**#1**

Unknown 0:00

Okay. So you were raised Catholic and then you got married and you were Episcopalian

Unknown 0:08

for 11 years. Okay.

Unknown 0:19

Now you consider yourself a mixture of pagan and Buddhist. I'm just for repeating it because it's the app is liking is able to pick up my voice is not really picking up the audio for my phone

Unknown 0:33

And then so series Catholic, you went and you got pissed off and went Buddhist and

and pagan and so what were your views are? Are your What are your views right now on gender and gender equality? What would you What are your thoughts there

Unknown 0:56

I don't care who you are, what gender you are, if you change your gender, you should all people so you should be equal.

Do you feel like that was the case when it came to like rewind while you were in your while you're in the Catholic Church? Or when you're Episcopalian, would you say it that was still the case you still have those values

Unknown 1:19

are what I believe

Explaining faith background

Explained faith for how long

Explained where she is now—Buddhist and Pagan

Became pissed with Catholicism

Changed to Buddhist/pagan

Explaining ideas on gender

Believes all gender are equal, even if changed.

Unknown 1:20

what you believe, will start with what you believed. And then I'd like to transition and what what you were kind of being taught.

Unknown 1:29

So you always believed that we that men and women are equal. And that was one of the reasons that you had an issue with the Catholic Church.

Unknown 1:36

Yeah.

Unknown 1:47

Okay. So you had some friends that had abortions, that really bothered you? Because the fact that was viewed as an abomination?

Unknown 1:53

Is that right, Did I get that right? Yeah, yeah. Um, so you so where you're at, you definitely notice a difference between what you believed in what you saw represented in the church. Is that right?

Unknown 2:06

Yeah. What, what were some of the other things that affected you? So you said it, it pissed you off? Are there other things that you'd say that that difference in your beliefs to you experience in the church? Is there any other language that you give to it?

Unknown 2:23

I mean, the Bible, inherently the genders aren't equal in the Bible. And I think the readings that the Catholic Church pulled out to us are pretty indicative of that, like, I

Believed gender was equal, but didn’t see that represented in the Catholic church.

Became angry about how friends were treated for having abortions.

Differentiating what she sees in herself and what she’s seeing in the Catholic church.

Focuses on Catholic church

Believes genders are not equal in the Bible. Proof is in what was pulled out by Catholics.

think it's an indoctrination from when you're very young, but Eve messed up everything and you are a descendant of Eve so you, you are a troublemaker, like huh, yeah,

Unknown 2:46

yeah, that makes I mean, that's some that's something I've been experienced with a number of different classes the focus on even how she's the one that screwed it up versus Adam. Yep,

Unknown 3:00

yep. Yep, I'm okay. So as a man I've always felt like I've been represented in the Bible God is normally displayed as more of a masculine figure you've got here is in the Bible that are predominantly men even like when it comes to like laws and the Bible you'll notice more of like a mammal do this I'm able to that do you

Unknown 3:25

do you agree? Hold on, let me share how I read this D what what's been your experience with that? Do you feel like you're represented in the Bible like do were even able to see yourself when you're raised Catholic or Episcopalian

Unknown 3:37

um, I would say mostly in like the Apocrypha, like the book of Ruth, some of those characters. Yes.

Explains roots in Eve and how she is viewed as the troublemaker

Sees herself only in the Apocrypha, like Ruth Characters

Unknown 3:46

I always thought that Mary Magdalene got like the shaft I really believe that she came across to me as a young person as a strong woman and

Unknown 3:56

I you know, the church just basically labeled or a whore,

Unknown 4:00

then. Yeah, I mean, I guess Gemma, those figures made me feel somewhat represented.

Unknown 4:07

What about

Unknown 4:10

said again,

Unknown 4:13

so

Unknown 4:14

that's true. So you'd say that all the female figures, they were personified as outcasts.

Unknown 4:19

Yeah.

Unknown 4:21

And do you feel like that with what I was saying? Like, as? I mean, do you feel like there is a lack of the equality of representation between male and female in the Bible?

Unknown 4:37

How is it affected?

Unknown 4:40

said again,

Frustrated that Mary Magdalene got the shaft for being strong

Mary Magdalene is labeled whore

Explained the few women in the Bible are viewed as outcasts

Unknown 4:43

there were no female editors of the Bible.

Unknown 4:45

Yeah, there weren't any female editors of the Bible, right? Yeah, absolutely. What How did that affect you growing up in the church? Did you like what, what did that look like,

Unknown 4:59

when you're young, it's not that big of a deal. But I think when you hit

Unknown 5:05

puberty, and you start to, you know, feel sexual feelings, and you start

to, you know, want to do certain things with your body. And I think it makes you feel guilty about every single thing that you want to do

Unknown 5:19

like that. That's dirty. That's not right. You shouldn't be doing that. And so I think a lot of friends church made me feel lesser and made me feel like a like a bad person.

Unknown 5:31

Okay.

Unknown 5:33

And you no longer are affiliated with a Christian church, like you said, You're Buddhist and pagan. What was was the divorce the major catalyst for that, or what was the catalyst? Like, what was the build up for that,

Explains there weren’t any female editors of the Bible

Explains the effect was not large when she was young

This affects her later in puberty

Feels guilty during puberty

Catholic friends made her feel lesser, dirty, and bad for the things she wanted to do with her body

Unknown 5:54

and they would not, they would not compromise on that.

Unknown 6:02

We only do that.

Unknown 6:03

So I left the Catholic Church

Unknown 6:05

and went to his church and became a sister Balian so that we could have our wedding. Wow, okay.

Unknown 6:19

Thomas, which is actually that calmness, his sister,

Unknown 6:22

he played for the Miami Dolphins, and they had, and they had for speech, and she married and Jason Taylor, I think, was his name, and he didn't conform or anything. So I was always told him as a big check that got that done. And they got married in the same church. We wanted to get married.

Unknown 6:42

So you had a friend that was her husband was really famous, they had a lot of money, she was able to marry someone that was not Catholic, and it didn't have to convert to Episcopalian or anything like that. Right. Wow,

Unknown 6:58

so then, but you but you, so you became Episcopalian? How long were you Episcopalian before you decided to change your faith?

Unknown 7:08

Could not marry man because he wasn’t Catholic. He was Episcopalian. Episcopalians can’t marry non-Episcopalians.

Left Catholic church to marry husband.

Rich partnership is endorsed by Catholic church and the spouse didn’t have to convert.

Reiterating above

Frustrated at lack of fairness

And what was the catalyst in those 11 years?

Unknown 7:12

Okay,

Unknown 7:16

what did what was there, you got a divorce, and it just kind of like, okay, I don't want to believe the same thing. And Max has been bullied or like, what was what was behind all that? It seems like there's more to it than just a divorce.

Unknown 7:27

Yeah, I think it was a lot of people at our church where his side

Unknown 7:33

and not mine,

Unknown 7:34

oh,

Unknown 7:37

this is a

Unknown 7:39

small city, and they're mostly elderly and being the only younger people there I had to do on a vacation Bible school and, and all of that, and I just don't really think I just got really burned out.

Unknown 7:53

That's

Unknown 7:55

all right. Should I just have one more question? I know that your faith is different now. But do you think that when it comes to churches across the board, do you think

Divorced husband and no longer wanted to be Episcopalian

Feels abandoned by people at church during the divorce

Feels she was treated unfair, serving a lot, burned out.

that there should be equal access to leadership regardless of gender?

Unknown 8:09

Yeah

why would you say that?

Unknown 8:18

They do. Okay.

Unknown 8:20

Yeah,

Unknown 8:24

absolutely. Wonderful. And,

Unknown 8:25

you know, while I was going to church, there was when they had the great big rift in the break because of the gay bishop. And, you know, our church took the stance that, you know, the people are equal then, and I always thought that that was really cool about that church.

Unknown 8:43

Cool. Awesome, great shout out. I that's actually in on my part. I, we just had eight questions we get through. Do you have any questions for me or anything else you wanted to add to any of that

Unknown 8:56

you're such a blessing. Oh, my goodness, so much fun meeting you and was in Amarillo, you're the highlight of my trip, which was saying some instances down there for a wedding.

**#2**

Unknown 0:00

It's gonna be the same thing so our I repeat back sometimes I'm just cut so that my

Excited that the Episcopal church instated a gay bishop. Sees more equality in the Episcopal church.

phone picks it up in case it missed your voice but want you to go ahead and describe for me your faith background

Unknown 0:12

okay Say that again

Unknown 0:13

go ahead and describe for me your faith background

Unknown 0:17

my background I was a Baptist and became a Christian whenever I was about five years old and really grew up strong and that face with the church three or four times a week

Unknown 0:33

and then ended up getting married in high school and still in that church and

Unknown 0:42

that faith tradition. And

Unknown 0:46

my the guy that I married ended up being a preacher and I was a preacher class for a while until we got a divorce and I had to try to figure out what the heck I was going to do. And

Unknown 1:00

I didn't really feel like I said it in the baptist church anymore. So I started going to church with my parents who were been messages and went to church with them are kind of a while and I still go to the Methodist Church.

