

Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible's View of Women


By Sarah Bessey




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Gender roles have been debated for centuries, and now Sarah Bessey offers a clarion freedom call for all who want to realize their giftedness and potential in the kingdom of God. Through a thoughtful review of biblical teaching and church practices, Bessey shares how following Jesus made a feminist out of her.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Bessey speaks directly and compassionately to her fellow Evangelical Christians, arguing the case for viewing Jesus as unbounded by gender considerations in valuing the worthiness of humans. Bringing an informed but nonacademic historical perspective to her reading of the Bible and using relevant examples from her personal life, both as a church member and a part of contemporary Western culture, she observes that biblical events and traditional Evangelical interpretations of them are not always what they seem. Never strident, Bessy's approach is instead solid and clear. Although apostolic admonitions read without the contexts she proposes might bolster sexism, given a larger frame of reference, they fall to her arguments. An excellent choice for a church discussion group as well as an important viewpoint to include in public library religion collections. --Francisca Goldsmith

Review

"Bessey's warm and intimate writing sets this book apart from others focused on similar topics. Her approach and style offer a unique addition to literature on women's role in Christian churches." (*Publisher's Weekly*)

"Never strident, Bessy's approach is instead solid and clear....An excellent choice." (*Booklist*)

"World, meet Sarah Bessey. Settle in and get to know her because this woman has arrived. Reading *Jesus Feminist* is like drinking a warm cup of tea while taking a cold shower—Bessey manages to comfort the reader and wake her up at the same time. I cried and nodded and said 'preach, sister!' again and again. Bessey is a treasure and a prophet and I've notified all of my friends (both men and women) that *Jesus Feminist* is a must read." (Glennon Doyle Melton, author of the New York Times bestseller *Carry On, Warrior* and founder of Momastery.com)

"Lucid, compelling, and beautifully written. This book will encourage women everywhere to take their high place in Christ." (Frank Viola, author of *God's Favorite Place on Earth* and *From Eternity to Here*)

"For some time now, feminism and Christianity have been bedfellows, but primarily in the halls of academia. What Sarah Bessey does is claim the voice of feminism for her own Christian faith—an evangelical faith, no less! The result is a powerful and empowering narrative that both men and women will find compelling and readable." (Tony Jones, theologian and author of *The New Christians*)

"I love writers who are insightful enough to be cynical but choose not to be. I love books that help me see things I'd never noticed before—in life, in myself, in others, in the Bible, in Jesus. I love writing that makes reading enjoyable and easy, because I know how hard it is to write that way. For these reasons and more, I love *Jesus Feminist*. It's not 'just a woman's book.' In fact, it's the kind of book that will help both women and men see how unhelpful that distinction is." (Brian D. McLaren, author, speaker, activist)

"It's hard to navigate an extremely delicate and important issue with gentleness and intention. In *Jesus Feminist*, Sarah Bessey has clearly proven herself a master at the task. Bessey powerfully, yet gracefully, compels both genders to rethink the role and value of women in the Christian faith, and emboldens women to know and live out that intrinsic value within the Body of Christ. *Jesus Feminist* is a critically important work; a must-read for everyone in the Church." (Nish Weiseth, author of *Speak: How Your Story Can*

Change the World)

"Sarah says she doesn't feel a call to preach, but she speaks with the fire and artistry of a great preacher. Her sermon is one of hope: though the Church has often ignored the voices of women or lumped them into one limiting category, a revolution is coming. Sarah's voice is prophetic and she will free other women to speak and act with power, love, and courage. And may it be a summons for men in the Church to speak less and listen a lot more." (Adam S. McHugh, author of *Introverts in the Church*)

"With grace, humility, and confidence (even in the unknown), Sarah Bessey's *Jesus Feminist* masterfully humanizes one of the most controversial topics of the day. Bessey realizes that life, love, and faith cannot happen without community and the understanding that 'controversy' is less about sides and more about being whole together." (Andrew Marin, author of *Love Is an Orientation*)

