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Keener, Witherington and Beulah all wrote about women in ministry. All three authors writing at different times mentioned that throughout history women have been undervalued, marginalized and abused in many societies. Beulah remarked that in many societies including Christian societies women were oppressed, overworked, abused and given subservient roles in society. He remarked that in many situations the girl child in India is discriminated against by not being given proper nutrition, healthcare, education and opportunities for holistic development.

Keener pointed out that Paul affirmed the ministry of women despite the gender prejudices of his culture - Priscilla (Rom. 16:3,4) and Junia, female Apostle (Rom. 16:7). He added that Jesus also allowed women to join His ranks. The culture of the Jews and in most societies sidelined women that they were not fit to be used by God. However, there are a lot of evidence in the Bible in our present-day life of how women have made significant contribution to ministry. Robert in her book *Christian Mission – How Christianity Became a World Religion* revealed that though women outnumber men in Christianity, women's role in missions have been buried in both written and unwritten accounts on mission.¹ The author pointed out that despite huge obstacles, women have crossed geographical, cultural, racial, ethnic and religious boundaries to witness their faith in Jesus Christ.² The unfortunate part is that more prominence had been given to the role men played in ministry and missions than women. Notwithstanding, women with fortitude have persevered. Citing an example of Annalena Tonelli, a woman who devoted her life, remained a celibate so she could serve both Christians and non-Christians in

Somalia. She established a TB clinic for the local people who were plagued with Tuberculosis (TB), built a school for the deaf, feed the poor and advocated for an end to female genital mutilation.³ Missional women have been very instrumental in the cross-cultural transmission of the gospel within a framework of service, healing, teaching, and hospitality. Whether as celibate sisters, mothers, teachers, social workers, evangelists, or medical doctors, the witnesses of women build relationships, and this has been very instrumental in advancing missional work globally.⁴

Indeed, women have been very instrumental in missions and as Witherington pointed out that in Jewish culture, the woman's traditional role was wife and mother but in Christ Jesus, women have kingdom roles that supersedes these traditional roles. Does this liberty in Christ explain why there are more women in Christianity than men? Does it also explain why more women are in mission than men? These could be issues that could be researched.

¹Robert, Dana L. *Christian Mission – How Christianity Became a World Religion* (Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), 118

² Ibid., 118

³ Ibid., 117

⁴ Ibid., 141