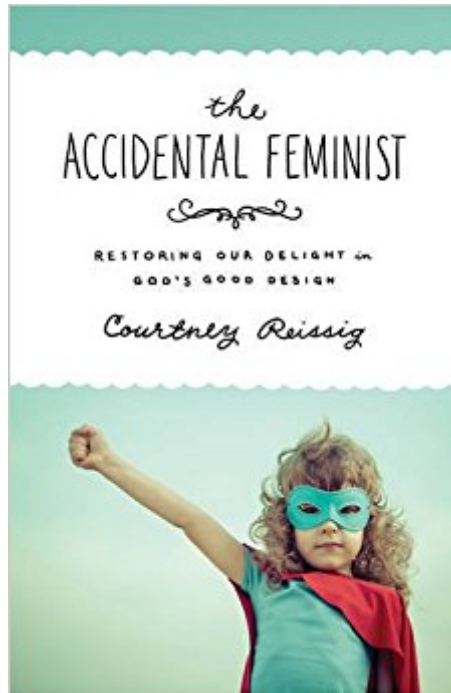


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# The Accidental Feminist: Restoring Our Delight In God's Good Design



## Synopsis

“My name is Courtney. I’m an accidental feminist.” Although many Christians wouldn’t identify themselves as feminists, the reality is that the feminist movement has influenced us all in profound ways. We unconsciously reflect our culture’s ideas related to womanhood rather than what’s found in the Bible. In this book, Courtney Reissig “a wife, mom, and successful writer” recounts her journey out of “accidental feminism,” offering wise counsel for Christian women related to relationships, body image, and more “drawing from the Bible rather than culture. Whether you’re a committed feminist, a staunch traditionalist, or somewhere in between, this book will help you answer the question, “What does it mean to be a Christian woman?” You’ll discover the joy, purpose and importance that are found in God’s good design.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Courtney Reissig is a true daughter of Sarah. She is wise, discerning, brave, and thoughtful. This book is a needed antidote to the false views of women we so often encounter, and too often absorb, in our culture.” --Russell D. Moore, President, The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; author, *Tempted and Tried* “The Accidental Feminist reminds me of a handbook on womanhood, but not a rule book. Courtney shares the beautiful design of all aspects of women made in the image of God. A perfect read for anyone desiring to gain an understanding of womanhood in the Bible.” --Trillia Newbell, author, *United: Captured by God’s Vision for Diversity and Fear and Faith* “Courtney writes as a daughter of third-wave feminism who is calling her sisters to return to God’s instructions for how we should live as Christian women in a fallen world. This book unveils what has been lost in

our hearts, our relationships, and our churches. It exposes the "options" feminism offers as just a set of heavy shackles designed to hold us back from seeking fulfillment in the only place it can really be found--in the hope of the gospel of Christ." --Kristie Anyabwile, wife of Thabiti Anyabwile, Assistant Pastor for Church Planting, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington, DC; mom of three; discipler of women "Over the past few decades, we've unwittingly absorbed popular ideas about womanhood. We've become feminists without knowing it. Courtney challenges us to wake from the stupor. If you're a young woman, you would do well to read this book and consider whether you, too, have become an accidental feminist." --Mary A. Kassian, Professor of Women's Studies, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; author, *Girls Gone Wise in a World Gone Wild* "Courtney Reissig has written what is sure to become the standard guide to Christian womanhood in a feminist age. Her book is practical, winsome, and full of rich theology. It is particularly strong--and unusual--because the content rests alongside a powerful narrative of personal transformation. Like the Savior it extols, this is a book that is going to strengthen, unsettle, and ultimately bless many readers--and there is nothing accidental about that." --Owen Strachan, Assistant Professor of Christian Theology and Church History, Boyce College; President, The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood "Thoughtful and authentic, Courtney Reissig masterfully uncovers the struggles women have in discovering their identity and purpose. She presents a thorough picture of feminism and the confusion it has wrought regarding the roles of women today and the definition of "equality." She reveals the true liberation women can experience as they embrace a biblical view of womanhood. Regardless of age or background, *The Accidental Feminist* is a book every woman should read!" --Monica Rose Brennan, Associate Professor and Director of Women's Ministries, Liberty University "Being female isn't just a category; it's a good gift written in our DNA by a Creator who loves us and is for us. Courtney Reissig affirms this truth from Scripture as well as her own story. Her journey from resisting her design to embracing it with joy is a faithful guide for young Christian women wondering what to make of being female. In a day when male and female are seen as too confining, when it is said that gender is best bent to the whims of our personal expression, Reissig faithfully shows why being made female, in the image of God, is an exceedingly good gift." --Candice Watters, Assistant Editor, CMBW.org's Family Channel; co-founder, Boundless.org; co-author, *Start Your Family* --Review

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• Trillia Newbell, author, *Enjoy; Fear and Faith* and *United*

Courtney writes as a daughter of third-wave feminism who is calling her sisters to return to God's instructions for how we should live as Christian women in a fallen world. This book unveils what has been lost in our hearts, our relationships, and our churches. It exposes the options feminism offers as just a set of heavy shackles designed to hold us back from seeking fulfillment in the only place it can really be found—in the hope of the gospel of Christ.

