



Thank you for listening to Kalos Conversations!

EPISODE 8: PASTORAL ESSENTIALS

In this episode, we speak directly to pastors and cover some of the basic soul-level commitments to make and realities to prepare for in taking up this work of training and mobilizing women to advance the gospel with them.

Here they are, phrased in the form of seven imperatives:

1. SET YOUR HEART TO LOVE WOMEN LIKE JESUS DID

Read through the gospels and make note of all the encounters that Jesus had with women. First thing you will notice? They adored him. He was safe, direct, warm, pure, tender, bold - in a word, *masculine*. And they thrived because of it. Bring a vision for loving and leading women *as Christ did* into your work.

2: RENOUNCE THE APPLAUSE AND APPROVAL OF THIS WORLD

When it comes to the doctrines of man, sexuality, and the church, if we desire the applause or appreciation of the world, we're done before we begin. Orthodoxy always arouses opposition. We are to be humble in our tone and winsome in our approach, but we are not angling for unbelievers, feminists, secularists, etc. to necessarily approve of us, or even to be "ok" with us. While we do everything we can to live at peace with everyone we can, the clear teaching of Scripture will never win acceptance with the world. We'll bear the marks of Jesus at points. We need to be good with it.

3: RESOLVE TO BE EMPHATHIC AND PATIENT

It's crucial that we understand that every message that American women have received since birth (media, academia, government, Hollywood, etc.) is at direct odds with the Biblical view of sexuality (and therefore femininity), and that often many (the majority of?) experiences they have had with men affirm these lies. Everything that almost every American woman has ever learned/felt/experienced militates against embracing biblical truth on what a woman is called to be. We are never working from a clean slate. We are always having to overcome years of theological and experiential untruths that need unraveling and redeeming. This is deep, costly, long-term gospel work. Without patience, compassion, and the power of the Spirit, we cannot disciple our women well. This does not mean that we allow emoting to trump reasoning, or experience to trump revelation, but rather that we marry truth with grace.

4: TAKE THE RISKS INHERENT IN LOVING AND LEADING YOUR WOMEN

Few will admit it, but American men in general, and American pastors in particular, are scared to death of women and their capacity to outmaneuver and outclass us, as well as to shame and label us. Succumbing to fear here breeds avoidance or obeisance, and neither is what Jesus calls His undershepherds to. Don't play scared. Commit to directness and honesty.

5: BE AS DEVOTED TO HOLY MASCULINITY IN YOUR OWN LIFE AS YOU ARE TO HOLY FEMININITY IN THEIRS

This is required for credibility (our lives must align with our words) and for usefulness (women thrive under the godly leadership of men who are both tender and strong).

6: POINT YOUR WOMEN TO GREAT WOMEN WRITERS

Read yourself, and give your women the Elizabeth Elliots and Rosaria Butterfields and Hannah Griesers and Rebekah Merkles and Hannah Andersons and Amanda Mentzels and Jani Ortlunds and the other gospel-believing, femininity-embracing, husband-submitting-to, children-loving, home-building, culture-shaping authors out there. In his grace, Jesus gives His church prophetesses and teachers in every generation. Learn from them and encourage your women to do the same.

7: LOVE THE CHILDREN IN YOUR CHURCHES

Every woman knows intuitively that they're safe with a pastor who loves, gives himself to, and takes responsibility for the children of the church. Recognize children, hold them, know their names, discipline them, teach them, and make sure that the children's programs are well-run and resourced.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Here are ways that you can engage with our work on social media. Please take a minute to do so and help us spread the word!

- Rate and subscribe to our podcast: itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/kalos-conversations
- Follow us on Instagram: instagram.com/kalosconversations/