Unknown 1:14

Okay,

Unknown 1:16

Explains faith background as Baptist starting at five years old, went to church a lot

Married in high school

Continued faith tradition

Husband was preacher

Got divorce

Confused on what to do next

Didn’t fit in Baptist church anymore

Went to parents church

Trying to figure out what she believes

Became Methodist

and what are your views on gender and equality,

Unknown 1:21

gender inequality and I totally that everyone should be equal, but they're not.

Unknown 1:27

So you believe that gender should be treated equally, but you have not experienced that there's equality within the genders.

Unknown 1:34

I have not experienced equality with the gender in any for in my life ever, and nor in any country of a business or any business nothing. There's no place that I have been generous treated equally.

Unknown 1:52

Describe your relationship with the Bible. D does it have authority in your life? Do you believe that there's Aaron See, do you allow for

Unknown 1:59

Bible is a confusing thing for me

Unknown 2:03

traveling and kind of a different view of the world. I still believe that the Bible is the Word of God, and that it is not flawed. But I think that there's some really flawed interpretations of it. I think that people try to interpret it with their own lens in their own experiences, and they really don't understand what it's talking about.

Unknown 2:26

So that's kind of where I'm at with that.

Unknown 2:29

Okay, so with your

Says everyone should be equal but they’re not

Experienced inequality in genders

Explains there is no place where she’s experienced equality with genders.

Confused by the Bible

Believes Bible is word of God, that the original Bible was not flawed, but that interpretations are flawed

Flaws come from people interpreting through their own lens and experiences, while not truly understanding

Unknown 2:33

perspective on the Bible, would you say that that lines up with what your church believes about the Bible? Or would you say that differs from what your church believes about the Bible?

Unknown 2:42

I think, well, I don't believe like my church believes in the Bible or anymore, nor nor the way I was raised to believe in the Bible. You know,

Unknown 2:55

my parents are extremely conservative, and are really hostile to people who are

Unknown 3:03

not like them that are Muslim, or if they're gay, they really they, they don't think that they're good people. And I just can't tolerate that I, I just can't treat somebody bad because they have a different religion, or they're gay to me. I still struggle with what the Bible says about being gay. I think there's a contrast between the lifestyle that gay people live the torches almost forced upon them, because they ostracize them from any kind of faith or participation with community,

Unknown 3:42

I think there's a difference. I know some, some people that are in relationships that are very dedicated to each other and have better relationships. And many of the married people I know, you know,

Unknown 3:55

if I just have to come down to that's really not the thing that's going to be my business and determining what they're doing is right or wrong. And well, it has no bearing on

Believes differently than her church and how she was raised

Believes differently than her parents

Intolerant of her parents’ hostilities towards Muslims and gays.

Struggles with Bible about being gay

Believes lifestyle of gay people is forced upon them because they’re ostracized from community

Explains differences in gay relationships

Says it isn’t her place to determine what’s right or wrong for people who are gay. They should be treated well

how I'm going to treat them or how they should be treated.

Unknown 4:15

Do you feel like that affects relationship with your church or other believers at all?

Unknown 4:20

Yeah, extreme problems with my parents, the more vocal I am about my beliefs, and I have close friends that are gay, and I have friends that are Muslim, and they have a real hard time with me defending

Unknown 4:38

them. And whenever like we're eating dinner, whatever, something comes up as a conversation. And I'll just say, Dad, do you know any Muslim until you've had dinner and sat down and, you know, had a conversation with a Muslim? I don't want to hear it.

Unknown 4:53

So, you know, cause some problems, you know,

Unknown 4:55

what's your, what are your thoughts on when it comes to our presentation in the Bible? Do you feel as a woman you've been represented within the Bible or no?

Unknown 5:06

Well, even though I've been represented in the Bible, but not in an equal way, and the way I was raised was to be submissive,

Unknown 5:17

that I had to defer to the things that my husband wanted and all things and that I could still be a strong woman that she has the last say her remember my mom, you know, just always talking about how I

Criticized by parents about beliefs.

Confronts dad about not having relationship with Muslims

Women are represented in the Bible but not in an equal way

Raised to be submissive

Had to defer to husband instead of being strong

Had to be a good woman to be pure and holy

needed to present myself as a woman so that I would be pure and holy and good and you know, all of this stuff

Unknown 5:40

I think that there were a strong role models in the Bible Ruth was a big one for me. And the way she spoke up for her people with low as I remember the Mary's you know, they were kind of a big deal. There were other women like Priscilla and other other women that were in the Bible that I thought were pretty important.

Unknown 6:01

I felt like the way I was raised about women is that they have this quote that they would say, that woman was made out of man's rib underneath desire to be protected by her, but not out of his head, that she would roll over him or his foot so that she would, he would stop on her and her family, but then they would walk through left side by side equal

Unknown 6:25

but I, you know, it's not really equal and the way women's leadership roles we were supposed to pray in church important both for each of those, you know, they're only weren't supposed to do and I remember we weren't even allowed to wear pants

Unknown 6:43

to church until I was like, 20. Oh, yeah.

Unknown 6:48

What about the identity of God? Because I know that for the majority of the Bible, God is referred to as more male like pronouns or identifiers. Has that ever been frustrating for you as a woman? Or is that been okay for you?

Saw role model in Ruth

Loved how she spoke up for people

Mary’s were big deals

Lists other women that are important

Talks of Eve being created by Adam’s rib and talks about how women and men are meant to stand side-by-side, neither being above or below the other

Even though that’s her belief, she didn’t see this in the church

Women were not in leadership roles

Wasn’t allowed to wear pants

Unknown 7:02

It has not been frustrating to me that God is called a man. It just doesn't bother me.

Unknown 7:09

I think part of it.

Unknown 7:14

God has she and one of the songs and I was horrified.

Unknown 7:17

I don't think that would be horrified now to hear that

Unknown 7:24

I just, I don't know.

Unknown 7:27

I don't think it matters.

Unknown 7:28

Yeah, know, when it comes to your relationship with the Bible? Has it changed over the years? And if so, what was the catalyst

Unknown 7:37

thing that changed my relationship with the Bible was

Unknown 7:42

when I started traveling, and I started looking at how different cultures

Unknown 7:48

and how they perceive life, and I had to look at it a little bit differently and say, Well, what does it be to believe the Bible and be a Christian, but still love people and see things in a little bit different life

Unknown 8:07

No issues with God being portrayed as masculine

If God was personified as a woman, it would horrify her growing up

Wouldn’t be horrified now

Gender doesn’t matter in her view of God

Views of Bible changed with traveling

Traveling challenged her to love people in spite of them seeing things differently than her

bill, a progress that I'm trying to figure out about how that works together?

Unknown 8:15

And what do you think about women in leadership at churches,

Unknown 8:19

women in leadership at churches?

Unknown 8:22

Well,

Unknown 8:24

here's the thing is, I don't really like church right now.

Unknown 8:31

I think that the women I see in leadership don't have I mean, they don't lead in the same way, and some of them are ineffective, and some of them are effective, but some of them are limited in their role, and what they're able to do, because they're women. And so I can't really decide, you know, are they doing what they do? Because they're being strong, powerful women? Are they doing it because they're allowed to? I just, I don't know. And why are they

Unknown 9:01

church history release

Unknown 9:04

churches very well, right now.

Unknown 9:07

It's not working for me.

Unknown 9:10

Yeah,

Unknown 9:12

Still in the process of figuring that out and how the Bible and her views work together

Doesn’t like church

Sees women as limited in effectiveness and authority within the church

Who’s at fault? Her being a woman or because she hasn’t been allowed it for so long?

yeah, I want to go and worship I want to do you know, I learn more about God, I want to study the Bible. I want to do the things to be a good person, and to serve God in a way that helps other people. But I don't think the church is doing a very good job of that.

Unknown 9:28

And that's why you're having a hard time with it is you're not seeing that it's loving people. Well, right.

Unknown 9:33

I think it's like this insular thing, kind of like, you know, that they throw parties for themselves and say, they're raising money for charity. Well, really, they're throwing a party for themselves. And so I think that the church has become kind of like that, that they're throwing a big party for themselves. And if you're going to act like them, look like them, eat like them, talk like them, that you're going to be welcome at their party. And if you're not like him, and you don't really why would they go to church, you didn't do all of those things like they do

Unknown 10:03

perfect. Shauna, that's great. Thank you so much. That's my final question that I have. But thank you so much for sharing all of that. I really do appreciate it.

Unknown 10:11

You're welcome, sweetheart.

Unknown 10:13

We've got one more women in the car, or do we want to go ahead and stop there or what are we thinking

Unknown 10:25

Wants to be a good person and a good Christian but the church isn’t doing a good job of doing that

Churches feel like people throwing parties for themselves

Only those that look like Christians are allowed at the party

and Chanel let me just get your first lesson. Hold on one second.

