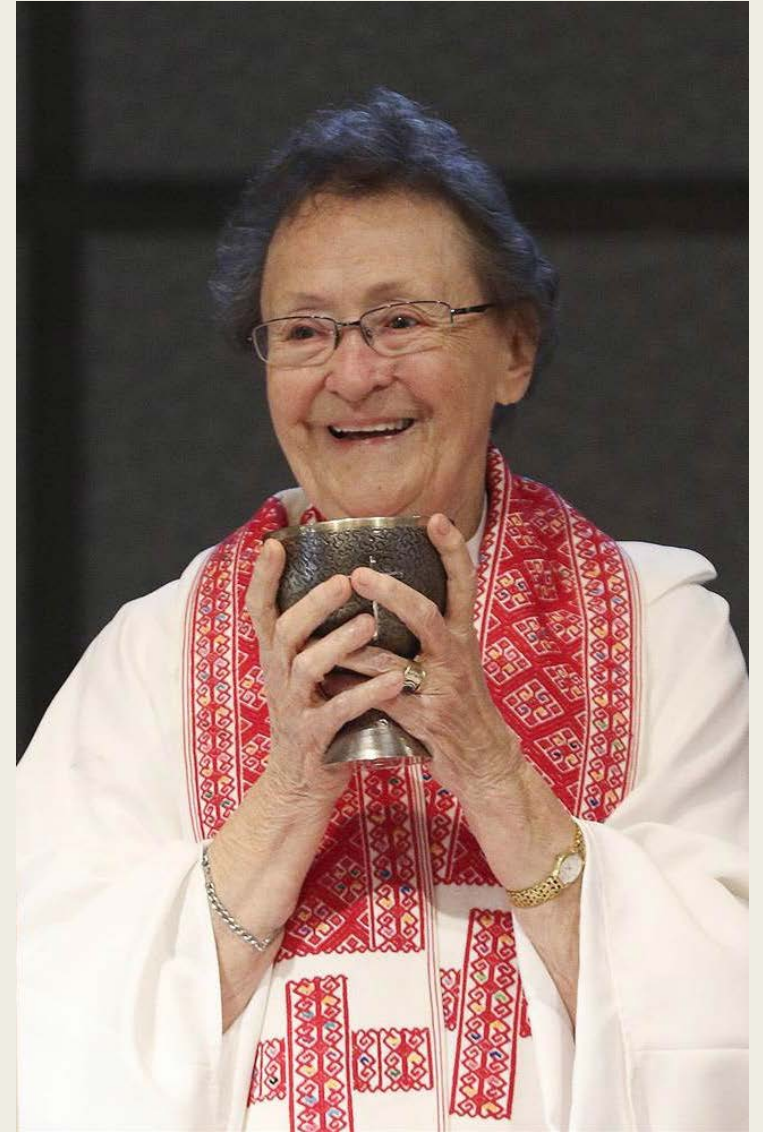


Katharine Jefferts Schori, first presiding bishop of the episcopal church and first female primate of the Anglican church (2006)

Roman Catholic Church

Pope John Paul II, *Mulieris Dignitatum* (1988):

- Women deserving of equal human dignity but need to maintain distinct gender roles.
- Women had two vocational options:
 - *Wives and mothers*
 - *Celibate members of religious orders.*
- *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis* (1994) –reaffirmed this view on women's ordination.
- Catholic women continue to serve in non-ordained ministries within the church, as theologians, liturgists, and social activists.
- Other women choose a different path...
- <http://romancatholicwomenpriests.org/faq.htm>



Pink Smoke Over the Vatican




Documentary directed by Jules Hart (2011) about women ordained as priests in the Roman Catholic Church, despite their 'invalid' status.

Questions

- What *religious* justifications are offered by the Roman Catholic Church offer for women's exclusion from leadership and ordination?
- What *cultural* functions do these justifications serve? That is, what cultural impacts do women's exclusion from ordination have?
- What *religious* arguments are offered by the people in this video in favour of ordination?
- What *cultural* justifications for women's ordination are offered by some of the speakers?

Men's ministries

- Arose in 1970s from anxieties about 'feminizing' of the Church and drop in male membership.
- Appealing to a particular type of 'godly masculinity' – often based on cultural stereotypes of masculinity (particularly sport and militarism), with some revisions around masculine sexuality.
 - *Brotherhood (homosocial relationships)*
 - *Sexual purity (anti-pornography and casual sex)*
 - *Family and marriage*
- Some acknowledgement of complementarian views of gender roles.
- tap into traditional heteronormative and cisnormative gender discourses.




