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the

WRS Journal

Western Reformed Seminary, Tacoma, Washington

Volume 10, Issue 1

February 2003

This issue: *The New Face of Feminism*



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EDITOR'S NOTES: FROM JOHN BATTLE

All over the country churches are being pressured to adapt to a new idea. This idea is that men and women are equal not only in spiritual standing before God, but in the authority they possess in the family and in the church. Churches are divided: should we have women serve as elders and ministers? Should wives obey their husbands? Even traditional Christians wonder just how women should serve in the family and the church, using their talents and abilities in the cause of Christ.

This issue of the *WRS Journal* deals with the issue of the new face of feminism. My article compares the new arguments used by evangelical feminists with the old arguments of the traditional feminist movement, and seeks to evaluate them. In the Exegesis section Chris Lensch describes the ideal woman of the book of Proverbs, active in all areas of life, and Tito Lyro discusses the place of women in the church's worship services, especially as directed by Paul in 1 Corinthians. The Application and Perspective section includes a second article by Chris Lensch, in which he reports on the radical feminist arm of liberal churches, as shown in the Re-Imagining movement. Then Judith Collins, a veteran missionary in Kenya, East Africa, distills from her experience the many avenues of service open to women who pursue a ministry on the mission field. Finally, David Davis offers his comments on a list of helpful books on this subject, recommended for further study.

Related to this issue of feminism in the church is the new controversial translation, Today's New International Version (TNIV), which seeks to be more "gender-neutral." Our next issue will deal with the inspiration of the Bible, especially its relation to Bible translation.

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