• Kristie Anyabwile, wife of Thabiti Anyabwile, Pastor, Anacostia River Church, Washington, DC; mom of three; discipler of women

Over the past few decades, we've unwittingly absorbed popular ideas about womanhood. We've become feminists without knowing it. Courtney challenges us to wake from the stupor. If you're a young woman, you would do well to read this book and consider whether you, too, have become an accidental feminist.

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• Owen Strachan, associate professor of Christian theology, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; coeditor, *Designed for Joy and The Pastor as Scholar, the Scholar as Pastor*

Thoughtful and authentic, Courtney Reissig masterfully uncovers the struggles women have in discovering their identity and purpose. She presents a thorough picture of feminism and the confusion it has wrought regarding the roles of women today and the definition of equality. She reveals the true liberation women can experience as they embrace a biblical view of womanhood. Regardless of age or background, *The Accidental Feminist* is a book every woman should read.

• Monica Rose Brennan, Associate Professor and Director of Women's Ministries, Liberty University

Being female isn't just a category; it's a good gift written in our DNA by a Creator who loves us and is for us. Courtney Reissig affirms this truth from Scripture as well as her own story. Her journey from resisting her design to embracing it with joy is a faithful guide for young Christian women wondering what to make of being female. In a day when male and female are seen as too confining, when it is said that gender is best bent to the whims of our

personal expression, Reissig faithfully shows why being made female, in the image of God, is an exceedingly good gift. •â ”Candice Watters, Cofounder, Boundless.org; author, Get Married: What Women Can Do to Help It Happen

I reviewed this book on my blog [www.thewifeoflee.blogspot.com](http://www.thewifeoflee.blogspot.com). Here is an excerpt... "The Accidental Feminist is the personal journey that Reissig goes on from college to seminary, marriage to children, and bartender to complementarian blogger and author. It is her story, but it is also our story. She begins with a definition and history of feminism. She acknowledges the helpful progress that feminism originally made and laments the current third-wave feminism that has infiltrated our culture and worldviews. Her goal is clear in the subtitle, "Restoring Our Delight in God's Good Design." She thoughtfully addresses our identity in Christ, our relationship to men and children, submission, modesty and purity, marriage and homemaking, hospitality, and local church ministry. At the end of each chapter, there is a section called, "Restoration in My Life" that provides helpful reflection and study questions on the topic discussed. Reissig's book is fresh, vibrant, and much-needed. She balances humor, relatable anecdotes, Scripture, and valuable quotes from other champions of Biblical womanhood. Reissig has done her homework and it shows. It is not redundant to have another book on Christian womanhood. It is necessary because we still flounder. While Reissig's style is neither combatant nor demeaning to those who differ, she is serious about the implications of us getting this right. She exhorts, "When we get womanhood wrong, we tell a wrong story about Christ's relationship with His bride. We tell a wrong story about God." (155) We need Reissig's experience and voice, as well as her theological foundation. As she encourages, we need to use our own voices and stand on the solid ground of Biblical doctrine, not private interpretation. While those of us who claim the title complementarian do not believe that women should preach in a pulpit, I do believe that we preach the Gospel with our lives and in our spheres of influence. Reissig gives examples of how we can practically live out the Gospel through our giftedness and gender. She cares about the needs of women, all women. She has given us an inclusive resource for all Christian women, that can be read individually or in a small group setting. Whether single or married, a mother or desiring to be a mother, young or young at heart, she has a message for you. Reissig says, "God's design is for all women because it is about the God who made us, not about our position in life." (58) She also encourages that, "Your womanhood is not reduced to biological function or a marriage license." (57) The true gem of Reissig's book is that she clearly presents the Gospel throughout and reinforces it at the

end. She says, "The only way we will understand what it means to live fully as His image-bearer is if we know the One whose image we bear." (160) As she encourages participation in the local church, building community with believers, and studying God's word for ourselves, her final plea to all of us is, "hope in God." (161) I highly recommend Courtney Reissig's book, *The Accidental Feminist*. Read more of my review at [thewifeoflee.blogspot.com](http://thewifeoflee.blogspot.com). Thanks!

Love this book!!

made me aware of how the culture shapes our thinking, rough start but give her a chance to explain.

Great insight and biblically grounded points

It was a great book, especially for young Christian women who are trying to figure how to fit in into this world.

Inspirational and helpful. Well written.

Brought it for my daughter. She liked it and said it was a very good read.

didn't like chapter 6, but don't have to agree with everything. women be silent in church is simply Paul telling the women to go home and ask questions. Quit interrupting the sermon. has to do with a marriage relationship. Don't suffer a woman to teach a man is in a chapter about the marriage relationship as well, and about how a woman should be attractive to a husband, not outwardly, but spiritually-let the man lead in a marriage Philip had 4 daughters with gift of prophecy in Acts-shouldn't they use it? Galatians: neither male nor female, in the church (among other categories) Rev. 20-saints are the wife, Christ is the husband-wear the linens of righteousness--a feminine image of the Church. No one should have a problem with me in the pulpit - teaching the woman, the church.

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