"If you never imagined yourself as a card-carrying Jesus Feminist, this book will give you second thoughts. Sarah Bessey makes her case—not as a fire-breathing debater—but as a woman utterly captivated by Jesus who will stop at nothing to follow him. Her winsome writing made me laugh, cry, and stand taller as a woman. Unless I'm mistaken, it should swell the ranks of Jesus Feminists too. Sign me up!" (Carolyn Custis James, author of *Half the Church: Recapturing God's Global Vision for Women*)

"Sarah Bessey is so gifted a writer, so smart and welcoming and humble, the Church might not even notice how often it gets kicked between its 'doctrinally sound traditions,' where it hurts. But what makes *Jesus Feminist* so fantastic, so challenging is Bessey's ability to be both the friend who tells us the truth about womanhood inside our churches and the sage who shows us how Jesus embraced equality and how we can do it better. With *Jesus Feminist*, Bessey is a modern-day Moses, seeking to not only free a Church held captive by dogma but also to redeem generations of women who have been stifled and silenced far too long." (Matthew Paul Turner, author of *Churched*)

"*Jesus Feminist* is a book that needed to be written! With honest vulnerability and a strong biblical foundation, Sarah Bessey shares her very personal journey and insight regarding the roles and qualifications for women in ministry." (Helen Burns, author of *Miracle in a Mother's Hug* and *What Dads Need to Know About Daughters* and *Moms Need to Know About Sons*)

"I want to write like Sarah Bessey. What she does with words is extraordinary, and the topic she's chosen is so deeply important. *Jesus Feminist* is a beautiful, challenging, rich, gutsy book, an absolute must-read." (Shauna Niequist, author of *Bread & Wine*)

"I've read countless books addressing the place of women in the kingdom, and I have never, ever read anything so lovely, so generous, profound and humble as *Jesus Feminist*. If you're expecting anger or defensiveness or aggression, move on. If you are looking for intelligence and warmth and spirit, read this immediately." (Jen Hatmaker, author of *7* and *Interrupted*)

"*Jesus Feminist* is a revelation, a genre-defying tour-de-force that soars above the caustic rhetoric that has defined these conversations in the Church. Sarah Bessey throws combinations like a literary Muhammad Ali: sharp-edged prophetic critique, elegant poetry, theological provocation, humble memoir, endless charm. There is so much heart, wonder, and most of all authentic soul in this book; you won't know what hit you." (Jonathan Martin, author of *Prototype*)

"Sarah Bessey makes me want to get to know Jesus all over again, but this time specifically through my womanly flesh, engaging God with the glorious gift of *being* a woman rather than in spite of it." (Enuma

Okoro, author of Silence and Reluctant Pilgrim)

“*Jesus Feminist* summons the Church to join in a conversation about women in God’s Kingdom. Sarah Bessey disarms us and then hands us a cup of tea. She creates a safe space for deep discussion, gentle reflection and holy imagination. She calls, converses and commissions us into the wild ways of Jesus. This is a holy invitation for all my sisters to come to the table at last. A must read!” (Kelley Nikondeha, co-founder of Amahoro Africa)

About the Author

Sarah Bessey is the author of *Jesus Feminist*, an award-winning blogger at SarahBessey.com, and a passionate advocate for global women’s issues. She partners with the Help One Now ministry in Haiti and lives in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada, with her husband, Brian, and their three children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patricia Kirby:

The book *Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible’s View of Women* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading a book *Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible’s View of Women* for being your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open up and read a book *Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible’s View of Women*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this book?

Kathleen Bosarge:

Reading a book can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world really likes. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a publication will give you a lot of new facts. When you read a reserve you will get new information mainly because book is one of several ways to share the information or even their idea. Second, examining a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you reading a book especially tale fantasy book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to other individuals. When you read this *Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible’s View of Women*, you could tells your family, friends in addition to soon about yours reserve. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a guide.

Mary Summers:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love *Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible’s View of Women*, you could enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still would like

to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Lisa Thomason:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got pupils? We believe that that problem was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person including reading or as reading become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important and book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update about something by book. Amount types of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is Jesus Feminist: An Invitation to Revisit the Bible's View of Women.

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