**#3**

Unknown 0:00

At 3%, so if I lose you, I apologize in advance. Okay.

Unknown 0:05

I'm sure no. Would you explain for me your faith background,

Unknown 0:10

okay. So when I was young, my mother and grandparents and we went to a Baptist Church in Kansas City, when I was about six years old, my mother converted to the LDS faith, which most people call Mormon. And for from the time that I was six until the time that I was 17, I was forced to attend mormon church every Wednesday and every Sunday. But then when I went to college, I went to a Catholic school

Unknown 0:46

with a lot of a lot of my roommates

Unknown 0:49

were Catholics who had been raised Catholic and I went to Bible study and stuff with them. But I have considered myself an atheist since I was about 14 years old.

Unknown 1:01

Thank you so much. So now, I mean, you've done the gambit.

Unknown 1:07

So know what are your views on gender inequality?

Unknown 1:12

Raised Baptist

Converted to LDS (Mormonism)

Went to Catholic School for college

Even though she was at a Catholic school and raised Baptist and Mormon, she considered herself an atheist starting at 14

In Are you specifically referring to religion? Or let's start with you, what are your personal views when it comes to gender inequality? do believe that they're different but equal, do you believe they're the same and equal? What are what are how would you were your perspectives, for example,

Unknown 1:31

genetics, and men and women are physiologically different. But in terms of opportunity, I believe that we should have equal opportunity to explore our desires like our once our interest or passion, I believe when Equal Opportunity 100% especially in terms of like power and leadership, education, that kind of stuff.

Unknown 1:59

And then when it comes to as an atheist, I'm guessing when it comes to relationship with the Bible, you would say that what are what are your thoughts about authority in your life, Aaron, seeing the Bible and how people interpret it.

Unknown 2:13

So I believe the Bible is a piece of literature that has been edited time and time again, to fit the needs of the society.

Unknown 2:23

So I was raised with the same or the King James Version of the Bible, which is what the LDS uses as, as their official Bible for the church. And, and like I was taught, when I went to

Unknown 2:38

Bible study, I had to take a course

Unknown 2:39

at the Catholic college that was actually taught by a Catholic priest. And we

Physiologically, men and women are different, but in opportunity, men and women should be equal

There should be equality in education, leadership, power, etc.

Bible is literature and has been edited over time to fit society

Raised King James Version

investigated the Bible as a piece of literature, not necessarily as the Word of God from his mouth, so to speak. So I believe that it's been edited over and over again, and that the editors choose which which things to alter which things to highlight according to what they think society should be like.

Unknown 3:11

And one instance of that is

Unknown 3:13

I've read that there's evidence that the story of Adam and Eve actually had three versions. One of those versions is what is in the King James Version of the Bible, which is where Eve is made out of the river, and therefore women are submissive. Another version is that the woman was created first, and then the man and then third version is that they were created at the same time.

Unknown 3:38

And there's apparently there's evidence like in the what is it Sea scrolls or something like that, that those three stories like existed once upon a time, but then society chose the he was made from Adam to show some throughout throughout history and stuff. Yeah,

Unknown 4:00

when you were involved in all your different variations that were connected to the Bible, what was your experience when it came to you being represented the Bible? Did you see yourself in the Bible as a woman? What about the thing, God being masculine? Did you have issues with that? What are kind of your thoughts around that?

Unknown 4:27

In College, Bible was taught as literature

Emphasized what was stated before about the Bible being a piece of literature and changes for society

Explains different versions of the Adam and Eve story and that the one where Adam was created first was chosen to put precident to the man

Evidence for three stories in Dead Sea Scrolls

Not necessarily take issue with it, but I don't necessarily consider because I told him he is. So when when you say God, you're making a presumption that this for this thing, wherever we come from, is your personified and so you're, you're doing two things, you're putting human characteristic, and then you're putting masculine characteristics on and so I don't like in my personal life, I don't feel the need to do that. I think people do that as a sense of comfort. Because the more familiar we are with something, the better we think we understand it. And I think there's like this force that kind of not necessarily runs everything, but it's thinking about science, like there's energy energy transfers, I just called the force like from Star Wars, but it's not necessarily human. So to say that it's a masculine force. I think that's just society again, subjugating women.

Unknown 5:31

And when you were in when you before 14, before you became atheist, would you say that it affected you in a negative way? Or did it not matter to you, even though can Okay,

Unknown 5:43

church has changed their views a lot

Unknown 5:45

over the past decade, but I haven't attended church in the past decade,

Unknown 5:50

when I was attending church, it was very much push that your role as a woman was to get

Unknown 5:56

married, you do not have sex before you get married.

Takes no issue with God being personified as a man because she views it as a projection of what we want, putting human characteristics, specifically masculine characteristics on God.

This is done for comfort

Believes in the force that runs things, and that force isn’t necessarily human

Believes God being personified more masculine is another way of subjugating women

Was pushed to believe that the role of a woman was to get married, to not have sex before marriage

Unknown 5:59

You wait, you get engaged, you get married very quickly, we're talking within three months of being engaged. Your role as a woman is to produce children and take care of those children and take care of the home. And so classes they actually have what's called Relief Society.

Unknown 6:16

And those classes were geared specifically towards taking care of the home, like learning how to camp food, learning how to stitch garments, like, you know, so buttons and that kind of thing. And when you get to

Unknown 6:30

be about 17 or 18, you're allowed to go to those Relief Society classes. And I absolutely hated them. I thought like, first of all, I knew how to do that stuff anyways, because we we learned that in my home anyways. But I was like, why is this the only thing that you're teaching women like this just seems utterly ridiculous to me and her is actually one time in my Sunday school class that I got scolded because one of the leader, it was a woman leader. And she was saying that your role as a woman is to stay at home with the children and make sure the children are taking care of and this and that, and I raised my hand. I said, Well, what if you want an education? What if you want a career and she told me that I needed to be quiet because I was in a mormon church, and if I was in a mormon church, I should expect to hear Mormon doctrine and to follow that Mormon doctrine. So I got up and walked out, and then everyone back.

Unknown 7:26

Oh, okay.

Get married quickly, produce children, take care of home, including classes to do all of this called Relief Society

Classes for taking care of home, make food, sow buttons, stitch garments

Hated these classes

Frustrated that she was taught this and seemed ridiculous

Told that her role as a woman was to stay at home and raise kids

Objected to this teaching and wanted to get educated and have a career

Was told to be quiet when she objected

Walked out of class

Unknown 7:36

So would you say that was probably one of the biggest catalysts for your change when it came to your relationship with the Bible?

Unknown 7:44

And that was Yes. Want to make sure that my thing got that. Okay, perfect. And I don't know if this question will even matter, just because the fact of your relationship with

Unknown 7:54

churches and stuff like that, but would you back when you were involved in the church? What did you want to see women in leadership? Do you feel like it was right for them to be in leadership? What are your thoughts around that?

Unknown 8:04

Yeah,

Unknown 8:07

why we were I mean, I was young at the time and I question why we were not in leadership in the LDS Church. Women are still not allowed to hold what we call the priesthood, the priesthood, they're the ones who, like bless the sacrament. They're the ones who do the baptisms they give, like the gift of the Holy Ghost when you get baptized stuff.

**#4**

Unknown 0:00

Check, check, check.

Unknown 0:04

We are going to be interviewing can travel time

Unknown 0:14

is already taking the boards.

The class was a major catalyst to leaving the church and becoming an atheist

Questioned why women were not allowed in leadership, specifically the priesthood

Unknown 0:17

Yep, it's already picking.

Unknown 0:21

No, it's not it's not it's, it's, it's, I think it's doing it's checking for sound so as long as you are, it's close to you and yet, it's cool.

Unknown 0:32

Okay, so what is your faith background and if you'll repeat every question so it gets Sure. So my faith background is I grew up nondenominational.

Unknown 0:43

And just to give context and 29 years, or no, I, I'm 28 years old. So, in grew up in a Christian home and yeah Nandi is my upbringing.

Unknown 0:57

What are your views on gender and gender equality.

Unknown 1:02

Okay, so the question was, what are my views on gender and gender equality.

Unknown 1:09

Um, that's a loaded question because I believe.

Unknown 1:17

Yeah, it's a loaded question number one, I think.

Unknown 1:21

i think that

Unknown 1:29

i think that women should have the ability to work, and to do things to lead in places of

Grew up nondenominational

Believes women should be able to work and lead

Unknown 1:45

work, like the workplace, but also even in faith organizations like I don't, I have never. I've never been the type of person to think that we should be limited in what we do, just because of my gender or gender.