**NORTHSIDE
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Men's Ministry Name:
"Special Forces"

Special Forces' Motto:
"No Man Left Behind"


Special Forces' Purpose:
"Equipping men to become fully
devoted disciples of Jesus."

Questions?
Contact Gary Givens - Men's Ministry Pastor
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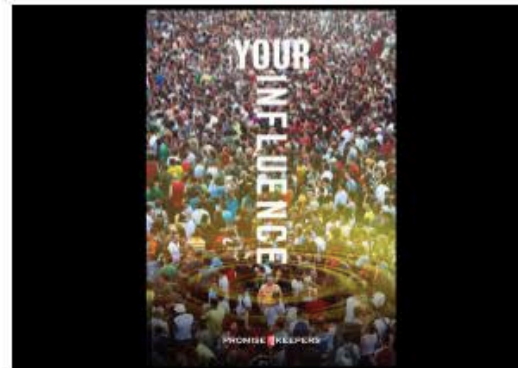
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STUDY GUIDES



MEN'S MINISTRY

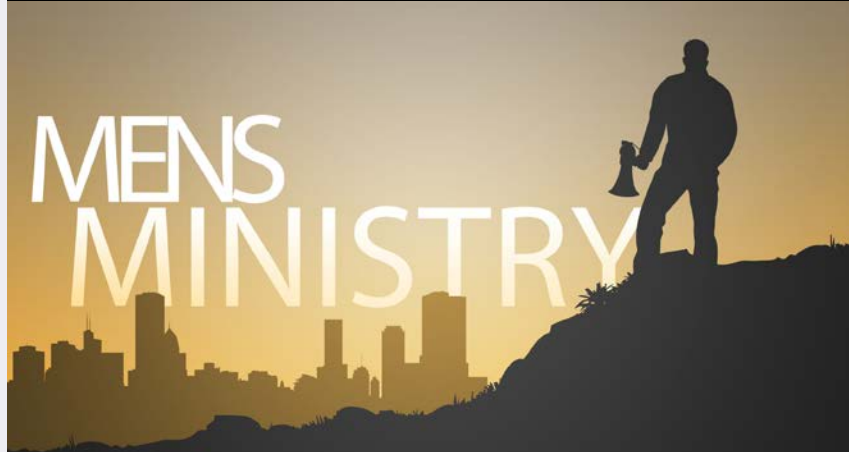
Seventh Day Adventist conference



MEN'S MINISTRIES SUMMIT WEEKEND

Some resources to check out (including links to videos we have watched)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVJYQCN_BB4
- <http://www.everymanministries.com/video-sermons/play/what-does-it-look-like-to-encourage-my-wife>
- <http://mensministrycatalyst.org>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzBXf7BaBAs>
- <http://mysouthwestregion.org/event/mens-ministries-summit-weekend/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKCOVkJVhNQ>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-BTF2yYBRw>







Creative Ladies Ministry

WOMEN'S MINISTRY PLANNING WITH JULIA BETTENCOURT

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Welcome to Creative Ladies Ministry!

Here at CLM you will find ideas and planning information to help develop your local church Women's Ministry into an effective outreach. The aim is to teach, motivate, and encourage. I trust you'll go away with a few new ideas, having been encouraged...Julia

