

ABSTRACT

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Millions continue to live without access to the Gospel. Out of compassion, Jesus told his disciples to pray for God to send more laborers into the harvest. Though not enough laborers, the Church continues to debate whether God calls and empowers women in leadership. In this dissertation, I seek to establish a kingdom of God perspective on leadership in order to multiply the harvest force for the sake of completing the Great Commission. I sought to extrapolate kingdom principles of leadership from both the Bible and from contemporary contexts to discover how these applied principles affected the Great Commission.

In Part One, I offered my theoretical construct of the kingdom of God. I demonstrated that the unified Triune God created humanity in the *imago Dei* – interdependent and mutual in blessings and responsibilities. At the Fall, the harmonious and unified creation fragmented. The Fall destroyed humanity’s interdependence, but Jesus provided redemption. God gave the Church both the message and ministry of reconciliation, empowering both males and females with spiritual gifts to complete his mission. Because all sound missiology must find its foundation in theology, I began my research with biblical case studies – Deborah and David. I extrapolated leadership principles from their selected narratives demonstrating that God called, equipped, and empowered leaders based on internal, rather than external features.

In Part Two, I offered four descriptive case studies from India and China. I sought to extrapolate leadership principles employed by these leaders and the effect on the Great Commission when they either released or restricted women’s leadership. Case study One, Two,

and Four placed no restrictions on female leadership; the data and findings revealed the Church gained synergy and momentum in God's mission when the Church equipped, empowered and released females to use their leadership gifts. After integrating my findings from both the biblical case studies and the contemporary case studies, I offered ten kingdom leadership principles and made recommendations to both the Church and individual believers to enable them to multiply the labor force, working with God effectively and strategically to complete God's mission.

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