Unknown 2:00

I grew up always thinking that like, why is it, especially in high school and then into college, always was like how come it's only males that can be priests How come women can't be priests. And so, I've always been someone to believe that the sky's the limit for women in what we can do and what we can accomplish and then yeah I really, really believe that that is that the sky's the limit. And that's what I desire to see even in our world. What I'm when it comes to equality Do you feel like there is equality in certain spaces and some other spaces, it's not. What are your thoughts. Do you feel like your beliefs on gender inequality lineup on a societal level and also on a within the church is like,

Unknown 2:52

okay, okay, let's let's break it down let's break it down okay so the first question was What do you feel there is equality within society. Okay, so the question is, is do I feel that there is equality in society. And I would say. On a scale of one to 10 I'd say it's probably like 60 to 70%. I would say that we don't have fully quality, because there is still there is still in that and that's not even just like here in the US like you have to think globally to like what what opportunities, and pay do women make overseas like is it less than equal to or more than men. And so, but at the same time I really feel like we are living, it's not what it used to be. 10 1520 years ago, like I feel like the women and feminists who have gone

Was frustrated growing up with faith organizations because she believed women should never be limited because of gender

Frustrated only men could become priests

Has always believed “the sky’s the limit” for women and what they can do and what they can accomplish

It’s her desire to see this in the world

Believes that society is at about 60%-70% equality between genders

On a global level, women are doing a lot better in the United States than they are in other countries, regarding equality

before us have made such a huge impact and influence on what we can. What we can do like in government in the workplace in the military, even the fact that these incredible women have made huge strides in creating that for us so I wouldn't say that we're 100% there as a society, and the United States I wouldn't say we're 100% there even overseas. But I would say at least for here in the US like we are, we are, we are making progress like progress is happening in that direction and, and also to add to that, you even see you now see women, waiting to become moms and kind of diving into their careers and so it's it's all regarding me.

Unknown 4:41

See, I'm not sure I got it. Okay, good.

Unknown 4:48

But even. You see, if you see in trends, how women are waiting longer to have children because they're investing in their careers they're investing in themselves professionally and personally and.

Unknown 5:05

And I think that that's even a sign that we've made so much progress because it that used to not be the norm, used to get married, have children, that was it. And then you see also more dads I feel like stepping up and helping out and being involved in kids lives and you see a lot more normalization of stay at home dads, where the mom is going out and working so I think that we're not 100% there, I don't think we ever will be 100% there but I would say that we're making progress. What about the church.

Unknown 5:36

Praises feminists who have gone before us, which has opened up opportunities for women in government and the military and the workplace

At least here in the United States, we’re making progress, including women waiting to become moms so they can have a career

Dads are helping out more and being more involved with kids by some staying at home while the mom works

Um, I would say that my belief in the church and its progress towards gender equality is I would say that they're a little bit behind the times, if I'm going to be completely honest, I would say that the church in a lot of different areas is actually way behind in fighting for those things and really, really even being like the leaders and leading those things.

Unknown 6:05

I'm going to be completely honest, I and I think that's sad I think that actually.

Unknown 6:11

You look at you look at scripture and you look at who Jesus was.

Unknown 6:17

And you go back to like Genesis one when he's creating.

Unknown 6:24

Adam and Eve, and he he creates them side by side. And it and it isn't until sin enters into the picture where you have this fracture of relationship and almost like this, man.

Unknown 6:40

Having dominion over woman and it's just this fracture of that relationship and and so I even think that I look at scripture and I look at who Jesus was. And I think of he was for women he was for women leading in the Old Testament and the New Testament you see all over the place. And so, I would say unfortunately I don't think the church is really necessarily leading in our society and in our culture. I, that doesn't mean that none of these churches are making progress. So that's not a blanket statement that churches aren't making progress, I

The church is behind when it comes to equality with the times

They’re behind when it comes to letting women lead

She is sad that this is the case

Adam and Eve were created side by side

Sin fractures the relationship

After sin, man has dominion over woman

Church isn’t leading society and our culture

Not all churches are doing this

It’s not a blanket statement

would just say that they are behind in the progress that they're trying to make Yeah.

Unknown 7:20

When it comes to.

Unknown 7:24

What are your views on

Unknown 7:28

allowance for interpretation. And how much authority does the Bible have 100% authority.

Unknown 7:35

I would say 100% so here's my view of. So the question was just my belief in the Bible and in Scripture and it's Aaron see and is it open for interpretation.

Unknown 7:49

Like what's my view on that, in regards to gender equality and, or as a whole as a whole. Okay, so I would say like, it's 100, I believe that the Bible is 100%. Truth, and I believe that there are.

Unknown 8:05

I believe that there are areas of the Bible, so you have to look okay. So if we look at the Bible as a, as a rule book. That's all we look at it as I don't think that's correct. I think if we look at it as an inspirational like coffee table book. I also think that's completely wrong. It is a narrative from beginning to end and to beginning. And if you, if you don't understand the context of it as a whole, you're not going to understand any scripture so I think when we come to Scripture. And we have that in our heads that this is this is actually a narrative it's a five act play right its creation, it's the fall. It's Israel.

Bible has 100% authority in her life

The Bible is 100% the truth

You have to look at the Bible as a whole

It’s more than an inspirational coffee table book

It’s a narrative from beginning to end

Must understand scripture as a whole

Unknown 8:53

And then Jesus, right.

Unknown 8:56

When we look at it from beginning to end, we see that there are aspects of interpretation so like the book of Revelation, I completely believe that revelation, a lot of Revelation is not literal literal yeah like that was like prophetic that john was given for the End Times. And so I think a lot of people take that and they take it literally, and they use it and apply it to today so I think, I think with that foundation of like this is truth and.

Unknown 9:32

And it's not with that as the foundation that this is truth.

Unknown 9:38

Then you go to certain scripture and you read and you study.

Unknown 9:43

And, and, and, and understanding that that's like the foundation that I look at it through, and how I live my life and how I let it speak to me.

Unknown 9:54

So yeah, I don't know if that answers the question but it's good, I want to try to distill a little Yeah.

Unknown 10:01

So when it comes to versus on women in leadership and things like that. Do you feel those are open to interpretation.

Unknown 10:09

or no.

Unknown 10:11

When we look from beginning to end, we see that some parts shouldn’t be taken literally, like Revelation

The foundation is still truth, even though some parts are not literal

Um, I believe that.

Unknown 10:15

The question was on specific scripture on women in leadership is that open for interpretation or not. I believe yes and,

Unknown 10:29

which I think again you have to you have to read, you have to look you have to go to the Word of God, with context. Right.

Unknown 10:40

What was so I'm assuming that you're talking about and referring to the scripture in the New Testament when Paul was addressing. I think the women in Corinth. Yes. Okay. So, looking back at going back to that specific time and that specific area that Paul was speaking to you had to understand like the times that they were living in and what women were doing. they were like they were reckless they, there was no.

Unknown 11:10

There was no.

Unknown 11:13

It was just all like lawlessness and no one, no one was there was no right or wrong, you know, anything like that no moral anything. And so when Paul's addressing them he's addressing this specific group in this specific context. So, I think that you have to read it with eyes of contextually, just as if you're reading a history book. And in our history books, you're seeing this specific thing you have to understand okay what it. What's the context of this battle what's the context of the situation even in our history books I think that we have to come to the Bible in deciphering those certain situations.

Context is important for the verses regarding women

Explains the verses on women in the church

Paul was speaking to reckless women

The women were lawless and there wasn’t right or wrong

Paul addresses specific group rather than to women as a whole

Must read the Bible through context and situationally

Unknown 11:59

When it comes to the Bible as a couple of things that kind of all bleed in together. The first one is, it is Justin.

Unknown 12:11

Do you see God, mainly personified as.

Unknown 12:18

Absolutely not. Absolutely not. No question was do you see God as personified as masculine and the answer was absolutely not.

Unknown 12:27

Yeah, because, so

Unknown 12:32

I just okay so you go back to Scripture, again. Old Testament, New Testament, you have to have.

Unknown 12:40

You have to read, read, read with open eyes and again context and I, I, I think that it's easy to slip into oh yes like he's just like for office to God who like, It's like, think of like patriarchy and that, you know, but you dig into some of these stories, and I think what's so beautiful about the Word of God is that his heart for his people

Unknown 13:08

is reflected so many different times and as someone who's nurturing, as someone who's carrying, you look at you look at the songs and you look at how honest and open, David was crying out for crying out for Jesus, but then also, like, you go to the New Testament, and you see so many stories of Jesus meeting the woman at the well.

