

## ***Backtalk! Women Leaders Changing the Church***

Susan Willhauck (The Pilgrim Press, 2005)

A stunning cover, with a bright colours and a variety of women's faces, make this an attractive book to pick up. And given the dearth of books which combine the subjects of leadership, women and the church, it makes compelling reading for women leaders and anyone who wants to promote women in leadership in churches.

The book aims both to celebrate women's leadership and to encourage women and men to speak out and act for change. It advocates 'backtalk' (as in 'talking back' to someone, questioning authority) as a methodology for doing theology and ministry, so that the voices of women are heard, and draws on the experience of women leaders in many denominations across America, and some in the UK and elsewhere.

The book uses a wide variety of interpretative traditions, and a diversity of theologies, feminist, womanist, liberation and Asian. This makes the book wide-ranging in scope, but possibly too broad for some.

From a discussion of 'backtalk', the author moves on to look at areas for growth and change, and stories and strategies for effective change. An oft-quoted proverb, 'A crowing hen will come to no good end', often used to silence women, is replaced by another: 'When women crow, we lay better eggs'. There is sometimes value in silence, but also in speaking out in order to change things.

On a practical level, some of the strategies for change explored in the book are those found elsewhere: mentoring, being clear about gifts and call, getting together with other women, working with those who are in leadership. Others are more unusual; for example, 'wear red underwear' (there is a story here!) is a metaphor for 'not losing our identity in rules and conformity'.

The bottom line? Too often, Willhauck argues, the church has implicitly said to women, 'don't give me any backtalk'. Women have been told what to do in order to get ahead. But now, things are changing, and women leaders are creating positive change in the church. By employing some of the strategies which the book identifies, the future may see a new generation of leaders who are 'called, claimed, and connected', filled with the Spirit and living towards a new future.

Rosie Ward  
©CPAS

Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality ebook by General Board of Higher Education and Ministry The United Methodist Church - Rakuten Kobo. Read "Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness" by General Board of Higher Education and Ministry The United Methodist Church available from Rakuten Kobo. This study guide comes out of the conviction that the church is thirsty for in-depth theological conver. ě³ ě¼ ěž, í-ĩŠ¤í,, ° ě"ĩžě. Sign up.

Start by marking "Back Talk!: Women Leaders Changing the Church" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving...  
Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover. Wilhauck has heard the church say to women 'Don't give me any back talk!  
Too often, she contends women have been told what to do in order to get ahead. In. Get A Copy. Amazon. Stores 3/4. Audible Barnes  
& Noble Walmart eBooks Apple Books Google Play Abebooks Book Depository Alibris Indigo Better World Books IndieBound. Read the  
blog post and discuss the change on Talk. dismiss. I Agree. This site uses cookies to deliver our services, improve performance, for  
analytics, and (if not signed in) for advertising. By using LibraryThing you acknowledge that you have read and understand our Terms of  
Service and Privacy Policy. Your use of the site and services is subject to these policies and terms. Hide this. Results from Google  
Books. Wilhauck has heard the church say to women 'Don't give me any back talk Too often, she contends women have been told  
what to do in order to get ahead. In. all members. Building Church Leaders. Church Law & Tax. Preaching Today. Small Groups.  
Women Leaders. Newsletters. Latest Resources on COVID-19. How did your church get started? What were the beliefs and values  
that guided the church and its leadership team, and what were the events that informed those values? These beliefs can be both  
theological (doctrinal statements, denominational roots, etc.) and operational (what worked). For example, I know a church has no senior  
leader and allows all members to have veto power at congregational meetings. This culture is based on the time and place it was  
founded: a university community in 1971. The church's culture was born out of the high mistrust of government during that era,  
especially in a But most of the women, I think, in the Church are happy to have all the blessings. That's what matters most to them, and  
it doesn't matter who holds that umbrella. They're happy to let someone else hold the umbrella because we have different  
complementary roles and are happy with that. Equality is an interesting term. It doesn't always mean sameness, but we are of equal  
value no matter where we are in the Church or at home; we are definitely of equal value. In the home we're co-equal spiritual leaders.  
And so I think that's an important thing that sometimes is mis... Ruth Todd: You've all had the opportunity to travel the world and  
to rub shoulders with membership, as well as leadership, of the Church. Tell us about those experiences. 12:08.

While working to gather discourses by women leaders throughout Church history for the book "At the Pulpit," Holbrook came across a talk by Sister Jacobs, who served on the Relief Society general board in the mid-1900s. Prior to contacting one of Sister Jacobs' children through the white pages and getting her hands on some of Sister Jacobs' old journals, Holbrook said she had no idea that the Church had established a mission in Palestine and Syria before WWII. Back and Guymon explained that one of the remarkable things about the discourses from the book they have discussed on the podcast is the longevity and continued relevance of their messages. Women throughout Church history are innovative and dedicated problem-solvers, Holbrook said. Treating women leaders like second-class citizens in the church has to end. I know what I'm talking about. For 36 years of ministry I have often sat around tables with men paying service to the value of women leaders while dismissing their opinions and undermining their leadership. I've also seen up close the damage this ubiquitous attitude does to the two most important women in my life; my wife and my daughter. Although my wife is an incredible leader and thinker, I've seen her struggle to overcome chauvinism in the church world again and again. (I am thankful she works for an organization, We need women leaders who are vulnerable and transparent in order to say to the watching world: "No, I don't have it all figured out, but through it all, I have supernatural hope and joy every day because of my great trust in God." Photo Courtesy: Pexels. 4. We need Christian women who don't just talk about the importance of balance, but who make soul rest a high priority that's reflected in their schedule. One of the top issues I hear from women? They are tired, worn out, and completely exhausted from life's relentless pace. We may not be able to change the world as individuals, but the Church has the opportunity to rise up in unity and unleash God's justice to the oppressed. Christian women, pray that God would give you a heart to minister to those who have no voice. This Orthodox tradition traces back to the legacy of Paul the Apostle "and while most of the world's Christians no longer do it, the Russian Orthodox Church still insists on it." Historically, it was appropriate to make all Christian women put scarves on their heads, as the tradition was born during quite ancient times. In the First Corinthians 11, Paul the Apostle says: "Every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head" it is the same as having her head shaved. And in the 1st century, shaved heads for women were frowned upon. Because people should think of prayers while in church. When a beautiful woman comes in (with her hair uncovered) it naturally attracts attention and distracts from the holy service. Alternative approach. Vladimir Gerdo/TASS. Back to Women. OK, now that the muck is cleared away, the Scriptures are full of gender-equality and pro-women messages: How about that time Deborah, a woman, ruled all of Israel (Judges 4-5)? "Ok sure, but you don't have any examples of women actually leading a church. You're right, I don't. But I also know why: It was simply impossible. In those days, a woman leading a church would have ended in all of them being killed (more than usual) and the Gospel would never have had a chance to grow. And if you don't think God works like that, remember this: To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak.