



Reports from the Street Evangelist for Women's Equality

(A special thanks to my friend, Sharon Martin, who makes it possible to give *Women Equal – No Buts: Powered by the same Source* and *Dethroning Male Headship: Second Edition* to those met by the Street Evangelist for Women's Equality)

Please note that I never actually get into why women are equal and do not ever quote scripture to those to whom I give my books. My books say it all much better than I can on the street. I move on to the next opportunity and, like the evangelists of old, never follow up with what happens.

Report from the street evangelist. In the doctor's office for routine check up and flu shot. Conversation around me was about country singer Brenda Lee and Willie Nelson. I have it on good authority that he is 5 or 6 years older than he says he is! Then someone said something about being famous and that you had to die first. Not ready for that. A man sat across from me and began reading a book. I tried to see what it was. Then he began a phone conversation in Spanish. I got up and found a newspaper and came back and the man had his book open and looked up at me. I said, "I just have to read something." He said, "That is why I carry a book with me. It is a Christian book." Ok, get ready. I got up and sat beside him while I said, "I write Christian books." He wanted to know what I write about. Women's equality. I handed him my card. I asked if he was a pastor, and he said, no, but that he works with a Christian group. His name was called and he stood up and said, "I'll be in touch."

Got my flu shot and was at the desk making another appointment and she asked my name and I told her and said that there are not many Shirleys. She said her mother's friend was Shirley and that all the Shirleys she knew were nice and she wanted to know if I was nice. "Most of the time, except when I am talking about how women are treated." I handed her my street evangelist card. She remembered me from the last time I was there and had given my doctor my book. She said she was very interested in this. I asked her if she liked to read. She is going on a plane trip and will have time to read then. Just so happen to have a couple of books to give her to take with her. She was thrilled, and so was I. I had kept quiet with the first people in the waiting room, but two more people had been sent to me, the street evangelist.

Report from the street evangelist. Just returned from our library where I placed two of my books in their "Book Nook" to be sold for 50 cents each! "She was reading your book page by page" Don said as he waited on me to choose a book from the main library. I chose "Suburban Gospel" which is

about a boy growing up Southern Baptist in Atlanta, Georgia. All in a day's work. "Every day in some kind of way."

Report from the street evangelist. "You must be the Lutherans," I said when they arrived for their appointment with the pastor today. "The pastor is over at the Family Center and he will be here in a minute." Carried on a little conversation with them while we waited. The young Lutheran pastor (30ish) had to borrow a pen and pad from me to take notes. My pastor arrived and they went behind closed doors.

They are Wisconsin Lutherans. Lutherans who thought the Missouri Synod Lutherans were too liberal and they broke away. I learn later they don't even allow women to serve as committee leaders. They are here to talk about this area because they want to start a church here. In a bit I begin to hear raised voices. Hmmm. They are talking about women's roles in the church?!! I try to hear but can only make out a few words. I hear Gal 3:28 quoted and Timothy mentioned. Their voices get lower and eventually the door opens and they all come out. My pastor said, "Here, let me give you something!"

He reaches over my desk for my "Women Equal – No Buts" book and asked me to sign it for the older pastor. I pull down my other book "Dethroning Male Headship" and give it to the young pastor. They are standing there in shock. When they left, my pastor said, "I'll pay you \$20 for those books! You should have seen the young pastor's big eyes. I don't think he had ever heard what I told him. That was the most fun I have had in a long time!"

Can you imagine their surprise when they learned that the secretary who they had dismissed as just a female had actually written two books explaining why women are equal? Now, what are they going to do?

Report from the street evangelist. The Baptist preacher comes to call. Ok, so it went this way. It is lunchtime and the church treasurer comes in with his co-worker. He introduces us. He is Hispanic and a Baptist preacher of a small church in central Texas. "His church won't let women preach or be a deacon or anything," the church treasurer says. "I told him that he had to meet you. That you had even written some books about women preachers." We talk a bit and I find out that the Hispanic pastor's church is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas where I worked for almost 15 years. We know some of the same people. The Hispanic Baptist Convention (part of BGCT) had a woman president last year. The Baptist pastor said that he was open to women serving in the church. He could understand that it should be possible. But he is like many people. He had not read any egalitarian literature because you can't find it in Christian bookstores nor on Amazon easily. He said he would read my books – yes, I gave him both – and that he would think on it. That is more than I get from most people.