Unknown 13:34

She does not see God as only masculine, but as feminine and masculine

Talks about context again and the importance to context

Without context, it would be easy to see God as patriarchal

God is also displayed as nurturing, caring

Jesus spent a lot of time with women

Who had five marriages, and she thought that women couldn't divorce men, at that time, she didn't have the ability to do that these men left her. So, a lot of times, even in this, in that specific story you see the character of Jesus reach out to this woman who has been rejected and abandoned by husband after husband after husband and he comes in, he says, I want to give you living water, and how nurturing is that like that's the nurturing, that's the nurturing part of God and if you think about think about this like men and women were made in the image of God which basically means women, how we birth children and we take care of them and the way that our hearts nurture and care for people like we were made in His image was also means that he has he carries that within him. So I would say absolutely not, I think that if you're someone who's bias and you're going at it looking at it through that lens like I would say you need to read more of your Bible and kind of just like dive more into the character of Jesus like you read through the New Testament and how he met people and how he had so much mercy and grace for people and loves people in a way that was beyond what they could even think even the disciples were like well you know like they had no idea how to make of it and so I think in a lot of ways, it really disrupts our view of gender because Jesus, Jesus disrupted that view. You know, if we take what we know is gender today and we compare it back then it's like Jesus disrupted all of that. So I think, I think that he so for me personally, I would say, and I would encourage that no like I don't believe that he is personified as this patriarchal masculine, God is that a part of who he is like masculine absolutely because men are created in his image and men embody that

Explains stories of women in the Bible

Woman rejected by five husbands

Men and women are created in the image of God

How women give birth and take care and are nurturing are His image

God is absolutely not just masculine

Jesus disrupts our view of gender

God is also masculine because men are created in His image

that women can. And so, that's my answer to that.

Unknown 15:54

What about as a woman being raised in the church.

Unknown 15:58

There's two things I'd like to hear it's one was ever fired for you.

Unknown 16:05

Looking at the Bible, do you feel like you can see yourself as a man I see there's more focus on men within the Bible. Do you think that's true and if so, how did that affect you, as a woman being raised in the church.

Unknown 16:25

I'm, I'm the type of person.

Unknown 16:29

My answer in short is no because I feel like I grew up with such a new audience which one can you use it the question so I know it's hard to say, Oh yeah, can you say no to the first part is do you feel that there's more representation with men in the Bible.

Unknown 16:49

And then following up with that is that is true. How did that affect you as a woman, and raised in the church.

Unknown 16:57

And just make sure this is going.

Unknown 17:00

Okay, perfect. This is good.

Unknown 17:02

All right. Wait Wait, can you. Yeah, so the question was, yeah. The question was, do you use find that there's more

Seeing mainly men in the Bible didn’t affect her in a negative way

representation of men and women in the Bible.

Unknown 17:13

Okay, so I'll answer the first question. The first question was, do I think that there's more male representation of the Bible, and okay if you're wanting like a quantitative like let's count how many like stories like male stories is there is female stories. Sure there probably is more.

Unknown 17:30

Absolutely, you know absolutely but I growing up, I, when I would read stories like the story of David, or the story of Samson or these great men of the Bible, like, I remember being like well I can be that way.

Unknown 17:51

I remember thinking like, well, if, if God created if God was like David you're a man after my own heart like I thought is who I call you, I always grew up with the belief of well he can call me that. It's like God can call me a woman after his own heart, and there's no limitation, and even like growing up I never ever ever felt from my family, or from, even the Lord I never felt like this oh no you can't do that because you're a woman air you're a female. And this story is more about males like getting that privilege from the Lord like I never got that narrative from the Bible, nor from my parents or my community of faith growing up I, I always felt like champion in those ways like if I wanted to be that way awesome, because who likes the story of Esther.

Unknown 18:45

Honestly, I'm just gonna be so on it's like I always grew up hating that story because I'm like, oh, like I don't want to be. Oh, four I was created for such a time as this like

There is more stories of men than women in the Bible

Saw stories in the Bible about men and thought “I can be like that”

She can look like David

No limitation

Never felt from family or God or faith community that she had limitations because she was a woman

Hated story of Esther

who wants. No, I never, ever like associated or even liked that story because I never related to it but David.

Unknown 19:06

This, this shepherd boy who tending his sheep, then, is anointed king by Samuel and then goes back to being a shepherd, and then fights a lion and a bear and then goes and fights Goliath, and it's just this courage you see courage you see bravery, you see, strength and it's like, I want to, I want that. I don't think that's just reserved for guys I think that that's reserved for all of us because we're all children of God. And I think in the case. I'm about to preach

Unknown 19:45

in the kingdom of God.

Unknown 19:48

That's the thing is that. We're all called to that, not just male or female, it's it's all of us. We're all called to be stepping into places of faith and stepping into places of risk and being obedient and saying the things that don't want to be said and and confronting the things that don't want to be confronted I think God's called us to all of that not just males and not just females and I think if you look at the Bible in that way I think you're super biased. You're not reading it in the way that you're not interpreting it in the way that the Lord created us to interpret it and to read it.

Unknown 20:32

Okay. So, have you experienced any changes in relationship to the Bible over the course of your life.

Unknown 20:44

Oh no, absolutely, yes, there has been changes right, is that you're saying.

Related to David more than Esther

The story of men in the Bible is not just reserved for men. She sees herself in these men in the Bible. We’re all children of God

We’re all called into the same things that both the men and the women of the Bible were called into

You’re biased if you don’t believe that

You’re not reading the Bible in the right way

It needs proper interpretation

Her view of the Bible has changed over the years

Absolutely. There's been changes in my perception of the Bible. Yeah. Okay.

Unknown 20:56

Yes, because I would say I would say, Growing up, I looked at it more as a book of inspiration.

Unknown 21:05

And, and then I think you know when you grow up in a Christian background, you either look at it you look at it for inspiration so it's like the whole. I'm going to open my Bible lands.

Unknown 21:18

Great Lord you're speaking to me, or, or you grow up.

Unknown 21:23

Looking at it and interpreting it as a rule book as a things like these are the things you can do these things you can't do. When I don't think that i think that i think it's it's it's both and it's it's not either or.

Unknown 21:39

Again, I go back to you have to look at the Word of God as a narrative, if you don't understand the Old Testament, through and through.

Unknown 21:48

You're not going to understand the New Testament, you're not going to understand, even the, the significance of Jesus coming, you do not understand that and and i think i think that that's what's changed for me is that is that, as I've gotten older, and as I've learned to read it. And as I've learned to interpret it through that lens of narrative that my perspective, even about myself has changed because if you read it and you're, it just starts with sin sin sin sin.

Growing up, the Bible was more of an inspirational book

Contrasts to people viewing the Bible as a rule book

It’s both and neither inspirational and rule book

Bible is a narrative

Need to read the Bible as a whole

As she’s aged, she’s learned to interpret the Bible through the lens of a narrative

Unknown 22:24

It just makes it about us, and it has nothing to do with us. It's actually all about Jesus. And in that, in that narrative from beginning to end of sin and the fall happening and then Jesus coming back, and the power of that you start to realize oh my god like he, like we are called to royal priesthood, like this is a he's called us to co heirs and it becomes. It's not just about me anymore it's not just about me in this my journey and my, you know it doesn't it doesn't end with me It ends with Jesus, it ends with him and I think for me what's changed so dramatically is that I know more of who I am. In Christ because of it because of looking and reading the Bible through that lens and interpreting and contextualizing it through that lens is. I know more of who I am as a daughter of the king, as a, as a Christ follower as someone who's in relationship like I.

Unknown 23:31

It's something that I can more stand off of and believe in and take hold of because of that so yeah so yes, in regards to your question, it has changed and i think that i think it's a good thing that has changed because if it were only viewed in. In, as an inspirational coffee book like I don't think that you're getting the whole of what the Lord meant for it to be.

Unknown 23:57

What are your. Do you think that we haven't touched us but do you think that women should be pastors and churches should they be pastors and churches, and follow up as well. What are your thoughts on women in leadership of the family.

Unknown 24:12

Bible isn’t about man or sin, it’s about Jesus

It’s not just about me anymore. It doesn’t end with man either. It ends with Jesus.

Bible has changed in that it shows her who she is as a daughter

It has changed and I think that it has been a good thing that is has changed because if were only viewed in as an inspirational coffee book then you’re not getting the whole of what God meant for it.

Okay, so the question was, what are my thoughts on women pastors and women leaders in the church. Yes, and then also leadership, and then leadership within the home. So, I am all for women pastors and women leaders.

Unknown 24:29

For all roles within your app so frequently.

Unknown 24:33

Absolutely.

Unknown 24:35

Absolutely. I'm, I'm for that 110%, and

Unknown 24:43

I think that there is nothing there is something so powerful and this kind of goes into the second question about you asking about women leading and marriages and relationships. I think that there is nothing more powerful than a man and a woman leading side by side together. Like, I, and I can name so many women that are are like are doing like Joyce Meyers is a prime example of someone who is such a powerful leader.

Unknown 25:15

And she and she's married and she has a husband, but yet there's such as beautiful like humility, and I don't like to use the word submission but like this beautiful like.

Unknown 25:25

I know that if her husband were like, I don't know if you should touch on this or same as like there would be such an understanding and an honoring happening between them. And so I think that, in short, yes like I believe that women should be leading in these roles, I think that they are called to lead in these roles. I feel like.

Women should lead in the church and in the family 110%

Nothing more powerful than when women and men lead side by side

Unknown 25:46

Again you go back, you go back to the Word of God like the Jesus put women in his life, like in those places like think about when he rose from the dead. The two first people who witness that were his mom and Mary Magdalene. Those were the first two people that witness that and how powerful is that there weren't any men around.

