



Thank you for listening to Kalos Conversations!

EPISODE 7: PHILOSOPHICAL ESSENTIALS

In this episode, we about the philosophical essentials that undergird our Kalos training.

1. WORD CENTRALITY

Let's go – fearlessly and energetically - to the texts themselves with our women! Every word of Scripture is beautifully and eternally true. Rightly understood, they are not to be buried or edited or explained away or apologized for, but rather reveled in and submitted to. There is life and joy and blessing in loving and believing and living the implications of these words. Read them with the women Jesus is giving you. Ask and answer questions with them. Allow the spirit to convince them of the beauty and truth of God's design for femininity.

Here are the texts we use in the track. *(Note: we will have individual podcast episodes on how to lead a conversations through each of these.)*

Genesis 1, 2, 3. Titus 2. Proverbs 31. I Timothy 2, 5. Ephesians 5. Romans 12, 16. I Peter 3. Acts 18. I Samuel 25. I Corinthians 11. John 4. Philippians 4.

2. RELENTLESSLY POSITIVE ABOUT BIBLICAL TEACHING ON SEXUALITY

How beautiful is it that God has created and wired and called men and women differently! How good is it that we get to bring those unique callings, wirings, temperaments, orientations, etc. to the work of making disciples and building a strong church together!! Let's be committed to celebrating this. Do be prepared that doing this is especially hard for young wives and moms who are in the

throes of building their homes with the majority of their time and energy. That work often feels pointless, invisible, unrewarding, and, if the work is not celebrated by their churches, they can grow discontent and look for an out. So it is vital that we hype the glories of marriage and motherhood with zeal and joy.

3. PASTORAL PRESENCE

Pastors, let's not delegate (read: abandon) all "women's ministry" to women, but give ourselves to the work of being with, listening to, learning from, training, correcting, instructing, and loving our women. Yes, there are appropriate times where sex-specific discipleship is Biblical and essential, but our women also benefit from having pastoral presence in the room. They need us humbly listening, learning, and experiencing grace with them. They need to see, first-hand, what a good father/brother/shepherd is and says and does. They need to know our safe, strong, pure affection for them.

4. MEN AND WOMEN LEADING TOGETHER AS APPROPRIATE

What if the church actually felt like a family, with everyone doing their part to see the mission thrive? Let's go for the brotherly/sisterly "labored side by side with me in the gospel" feel of Philippians 4! For us, this has meant our Kalos training being led by a male-female team. This arrangement has meant that masculine and feminine presences are both shaping our women's understanding of the content. This does not mean installing women as officers of the church, or having a reckless disregard for the doctrine of sin and ignoring the devastating effects that sexual sin has had in many churches when men and women cross intimacy boundaries due to proximity in ministry. It was years of being a church and walking in the light and growing in relationships before we stepped into these shared realities. We also have specific guardrails in place for this kind of teamwork, i.e. intimacy and transparency in the friendships between the husbands and wives of those serving, insuring that the men and women sharing responsibilities for certain ministry initiatives never meet alone or in private, etc.

5. ACKNOWLEDGING SEASONS

Titus 2 clearly delineates between "older" and "younger" women in its beautiful directives about disciple-making ministry among the women in a church. "Age" is not the point of these words, but seasonal thinking is. It is vital that we call our "younger" women up to *not be guilty about or discontent toward* laser-focusing on their calling to working hard on their homes, marriages, and motherhood. We encourage our "younger" women to see the best and most important ministry work they could do right now to devote themselves fully to the thriving of their homes. Likewise, it is vital that we encourage "older" women who have previously given themselves to this work to not fail to invest in the next generation of women Jesus is giving us.

6. HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Jesus' women need to be pushed theologically and relationally. Anyone who has ever met a women before knows how capable they are! Let's set a high bar for reading and reflection and engagement, and then call them to it.

7. ALL TRAINING IS FOR MISSIONAL - NOT MERELY PERSONAL - BENEFIT

Our Kalos training (as with all discipleship) exists for the purpose of fruitful service to the home, church, and world, not just as a stimulating intellectual exercise. Let's keep that end-game in mind in every conversation, always asking, "How can what you are learning about the gospel and yourself propel you into loving and serving others?"

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Which of these philosophical essentials are true about your church's discipleship of the women Jesus is giving you?
- Which are not?
- If you had to trace each of these essentials to the clear teaching of Scripture, what texts would you go to?

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