SEARCH



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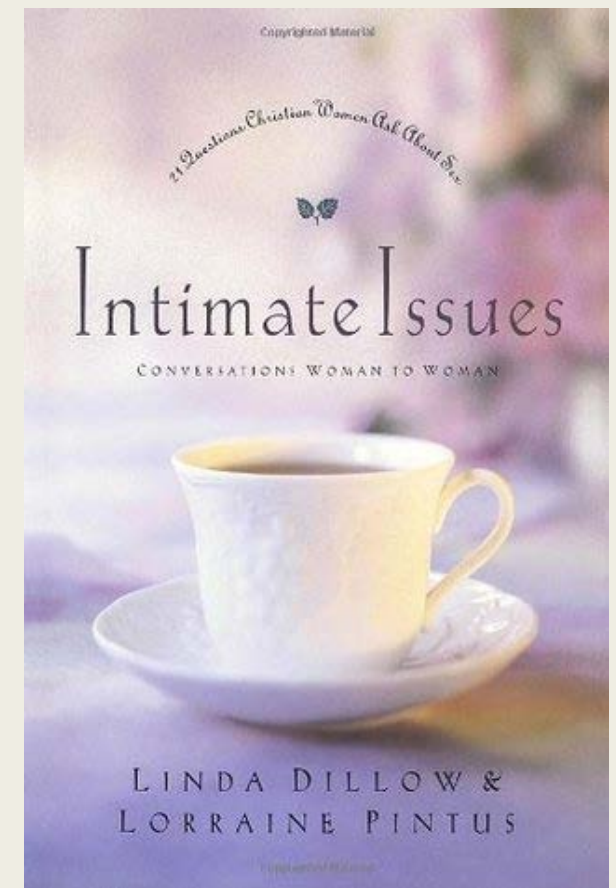
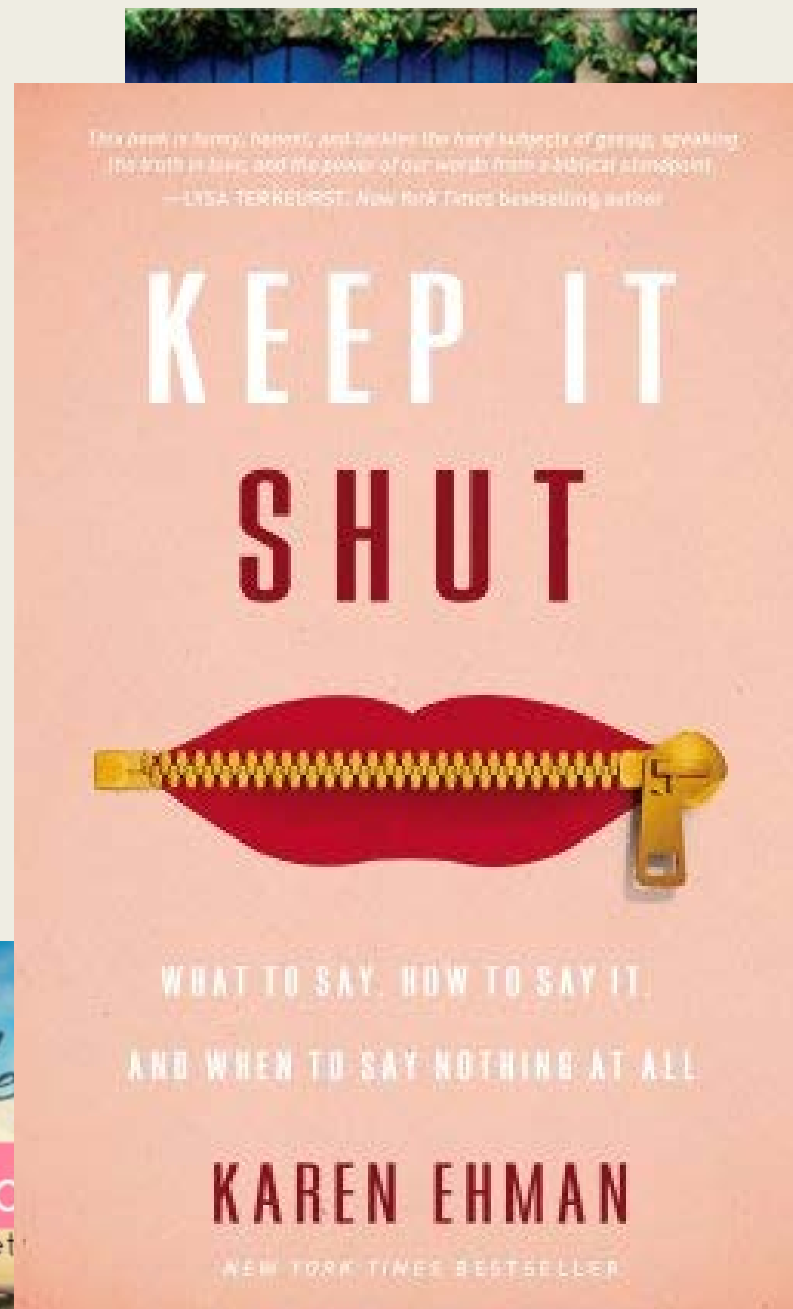
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