Unknown 26:10

So it's just like, do we leave this to the men to do.

Unknown 26:13

Okay. And so then, to answer your second question, um, I absolutely believe, like women can lead in relationships i think that i think that it's such a myth that

Unknown 26:30

that they that they shouldn't or that they can't, because sometimes in relationships, it's not always, it's not always 5050.

Unknown 26:40

Like, it's not always 50 sometimes. I know several stories where the husband can't work he can't provide for the, for the family. And so it's left to the wife to provide, and I look at I look at relationships like that and look at marriages like that and I'm not sitting there being like, well that's wrong, you know, but I go back to, I think there's not there is there is in my opinion.

Unknown 27:09

Nothing more powerful than a man and a woman leading side by side together, not one ahead of the other, like, side by side and that's kind of like the visual that I have in my head is that it's not the man on topper in front of or the woman in front of her on top of his them side by side leading

Women were important to Jesus

It’s a myth that women can’t lead in relationships

It should be 50/50

Circumstances change that 50/50

Nothing more powerful than a man and a woman leading side by side together

together and I don't and and and empowering one another to, because I also think that that's huge. I think that it's huge that we have. Men, empowering women husbands empowering wives to step into the things that they want to step into, you know.

Unknown 27:45

So yeah, that's the end of it.

**#5**

Unknown 0:01

Alright, so

Unknown 0:04

Could you give me your first last name and age and also just kind of some of our faith background? Yeah.

Unknown 0:12

So

Unknown 0:16

and I

Unknown 0:17

grew up in an Assemblies of God charismatic evangelical faith space, and spent the first I would say,

Unknown 0:29

20 years of my life

Unknown 0:32

in that world, and I am now pursuing ordination in the United Church of Christ, and consider myself a progressive, and maybe even radical Christian,

Unknown 0:45

Faith background Assemblies of God. Charismatic. Evangelical. 20 years.

Change of faith to United Church of Christ

Change to progressive and radical Christian

Unknown 0:47

understand those words in the word Christian, especially in much looser terms that I once did.

Unknown 0:56

But what are your views on gender equality? What are your perceptions on that? Do you say that were different to say the same he said, We're different, but the set like value is the same, what are your thoughts on

Unknown 1:09

that?

Unknown 1:11

I would,

Unknown 1:16

my training in sexuality education has

Unknown 1:22

helped me to pull apart the differences between gender and sex and so that they're being a different between biology. So understanding sex as being

Unknown 1:35

male, female intersex, right. And that those

Unknown 1:44

those buckets being very different than the buckets of gender. And that gender is really a societal construct that assigns both value and roles and

Unknown 1:59

behaviors and norms to specific gender identities. And so I,

Unknown 2:08

you know, I understand that genders can be fluid there

Loose interpretation of the Bible

Gender and sex are different

Gender is social construct assigning value and roles to masculine and feminine

Gender is fluid

Unknown 2:15

that my goal is to break out of gender binary and understanding that not not only is there just a spectrum of gender identity, but there's more like a whole like

Unknown 2:29

graph, I don't have good language for it. Um, but that that gender is a very different thing and that are specifically our generation is exploring that and very new in different ways that are exciting to me. And that doesn't that doesn't scare me

Unknown 2:50

specifically identify as a feminist and

Unknown 2:54

but not as a trans exclusionary radical feminist. I would say that my feminism is intersection and understanding that trans women and gender non conforming people are fully included into my idea of what feminism is that

Unknown 3:15

feminism for straight white people versus straight white women doesn't look the same as as feminism

Unknown 3:25

for

Unknown 3:27

black queer women. Right? Those are different things.

Unknown 3:31

Yeah. What about when it comes to a quality which we say there's a quality gap within our society and if so, does that look like

Unknown 3:39

Break gender binary

Gender is on graph, not even spectrum

Generation is exploring what gender even is

Self-identifies as feminist that includes trans-women and non-conforming gender fluid people.

Feminism isn’t just for white women

Feminism looks different for different people

Yeah, absolutely. I mean, we live in a patriarchal society that privileges maleness over femaleness and privileges, identities that are

Unknown 3:52

understood to be

Unknown 3:57

use penetrative

Unknown 4:00

privileges, that sort of idea. So you've been thinking about colonialism and the ways that empires penetrate recipient

Unknown 4:14

nation states or communities that that is privileged as power in our society in our world. And that word, the absolutely inequality exists because of the the legacies of of patriarchy and colonialism.

Unknown 4:32

And so the fight of international feminism and the fight of

Unknown 4:39

understanding gender equality is one of the understanding the root causes of those issues, and not just the symptoms that sometimes look like wage gaps and access to power, things like that. But really the roots of those issues,

Unknown 4:55

okay, know that free to describe your relationship to biblical text. Some things that are really key to hit are things like the authority that has no idea what your thoughts are on here and see and interpretation of liberties, kind of and you can expand from that. Those are some of

Live in patriarchal society

Maleness is privileged over femaleness

Privilege given to maleness

Privilege of maleness is attached to colonialism

Inequality exists as a legacy of patriarchy and colonialism

Feminism is international

Gap includes wages, access to power

the big things I would love for you to talk about.

Unknown 5:15

Yeah, absolutely. So as

Unknown 5:21

as a person who is theologically trained,

Unknown 5:25

I give it up that I'm in my third year of of seminary and

Unknown 5:30

biblical authority and

Unknown 5:32

interpretation or issues that are really near and dear to my heart.

Unknown 5:37

And I like to think about the Bible as

Unknown 5:43

a collection of human thoughts on what the divine can or could be in a particular kind of tradition in a particular tradition that comes from the lineage of Abraham and Moses. And so Jewish idea of thought, Jewish texts being very important in that and the ways in which Christianity was born out of a Jewish movement.

Unknown 6:08

So So for me, the Bible

Unknown 6:11

I hold the Bible much more loosely than I used to. I used to understand the Bible is the literal Word of God and errant and how you understand it. And I

Unknown 6:27

know through the works of

Trained in seminary

Biblical authority and interpretation are very close to her

Bible is a collection of human thoughts on what the divine can or could be in the particular tradition of Abraham and Moses

The Bible expresses Jewisth thought

Bible held loosely

Use to believe Bible as word of God and in errant

Unknown 6:28

people like Bart Ehrman and others,

Unknown 6:30

understanding the

Unknown 6:36

the realities of how we got to the texts that we we call the Bible right now, right, and the power that was involved in those processes, the ways in which

Unknown 6:52

wars were fought, in order to define and who got to say, what was in that Bible and how it was understood that particular interpretations of that text were

Unknown 7:07

written for very

Unknown 7:10

specific political reasons, you know, thinking about King James and the way he wrote he had his translation, remove ideas of, of resistance

Unknown 7:25

from the Gospel texts and put in more passive understandings of turning the other cheek and what that actually meant, things like that right there political motives and how the King James Bible was translated. Um, so yeah, so. So for my, for my own self,

Unknown 7:45

I view

Unknown 7:47

the Bible as a collection of stories that help us make meaning in the world. The stories of the Bible still have a lot of space in my life. Nice. I reference biblical texts a lot. And that comes from my my

Bible was written for a specific purpose in a specific time for a specific people

King James translated for a specific time to benefit the time and politics

KJ put more passive voice in the Bible

Bible has political motives

Bible is collection of stories that help make meaning of the world

Unknown 8:01

evangelical upbringing.

Unknown 8:02

I think I know the Bible well,

Unknown 8:06

and but my relationship to it has shifted and

Unknown 8:13

see. So I find the Bible to be complicated and

Unknown 8:18

troubling

Unknown 8:20

the ways in which

Unknown 8:23

women and

Unknown 8:25

gender non conforming people like Unix and others were treated in

Unknown 8:32

in the stories of the Bible are troubling to me. And, and also some of them are really liberating and powerful.

Unknown 8:41

So yeah, does that answer some of those things do a little digging deeper in any particular direction, or

Unknown 8:47

So I think those are some of the biggest really like, I wanted to see how it affected you personally. If you told him I literally and yeah, so that was the idea of loosely and that story of power in your life?

Unknown 8:59

Evangelical background still affects her today

Relationship to Bible has changed

Bible is complicated and troubling

Stories of eunuchs and others are troubling

Other stories liberating and powerful

Yeah.

Unknown 8:59

Would you say that your beliefs different from church? Or would they fall into alignment with your church?

