



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. Getting ready to make changes in my life. Changing churches and went to visit with the pastor. He said, "What does a street evangelist do?" "I talk to people," I said and told him of conversation I had had with someone last week in the movie theater (*Battle of the Sexes*). In a changing mood, when I got an unrequested quote from an insurance company in the mail, I bit. I had received a notice in June that my agent was no longer with the company and they probably would not replace her. They gave me a toll-free number but I kinda like a personal touch, so I made the call. Got a quote on home and auto. When she called this morning to go over the policy and sign on the dotted line, I told her I would stop on my way grocery shopping, as I was going that way. Was told that I could speak with either her or her co-worker when I came in. Got all my papers and checkbook together and was about to get in the car when I thought of something. Ran back inside and got two books and stuffed them inside my bag of papers. The woman I had been communicating on the phone with was busy, so I was helped by the co-worker (40ish). Signed all the papers – save \$6.00 a month! Pulled out my books, told her what I do, and asked her which book she would like. She read the back covers and chose "*Dethroning Male Headship: Second Edition*." I signed it and gave the other book to the woman who was free at this time. But let me tell you something. The young woman who helped me said, "This was meant to be that you came in today." She said she would read the book this weekend. I got the impression that this is far more important to her than it was to the woman whom I had been making the arrangements with on the phone. What do I do? I talk to people.

Report from the street evangelist. Bought some cheap caramel candy at the dollar store. The pastor was making fun of me for buying cheap candy, so I popped one in my mouth. Hmmm? This has a rock in it. Spitting it out, I discover that it was my tooth crown that I was about to chew. Got to find a dentist and I picked up the old-fashioned phone book. My dentist has retired and I couldn't

remember who took over his office. Got an appoint right away. Put the crown in an envelope and wait for my appointment. In the dentist's chair, the dental assistant and I begin talking about school, etc. She has one pre-teen and one going into his senior year. We talk about church because I work for a church. She was raised Lutheran, spent some time in a megachurch and is now looking for something smaller. She had never heard that women were not equal in church. Lots of women have never heard it expressed. It just looks normal to them, whether it is in a megachurch where the pastor's wife is limited in what she can do, but is very visible as the helpmeet, or in a church where women can serve. I told her I would give her one of my books. Paid my bill and talked with the two women there. One tried to tell me a joke her sister told her (her sister is a church secretary). I told them I would go out my car which was parked only feet away and give them each a book. So I did. I signed all three. The street evangelist is again wearing her crown!

Report from the street evangelist. What does a street evangelist do? I talk to people. I began at the airport in Houston before getting on the plane for Orlando, Florida, to attend the Christians for Biblical Equality Conference, and ended up talking with 11 men and women who were not associated with the conference.

1) Had a hardcopy of my new book and was editing it as I sat waiting for my flight. They were preparing to board for Montego Bay. A young African American girl sat across from me to my right and I saw her looking at me. I asked her if this was her flight. She said it was and that she flying alone. She was 17. I asked her if this was a vacation and she said she was going to a funeral. I told her my husband had recently died and I was traveling alone, also. She said she saw what I was writing. We talked a bit and as she left to board, she was holding my card in her hand with the words, "Remember, you are equal – no buts" in her ears.

2) I boarded dragging my luggage when an elderly man (lol) asked me if I needed help putting it in the overhead bins, and I let him lift the bag.

3) I sat beside a young man traveling with his 4 year old daughter to see Grandma. We talked for the whole flight about religion, strong women, etc. His father was Catholic and his stepmom is Pentecostal and he has just returned to church. I gave him my card.

4) Talked with the African American woman sitting across the aisle from me about school starting.

5). Time to get off. I asked the man who had helped me put my luggage up in the bin if he would help me get it out. He did and said, "That is heavy. What do you have in there?" He asked. "Books. Books that I have written." I handed him a card and the woman I had talked with and the person sitting beside her a card.

6) Checked in at the hotel and told the woman that I was here for the conference for women's equality and that I wanted her to know that she is equal – no buts, and gave her a card.

7) Gave two Disney shop employees a card and told them why I was there and that I wanted them to know they are equal-no buts.

8) Gave the coffee shop employee a card and told her why I was there and that she was equal-no buts.

9) On the shuttle to the airport, there were 3 of us and we were talking about the conference, and women's equality, abuse, etc. I got off first and when the driver handed me my suitcase, I pressed a tip and my card into his hands and told him that we were just at a conference for women's equality and that women are equal-no buts.

10) At the Orlando airport, struck up a conversation with a school teacher who had just come from a conference and gave her my card with my reminder that she was equal-no buts.

Report from the street evangelist. They were 30ish, a man and a woman. He was Italian, a Roman Catholic, and spoke with an obvious accent. She was in college and was taking a course on women's equality. They were in my office asking about setting up a Bloodmobile. The young woman said "Are you wearing purple for Cancer Awareness Day? She pointed out that both her partner and I had on purple and neither of us were aware that we were supposed to wear purple that day – and she knew it, but did not have purple on. Purple. I reach behind my desk and pull down my two books from the bookcase. Dethroning Male headship has a purple cover. I laid them facedown and told them I would love to give them a book each. The young man said, "I went to a Baptist school for a year and they told me that men were higher than woman." They both said they had been talking about just that thing before they got to my office and they thought it was a "God thing" that they had stopped by and met me. The young man said that in his church, women are revered because of Mary. He also said that "women should be priests." His wife is from Mexico and he said that they treated each other as equals. He seemed to have a deep understanding of what we were talking about. They both promised to read their books. I told him how hard it was to get Baptists to understand they were equal because they were so indoctrinated. He held up his book and said "One person at a time." Yes. Two in this case.