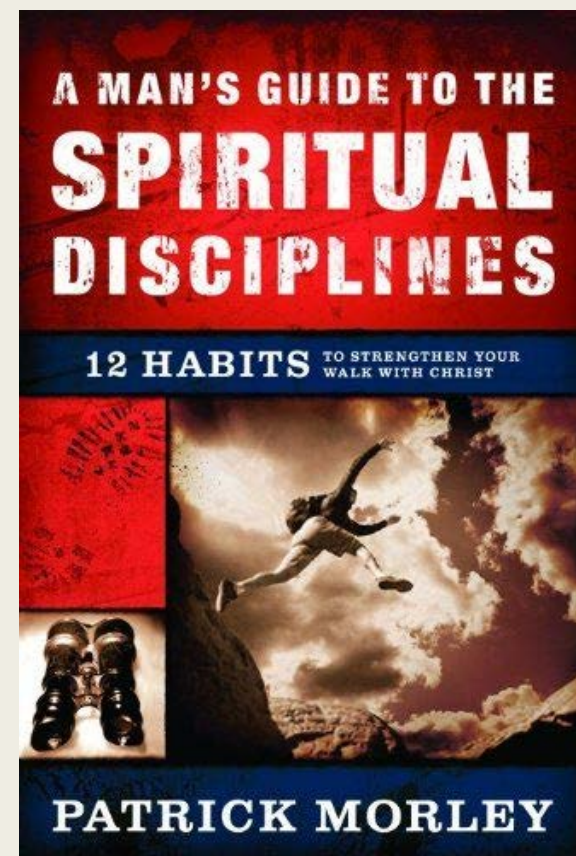
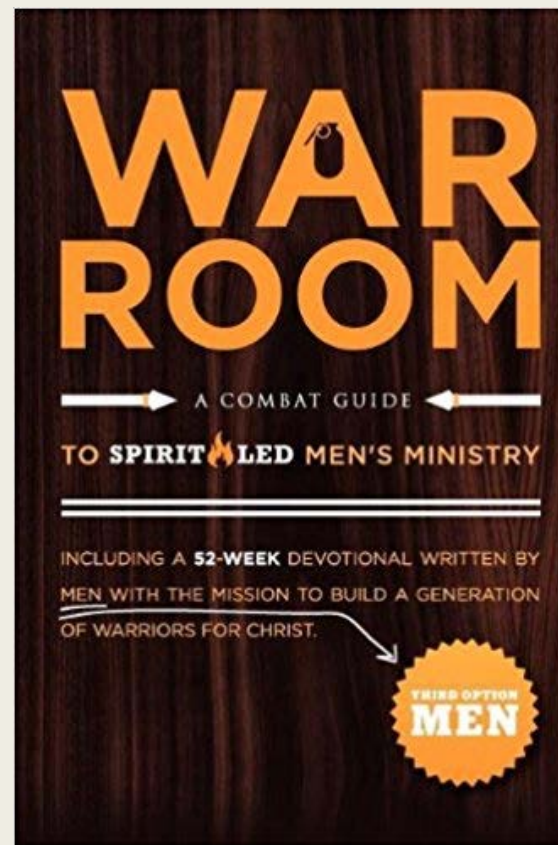
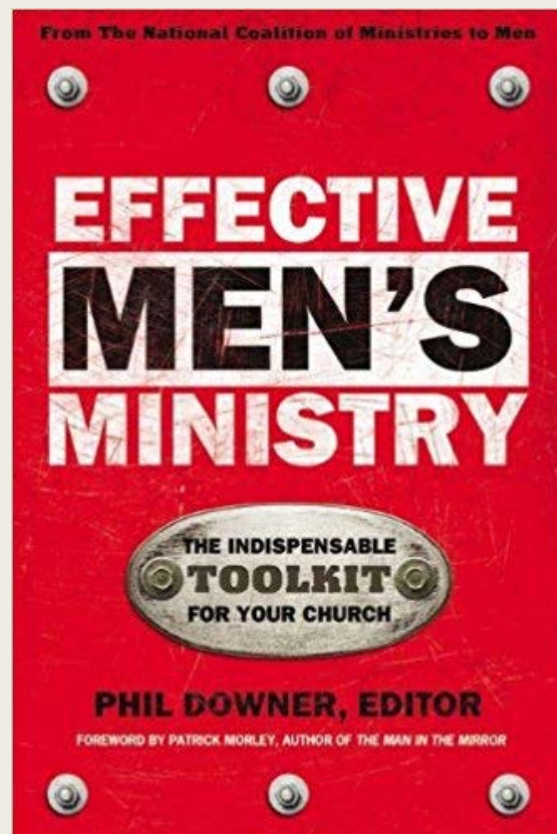
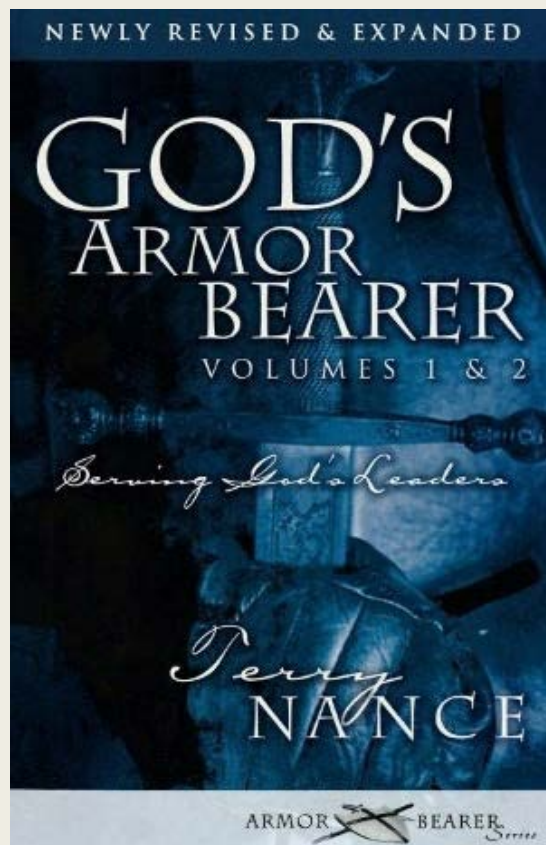