Unknown 9:05

That's a very good question in my particular church and our denomination, more broadly,

Unknown 9:14

individuals and individual communities are given a lot of freedom more their own

Unknown 9:22

for their own journeys, their own spiritual understandings for

Unknown 9:29

having freedom of conscience and thought, and so

Unknown 9:36

but I would, I would say that that the UCC in general, and my congregation specifically, would probably fall more into that area of the Bible, having

Unknown 9:51

less less inerrant authority over their lives and more meaning making authority if those are helpful distinctions. So yeah, I would say that

Unknown 10:02

broadly,

Unknown 10:05

my, my, my understandings are more in line with with my congregation is that, but my congregation is also filled of former Catholics and former evangelicals and Jews

Individuals and communities are given a lot of freedom in her denomination to decide what they believe

Her denomination, the UCC, would share a similar view of Candace as the Bible having less authority and being more of a meaning making book

and people who consider themselves Christians, Buddhists, and things like that. So like, like, there's a lot of different kinds of relationships to to the Bible call.

Unknown 10:28

So starting this project, and kind of one of the things that initiated it was realizing it says,

Unknown 10:37

I see myself represented in the Bible in a lot

Unknown 10:41

be heroes of the Bible, or even like when laws are given, like the male pronoun is used, a lot of masculine attributes are given to God and things like that.

Unknown 10:56

I of course I have for you, is that would you say that you first off a call with that, that agree with that opinion? Or would you say no, I just read that. And then based off of if you agree or disagree, I'd be curious as to how that has affected you, senior woman.

Unknown 11:15

Um, yeah. So I'll start by saying that one of the things that first drew me to the church that I'm currently at is the fact that when we say the Lord's Prayer, we start with our mother, Our Father who art in heaven, and just the naming of

Unknown 11:34

a feminine God

Unknown 11:37

figure was really important to me. And that has helped me to dig into

Unknown 11:47

the reality

Congregation has people from a lot of faith backgrouns

Church she currently attends addresses God as male and female in Lord’s prayer

Unknown 11:47

which I feel like I have experienced in my own life of, of Yes, being marginalized in biblical texts as a woman.

Unknown 11:57

But then

Unknown 11:59

really finding power in

Unknown 12:02

the ability to reimagine and liberate the Bible from

Unknown 12:05

the constraints of the contexts in which it was written,

Unknown 12:10

and seeing how even in those contexts there were particular ways

Unknown 12:20

in which women were held up as heroes as warriors in the face. And the fact that women who were not Jews were lifted up in the, in the lineage of Christ

Unknown 12:36

in

Unknown 12:39

Matthew or

Unknown 12:39

Luke's text. And one of the Gospels, the women are listed, and the rehab and Ruth and one more,

Unknown 12:54

but I'm not remembering, which is much trouble to me.

Candance believes she is marginalized as a woman in the Bible

Power given with reimagining the Bible

Women held up as heroes in the Bible

Lists women in the Bible

Unknown 12:59

Anyway,

Unknown 13:00

anyway, so there be so. So growing up as I did, in a very male dominated

Unknown 13:09

space, religious space where, yes,

Unknown 13:13

women were

Unknown 13:14

ordained to ministry, but they would never be hired as senior ministers of a church. They, you know, they could serve as children's pastors are pastors to women, or if their pastor or their husband was the senior pastor, then they could be co pastors when their husband, but never single woman, or a woman on her own, whose husband had a separate, you know, job, that kind of a woman would never be lifted up to, to, to senior positions in church, and that I was always told the reasons for that

Unknown 13:50

were biblical, right. Even as I have been pursuing ordination and seminary work, my father was a licensed Assemblies of God minister,

Unknown 14:02

not ordained, only licensed, which I think is interesting

Unknown 14:07

because

Unknown 14:07

he he said, You know, I would never serve a church where there was a female senior pastor was like, Dad, why you quoted a

Grew up in a male-dominate faith background

Women were in ministry, but they were never hired as a senior pastor. They had a ceiling.

The reasons they couldn’t lead were always related to the Bible

Dad would never serve at a church where the senior pastor was a female

verse from one of the one of the letters to Timothy

Unknown 14:21

that names it says something about Eve, being more easily deceived by the surface and therefore all women for all time or more easily to see them men

Unknown 14:32

therefore they should not be

Unknown 14:35

in positions of leadership or power in the church and

Unknown 14:39

to to hear my

Unknown 14:41

own father dismiss my call, dismiss my call to ministry, based on one singular verse in the Bible, not taking into account Deborah acting as Judge early on and Israelite tradition, not, you know, talking about Miriam you know, Moses, his sister, who led the people of Israel and song and dance and rejoicing after the Exodus, you know, like all there are plenty of like, female figures acting with agency and power and leadership capacities in the Bible, but their voices are marginalized and pushed off to the side, especially with and so understanding the Bible as a construct of its time, right, as I or as a product of its time, it's many times because I was already know, and once

Unknown 15:42

that those societies were patriarchal, right, they lifted up the male leadership, male dominance over women, and that we continue to struggle with that today. So as women or as gender non conforming

Dad quoted verses about Eve being more easily deceived and claims women are more easily deceived

Therefore, women should not be in positions of leadership

Felt dismissed by dad who didn’t acknowledge women in the Bible who lead

Female voices marginalized in the Bible

Bible is product of time

Societies were patriarchal and, therefore, men were lifted up higher than women, something women continue to struggle with today

people would struggle against the patriarchy in the Bible,

Unknown 16:01

I was it was the fullness of that question.

Unknown 16:06

It was about representation with Heroes God and also the male pronoun

Unknown 16:14

so

Unknown 16:17

definitely understanding

Unknown 16:20

the Bible or God as male was very much a part of

Unknown 16:24

my upbringing and it has been a difficult remnant to shed

Unknown 16:30

so even though you with your church these are firming both masculine feminine parts of God within yourself let's see have a hard time shaking

Unknown 16:41

yeah and not it's not just the

Unknown 16:50

it's the ways in which it's like rooted into my DNA it's not even conscious decisions like in my head I can intellectualize but in in my heart, and then how I imagine God or in just those, those pictures that come up in your imagination. It's still very nice, good dominated and what has actually been helpful for me, it's actually not picturing God as female or as a woman, but in in actually stripping gender and it's a problem

God as male was a part of upbringing

Difficult idea to shake, in spite of church thinking differently

Ideas of God being masculine are in her DNA

Though head believes one thing, heart believes another

Helpful to not identify God as any gender

Strips God of gender

arising and traits of stripping that from God and coming to more of an understanding that's in line with what a lot of people would call process ology

Unknown 17:38

process. theology that God understanding that God is not

Unknown 17:46

that is that person

Unknown 17:48

that is not confined to invitations of body or sex, or gender, God is actually more of this idea of energy, like God is that thing that is, holds everything together. And, and actually, so using more language like, when I pray, I usually usually use language like his spirit of life, to refer to God rather than

Unknown 18:21

father or mother and have it right, because those those terms are very

Unknown 18:27

human desires, and the need for God to be like me, and the need for God to look like I look.

Unknown 18:34

And so actually stripping, stripping personhood away from God has been really helpful for me and my process. So not

Unknown 18:45

not just going to, you know, the Divine Feminine like I'm like, I really hate the divine feminine and the Divine Masculine I think all of that bullshit nonsense

Unknown 18:56

actually define define other

God isn’t confined to body, sex, or gender

God is energy

Refers to God as Spirit of Life, rather than Father or Mother

Ideas of God being Father or Mother come from man’s need for God to look like them

Stripping God of humanity has been very helpful for me

Unknown 19:01

and, and actually even like, with the earth and like holding the earth as, as part of the incarnation of God made us as

Unknown 19:11

the thing that holds us all together. And so using that kind of language and which might be a little bit more pagan, which I can own and absolutely, um, but that within that there's space for all right, there's space for

Unknown 19:29

masculine and feminine age, gender and gender queer and there's space for

Unknown 19:37

racial differences there's space for like ethnic difference there's space for cultural difference if God doesn't have to look like me right now then that that leaves so much openness you know for what God possibly could be

Unknown 19:53

okay I'm

Unknown 19:57

actually the next question kind of already answered about how it has affected you

Unknown 20:03

know, absolute the next one which was how was your relationship to the Bible change has achieved affected you Yeah, so I think this is a non for the record I'd like to have a especially since I what I know about your church what you're saying, but what are your thoughts within about women in leadership in particular, and then I'd love for you to kind of follow up with their sir I know, and I know, you know, especially with your education, that there are certain verses that if people are taking it literally,

Language might be more pagan, but this idea gives room for both masculine and feminine, and there’s space for racial differences, and ethnic differences

Creates openness of who God is

with our, with our commerce, women in leadership, and I'd love for you to speak on what are your thoughts about women leadership, and also the nurses that Yeah, something differently?

Unknown 20:45

Yeah, well, absolutely.

Unknown 20:49

You know, of course, all for women being in leadership, and not just women, but people who don't identify on the binary

Unknown 20:59

and I

Unknown 21:05

yeah,

Unknown 21:06

the the versus, like, I don't, I don't have any trouble with the verses that contradict the Xbox, that whole

Unknown 21:12

loosely folding, like,

Unknown 21:14

like it doesn't, because I understand the Bible as a product of its time, I can look at those verses within their cultural context and understand what was being said, and even scoff at it, you know, and be like, Well,

Unknown 21:30

I'm not there.

