

# Priscilla Book club questions

Book Clubbers! I want to address the large volume of questions from the outset. This is my first attempt to write questions for a fictional book. There is no chance of getting through them all together at our meeting. Instead prepare for those you most enjoy and we will guide our discussion based on your leadings.

## Pre-ambule Questions

1. Overall impressions of the book (rate 1-10)?
2. What were some of the things you most appreciated? Feel free to share a quote.
3. What was something you struggled or disagreed with? Feel free to share a quote.
4. Previous to reading this book, what was your knowledge of Priscilla?

## Chapter 1

5. Considering the technology used for writing at the time (Page 5) what limitations should we expect on the canon of the New Testament?
6. On Page 7 Witherington writes "At Paulus's urging, Prisca had freed the slaves who'd worked in her household long ago, but they loved their mistress and continued to work for her as freedmen and freedwomen, now paid for their labours, able to save their funds, get married and they had become Roman citizens, under Priscas sponsorship." Though that is not clear order found in the New Testament, why do you think it is a plausible teaching of Paul?

## Chapter 2

7. Listening to Priscas story, what impact did geography and lack of modern vehicles have on the church and how it spread?
8. There is a little paragraph (Page 16) that begins with, "Jews reckon their days..." what implications does that have for Jesus being on the cross "three days"?
  1. How cool is it to think of the plausible things like Priscilla being there so early in the NT story
9. Read 1 Corinthians 1:23 alongside Simons last statement (Pg 19)

## Chapter 3

10. Take Corinthians 7:12-13 in mind when reading Priscas account of the cost Priscilla (Sr.) paid to follow Jesus.

## Chapter 5

11. Does Priscilla's comment about the order in which their names are often

presented have any plausible implications for the bible's view of gender roles within marriage?

12. Considering Priscilla and Aquilla's wedding ceremony, how complicated do you think early Christian practice and life was to develop with other cultural norms at play?

### **Chapter 6**

13. Does reading 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 in contrast to the description of Corinth on page 43 (starting "Corinth had a long checkered history...") and throughout the chapter give you more context to the books of Corinthians we have today?

### **Chapter 7**

14. "I'm always concerned with reports that the apostles went around founding our assemblies across the empire. I bring this up because, if I'm going to be an advocate of truth, I need to be honest about what actually happened. But it took the apostles and their gifts of evangelism to turn what was at best a minority mission into a real movement that one official was later to say turned the world upside down. Humanly speaking, it couldn't have been accomplished without these gifted apostles." (50) Does this quote adjust any of your paradigms to how early churches started?
15. Priscilla's comments regarding Paul's physical limitations (51) contrast him to prominent rhetoric culture in that day. Why do you think God used the weak appearing person to impact the church so much? Are there any cautions for us from this in today's church?
16. Witherington offers an explanation to the Pauline passages used to support complementarianism through the discussion on page 58, do you find this rationale convincing? \*also note Phoebe's role mentioned on page 60

### **Chapter 10**

17. What thoughts, insights or struggles do you have from this chapter's conversations regarding astrology, spiritual influence and miraculous power? \* note top paragraph on page 78

### **Chapter 11**

18. Consider the warnings regarding prophecy referred to here, in your view, do we maintain this view in modern evangelical/charismatic environments?

### **Chapter 13**

19. Are there any doctrinally significant implications of Phoebe's authority regarding the letter to the Romans? See Romans 16:1-16 for further reference

#### **Chapter 14**

20. This was one of my favourite chapters, connecting Junia to Joanna made the whole of the New Testament that much more unified and emphasized the importance of biblical scholarship. What did you take away from this chapter? How can Bible teachers make connections like this more accessible?

21. Had you before considered the role of women amongst Jesus ministry as disciples, why or why not?

#### **Chapter 17**

22. Had you ever heard the interpretation of the 666 representing Nero as the anti-Christ? Does this impact your previous thoughts on anti-Christ in anyway?

#### **Chapter 23**

23. Had you previously considered or grasped the persecution the early church faced under Nero? What affect do you think would that have had on the church?

#### **Chapter 26**

24. Witherington is talking about the predictions Jesus makes in Mark chapter 13, have you heard this text interpreted regarding the destruction of the temple in 70A.D. Or in regards to future end times? Does this account help in your understanding of the passage?

#### **Chapter 27**

25. Does the short description of the 3 synoptic gospels give you better understanding of the authorial intent and context of each?