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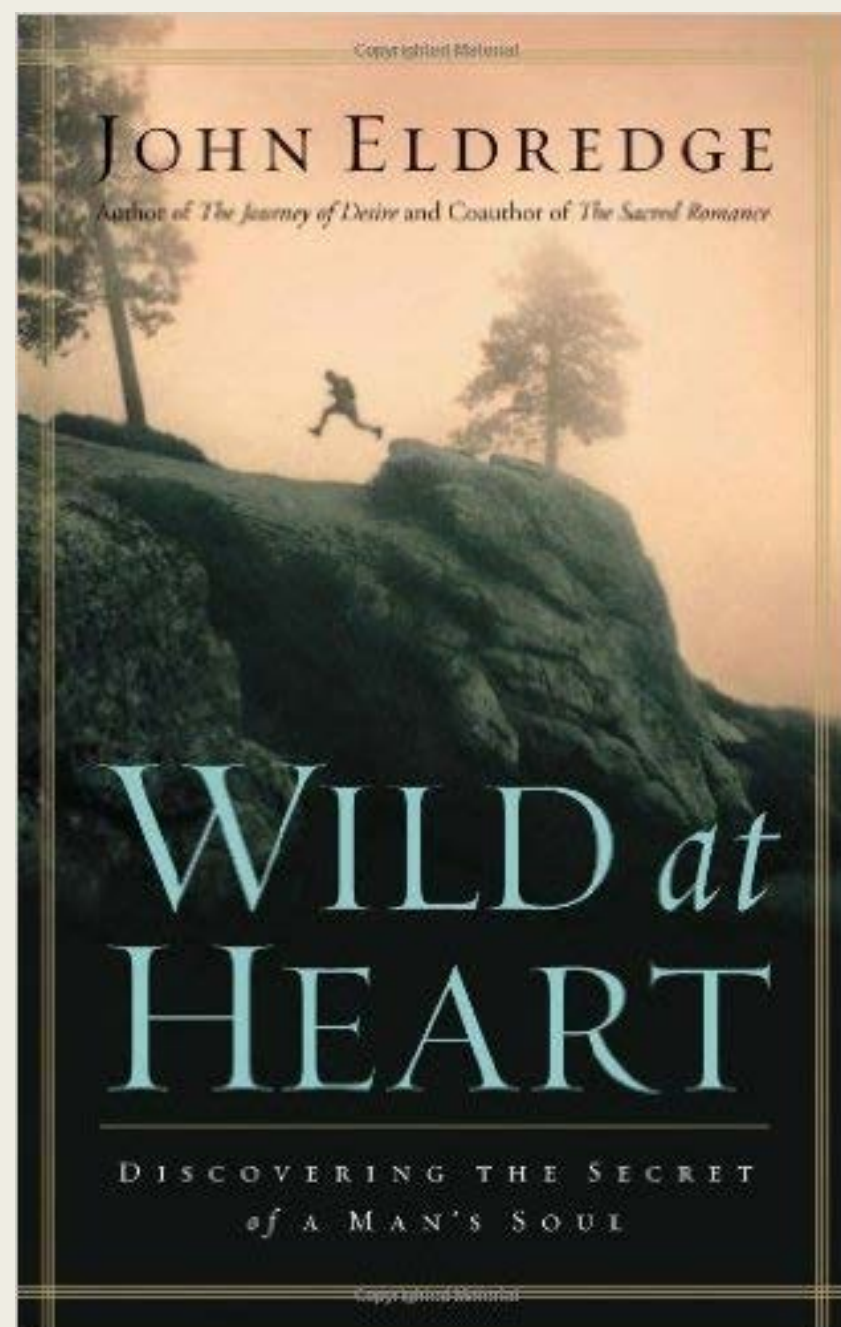
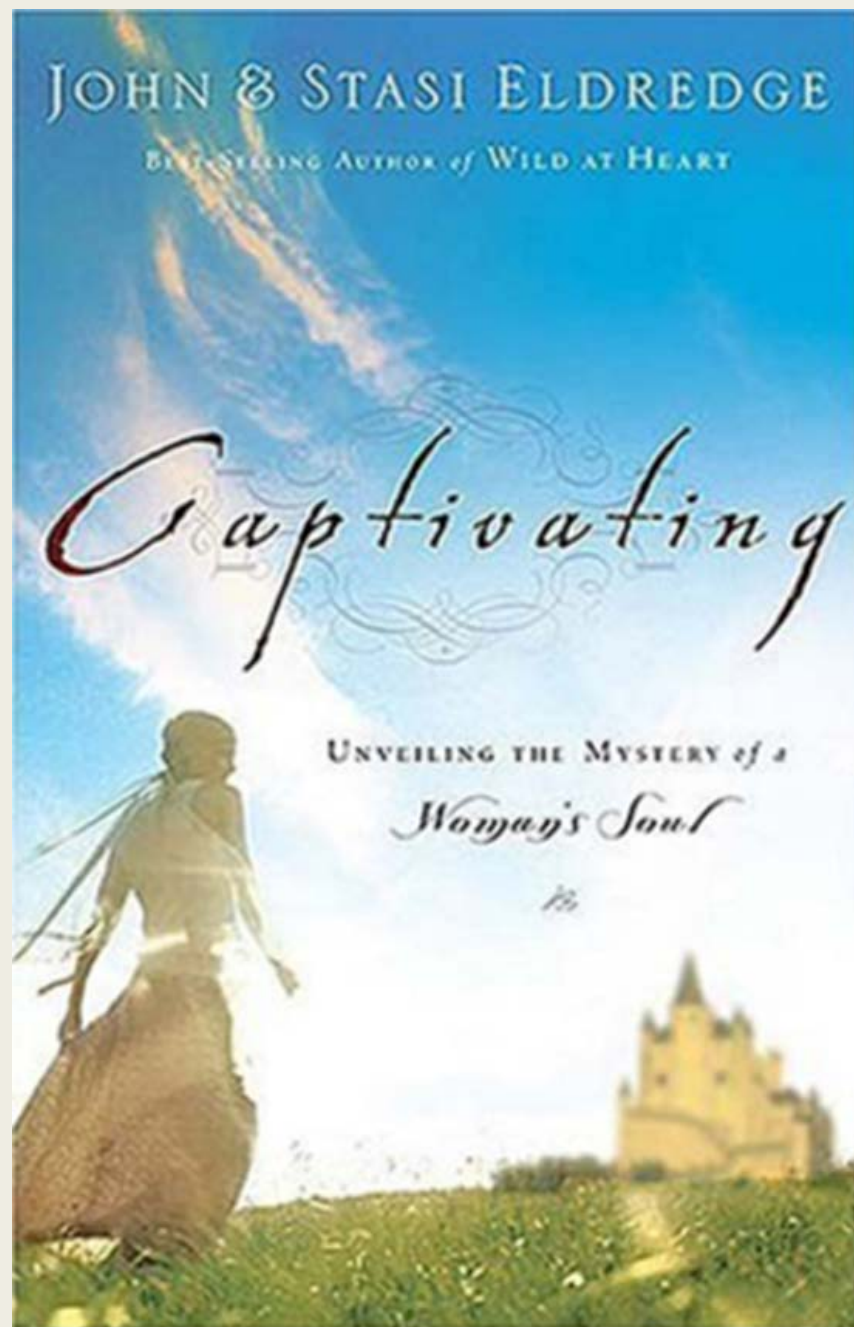
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<http://www.juliabettencourt.com>









Seventh Day Adventist
conferences for men's
and women's ministries



Even breakfast ministries are gendered