Unknown 21:31

Okay, cool. I'm glad that I'm not being ruled by those norms, right? Even though you know, partially, I am continually by those guards in society.

Thinks women should be in leadership and non-binary people

Bible is product of its time

Cultural context is very important

Not ruled by social norms of the time of the Bible

Unknown 21:44

So I think, yeah, it just, it doesn't,

Unknown 21:50

those verses don't hold the same kind of authoritative meaning making Wait for me,

Unknown 22:02

I don't

Unknown 22:02

struggle with that. There's just like, it's like

Unknown 22:06

I decided a long time ago that that

Unknown 22:10

I'm gonna

Unknown 22:12

that's interesting. I

Unknown 22:14

would agree with us anymore. But I used to say a lot that if I'm going to air in interpreting the Bible, which I am, I would rather deliberately err on the side of inclusion and love, rather than erring on the side of division and exclusion. And that that remains true although like

Unknown 22:37

Yeah, yeah, no, I think that remains true for me. And so

Unknown 22:43

I

Unknown 22:46

would much rather, you know, hold the Bible loosely,

Unknown 22:50

and

Verses about women not being in authority do not hold the same kind of authority

Doesn’t struggle with this idea anymore

If she’s going to error in her interpretation of the Bible, she is going to error on the side of inclusion and love rather than erring on the side of division and exclusion

Bible loosely

Unknown 22:52

give extra weight to where you see where I see life and inclusion and love happening in the world and letting the Bible helped me make meaning of combat is

Unknown 23:10

so I'll speak for my denomination, the United Church of Christ was,

Unknown 23:16

you know, one of our historical churches was the first

Unknown 23:22

first denomination in the United States to ordain a woman and ours is the first denomination in the US to have over 50% of pastors, ordained pastors, the women

Unknown 23:39

and I think that's really powerful and awesome. There are still churches where women have a hard time getting senior leadership positions, that still remains true. Most of the pastors of the big UCC churches in the country are led by men now maybe they're gay man. Okay, so great. But there's still there's still you know, work to be done in those spaces.

Unknown 24:10

And yeah, so that's that's but I'm glad to be in a denomination that affirms my call doesn't have any like all actually all of the churches in Colorado Springs and managing the surrounding areas in the United Church of Christ our pastor, by women, there's not one male

Unknown 24:32

minister, which, you know,

Unknown 24:35

More weight to moments in the Bible where inclusion and love happen

United Church of Christ was historically the first church to ordain a women in the US and have over 50% ordained women

Glad to be in denomination that affirms women

In Colorado Springs, not a single United Church of Christ church as a male minister

there have been

Unknown 24:37

Christians even in my own congregation of like, we don't have any men on the chance. So we don't have any men like

Unknown 24:43

preaching and oh, no, what are we gonna do?

Unknown 24:47

It's like, well, you have the church for 2000 years.

Unknown 24:49

Can Can we can we have just like a little bit of time,

Unknown 24:53

like maybe like, 10 years, is that okay? 10 years, a decade, we've a decade to like, correct 1000 within will hire you again, I promise just 10 years. But really, it's kind of ridiculous.

Unknown 25:08

But when you are on the side of someone, when you are when equality feels like the loss of power, and it actually is because you've had an

Unknown 25:20

more than your fair share of power

Unknown 25:24

that can sometimes

Unknown 25:24

hurt and feel icky. And I kind of don't have any

Unknown 25:30

words for that other than like to

Men in church take issue with the amount of women in leadership

Men had church for over 2000 years, can women have the next ten years?

When equality feels like loss of power, it actually is, because you’ve had more than your fair share of power, and that can hurt and feel icky.

Unknown 25:33

go home and journal about it. Like,

Unknown 25:36

talk to your therapist. Don't bring that here. Don't put that on me. Yeah,

Unknown 25:43

I don't need to deal with that shit.

Unknown 25:45

Last question.

Unknown 25:49

This is one it's a little more property. But like with you talking about your upbringing and where you're at now, what did he was the catalyst for the change.

Unknown 26:00

Um,

Unknown 26:02

I had always felt stifled

Unknown 26:06

as a woman in in the evangelical spaces that I was in.

Unknown 26:16

I mean, I think that I had

Unknown 26:20

so

Unknown 26:24

I'm a very intense person. I when I was younger, I showed up in the world and very masculine ways. And I think I was attempting to put myself into masculine forms, that I would be respected as a leader and taken more seriously. So as I was trying to debate with the men and

If you’re a man and that hurts, go journal about it, talk to your therapist, don’t bring it into the church, don’t put that on Candace

Always felt stifled as a woman in the church, especially in evangelical spaces

Showed up more masculine as an attempt to be more respected as a leader and taken seriously

Unknown 26:47

be as smart as Brian and intense. But of course, all that got me was being called bitchy and

Unknown 26:55

it and

Unknown 26:59

and I mean, in the context where you and I met right springs church, I was in a significant position of leadership,

Unknown 27:09

but it was always supporting it to a man there was always a man's voice in my earpiece telling me where we were going next

Unknown 27:17

in the songs. And

Unknown 27:20

sometimes I would just like do it over the fuck I wanted to do, and use my guitar to make us and we'd have to follow me because I was still at the front of the stage. So like using that power in a very particular way, and doing so

Unknown 27:37

cause so much conflicts, not just between me and the men, but between me and the other women who were insecure of the position that I held, who were who felt threatened by the ways in which I showed up in power.

Unknown 27:54

The fact that I was asked to bring my husband at the time

Unknown 27:57

Looking like a man made her look like a bitch

Man always told her what to do, even in a space of leadership

Usurped male authority at times because she was tired of being dominated by men

Conflict occurred between her and men and insecure women, scared by her power

Was asked to bring her husband when her boss reprimanded her

to meetings where I was being disciplined by my

Unknown 28:02

higher ups with my husband who was not on staff, the church

Unknown 28:07

but that I was under his umbrella, so to speak of authority and so he was a part of that disciplining process. I was felt very stifled and so I was never comfortable in that world. Even when I was in leadership. I mean, I've served in leadership positions in multiple different kinds of church organizations, parish church organizations,

Unknown 28:35

and

Unknown 28:37

but I never felt like I could fully be me and fully show up in who Candace was. And so that

Unknown 28:47

from a very early age was the impetus that was the thing I always kept fighting that and I was like, I don't want to have to fight this anymore. I don't want to have to justify my existence in church or in the world and like even in progressive spaces, that is still a problem like because I am younger and I show up as a younger age than I am I get called kiddo a lot and get told in church like after I preached not what a great job I did preaching and how what I said impacted them but like you looked really good at there and comments about my

Unknown 29:29

beauty or

Unknown 29:31

Husband was not on staff, but she was considered under his umbrella and was included in her disciplining process

She felt stifled and not comfortable, even when in leadership

Never felt she could be fully herself

Didn’t want to have to fight this pressure anymore of not being allowed to be herself

Didn’t want to justify existence

Even in her current, progressive church, because she is younger, she’s called “kiddo”, and when she preaches, she’s not told she’s done a good job, but is complimented on how she looks

my figure and I'm like team of the imposter I'm your pastor right now like nah please don't talk to me about how look zone talk to me about my body but because that is the relationship of older men to younger women that is what shows up and so it's it's still it's still like a battle it's still something I fight for but i have i know that i hope privilege in that space because I'm a white woman that I am sis gender right and that I

Unknown 30:04

show up as

Unknown 30:06

pretty you know like I don't know you know, feminine and not not

Unknown 30:11

masculine so yeah, bush or anything like that. And so

Unknown 30:16

I get the treatment is different than some of my colleagues who do show up in more Butch ways or masculine ways.

Unknown 30:26

So yeah, like I know that it's definitely a whole privilege in that space. And I don't take that lightly.

Unknown 30:32

Yeah,

Unknown 30:33

yeah. Do you have any final comments like churn

Unknown 30:38

to come good.

Still is a battle even in her progressive church

She gets treated differently than her colleagues that appear more masculine or butch

Themes:

1. If a denomination allowed for interpretation, the person stayed in the church.
2. Lines to represent lives and their relationship to church and the Bible.
3. All women believe there should be equality and leadership in the church.
4. Four divorced.
5. Faith of women
	1. Two left faith
	2. One is wrestling out faith
	3. Two are secure in faith
6. The two that are secure in faith see God as more than just male and allowed for interpretation of Bible in alignment to when it was written
7. All women, but Candace believe differently than their denomination/church
8. All women felt limited by their options in the church growing up and that they couldn’t lead
9. All went through a faith change
10. Women who are still secure in their faith have seen women in leadership

*Transcripts were coded using a grounded theory analytical approach (Charmaz, 2014).  This included summarizing and taking out key elements from each excerpt with a participant. Themes were then taken out from the summaries where patterns were found. Participants were then placed on a series of spectrums, explaining where they stand on five different criteria.*

