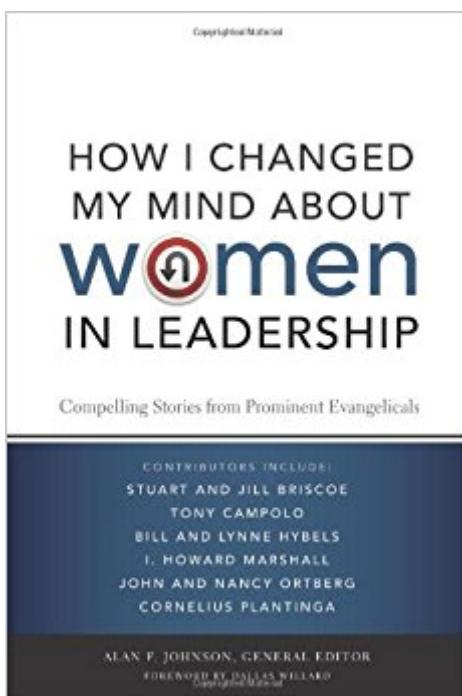


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# How I Changed My Mind About Women In Leadership: Compelling Stories From Prominent Evangelicals



## **Synopsis**

This book features a number of autobiographical accounts as to how various persons have come to change their minds about women in leadership. Well-known Evangelical leaders—individuals and couples, males and females from a broad range of denominational affiliation and ethnic diversity—share their surprising journeys from a more or less restrictive view to an open inclusive view that recognizes a full shared partnership of leadership in the home and in the church based on gifts not gender. *How I Changed My Mind About Women in Leadership* offers a positive vision for the future of women and men together as partners of equal worth without competitiveness in the work of equipping this and the next generation of Christian disciples for the “work of ministry”™ and service in the Kingdom of God.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

First, a disclaimer: I am currently in a season in my life where I am truly trying to gain an unbiased understanding on gender roles in the church and family. For all of my Christian life (over 20+ years) I have been a complementarian, ascribing to the belief that men and women have different but complementary roles and responsibilities both in the home and the church, precluding women from ecclesiastical leadership roles. However, over the past couple of years, due to a variety of reasons, I have begun to come away from this view and open to a more egalitarian view. I am still sitting on the proverbial fence on this issue. I have not been thoroughly convinced yet that egalitarianism is truly the biblical way nor am I thoroughly convinced the complementarian view is either. It was therefore recommended to me by a couple of individuals that I should read "How I Changed My

Mind About Women in Leadership". I was almost assured that this book would more or less bring it home for me and that I would likely become convinced that the egalitarian view is indeed the answer. Well, I have read it and I was disappointed. It seemed to me that many of the testimonies contained within this book were drawn from human emotion (not that it's bad). That it was more or less based on a "gut feeling" which inevitably propelled many of the women into leadership roles and changed many of the mens' views on the issue. Most of the stories told of how a woman "felt" or that she was not "feeling" as if she was doing what God wanted her to do. Or, that she was raised in a very strict ultra-conservative home and merely wanted to shed her parents old ways. In other words, the biblical precedence for an egalitarian view were minimal.

I am not all the way through this book, but have read enough to gain a positive impression of its form and content and to comment on its purpose and effectiveness. But first, a little about me: I am an evangelical church attender who sat under complementarian church teaching (no women in pastoral leadership) for four years, but recently I have started attending a church that is egalitarian in its outlook (women teaching and preaching). The first time I sat under one of the women preaching there, my instinct was to leave the auditorium ("This isn't right...the Bible forbids it.") However, I ended up staying and listening, and I am glad I did. In fact, by the end of the sermon, I was tearing up. Clearly this woman was a powerful preacher. My criticism of her ministry seemed foolish. The form of the book is to present story after story of ministry leaders and theologians whose minds were gradually changed about women in leadership. The accounts are not technical, but personal: honest testimonies about a change of convictions. Attention is paid to theology (analysis of favorable and challenging bible passages), but not too much. The affect is more like having lunch or coffee with the various authors than like taking a seminary class. The book is effective in terms of what it intends to do. Those who attend churches where women are not allowed to teach and preach may not have the opportunity to meet and talk with someone who holds the egalitarian position. This book provides the opportunity. In the run of its pages, the reader becomes acquainted with real people who have come to believe that women have a place in ministry and to study a few justifications of this belief. Thereby, the egalitarian position becomes less "other," foreign, stigmatized, etc.

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