

2016 Women Teaching Women Conference

Speaker Topics

Marcia Montenegro

What Does the Bible Say About Astrology?

Polls consistently show that about 33% of the U.S. population believe in astrology and more read horoscope columns. A former professional astrologer who also taught astrology will give an overview of astrology today, the astrological worldview, why astrology seems to work, and how to respond biblically to this popular topic. Some areas that will be covered: influences on astrology, astrology and the New Age, the Magi, Gospel in the stars, and should Christians read horoscopes?

Julie Miller

How We Lost Our Minds: The Lost Art of Questioning?

We are going to investigate the "question-asking" virtue, which is the foundational intellectual virtue. There has been a general decline in this virtue and we'll discuss some of the reasons for that decline. We will delve into questions like:

- Why is inquisitiveness the essential intellectual virtue?
- How is indifference related to inquisitiveness?
- Is there a Biblical basis for cultivating this virtue?
- How can this intellectual tool help me have better conversations about things that matter?
- How has the age of information and technology suppressed inquisitiveness?
- What are some practical steps to revive this virtue in my life and in my sphere of influence?

Dianna Newman

Critiquing Feminist Criticism of the Bible

Coming to prominence in the 20th century, feminist criticism of the Bible is predicated on the idea that the biblical text is a tool of oppression both created by men and used by men to cement the second class citizenship of women. While some feminist critics champion the view that Christianity should be done away with altogether, there are many who believe a new interpretation of the Bible is warranted—one that implements women's experience as the criterion by which to determine the usefulness and authenticity of the biblical text. In this session, we will discuss the informed and rational responses to some of these ideas.

Breakout Sessions

Dianna Newman

Going Back for the Sake of our Future: Womanhood

This session brings to light the ways in which contemporary culture skews the way we understand Scripture. We rarely think it, but we bring our contemporary viewpoint to the biblical text and judge its relevance/value by our location in history. The truths the text communicate to us were delivered to a completely different society. The differences between traditional society and technological society are so huge that when we read the text today, we have honest questions. We do not realize that those questions are directly related to what we are bringing to it. Many times, we lose the power of God's truth because we filter it through a lens it was not meant to be filtered through. The reason why the Feminist movement is an issue and why feminist theologians are an issue, is because those ideologies come with value assertions all but absent when the scriptural truths were first communicated. The text actually teaches us to value things that are, by today's standard, worthless. We need to understand the truths of Scripture through the lens that God actually delivered that truth in. Our commitment to that is the thing that will allow us to acknowledge, accept, then implement those truths into our lives as women of God today.

Carey Walton

Homosexuality: A Thoughtful Look at an Emotional Issue

Homosexuality may be the biggest cultural issue of our day, so it is important for this generation of believers to be prepared to interact on the subject with not only a Biblical understanding, but also a reasoned, cogent, and compassionate response. This talk takes a look at some of the reasons why the homosexual lifestyle is problematic, and considers how the church should reach out to those struggling with this issue.

The Argument from Desire: Making Sense of the Cries from the Heart

Why does mankind have an instinctive and irrepressible yearning for what we have never seen. . . for transcendent meaning, for perfect beauty and peace, and to be connected with ultimate goodness and truth? Has God put these needs in the human heart to draw us back to Him? Explore the fascinating Argument from Desire, made famous by C.S. Lewis, and see how this compelling approach speaks to seekers on a deep and personal level, often stirring interest in God, even when other apologetics arguments are unconvincing.

Marcia Montenegro

What Does the Bible Say About New Thought?

New Thought has had a big influence on the culture and even the church. Books like "The Secret" and people like Oprah, Wayne Dyer, Norman Vincent Peale, and others have helped to revive New Thought, a movement that took root in the 19th century. Claiming to be authentic Christianity and using the Bible, New Thought is incorporated into the New Age and so continues to influence many. A former New Ager will discuss the influence of past and present New Thought leaders, New Thought bestsellers, the New Thought churches, how to discern red flags that indicate New Thought teachings, and how to respond to specific misuses of Scripture used by New Thought advocates.