

Now more than ever our culture needs a clear view of the truth regarding God's design for men and women. This topic touches each one of our historic core values.

The purpose of today's teaching is to equip elders for the conversation around men's and women's roles in the church. This handout has a number of valuable resources to consider in your study time.

Everything God created was declared very good at the conclusion of creation. This includes the commonalities and differences between male and female in the home and in the church.

Also clear from the Genesis account is that we have an enemy whose aim is to steal, kill, and destroy the abundant life God designed for mankind. It is the influence of our enemy that makes Bible passages about role difference appear difficult, rather than God's blessed design. "Did God say?"

As Paul instructed Timothy to command and teach these things, he emphasized that the church is the pillar and buttress of the truth. Amidst a lost world flailing in a formless moral void, God speaks over His creation that we are made in His image, with a purpose, and so valuable that He gave His own Son for us.

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Recommended Resources on Biblical Gender

Women in the Church: An Interpretation and Application of 1 Timothy 2:9-15, Third Edition
By Andreas J. Köstenberger, Thomas R. Schreiner

<https://www.amazon.com/Women-Church-Third-Interpretation-Application/dp/1433549611/>

<https://www.crossway.org/books/women-in-the-church-tpb/>

Authors interview: <https://www.crossway.org/articles/women-in-the-church-interview-questions/>

A balanced review of the evidence and arguments from a complementarian perspective. Humble, thorough, careful, scholarly, accessible.

The Toxic War on Masculinity: How Christianity Reconciles the Sexes

By Nancy R. Pearcey

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/0801075734/>

The 1916 Project: The Lyin', The Witch and the War We're In

By Seth Gruber

<https://www.amazon.com/1916-Project-Lyin-Witch-Were/dp/B0D6PMT6X1>

<https://the1916project.com>

Mike Winger Series

40+ hours of video teaching and research notes in depth on all the contested passages

<https://biblethinker.org/women-in-ministry/>

See the three pillars in the study notes for this episode in the series:

<https://biblethinker.org/everything-women-can-and-cant-do-according-to-the-bible-women-in-ministry-part-13/>

Notes: <https://biblethinker.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/WIM-13-FINAL-NOTES.docx>

- Pillar #1: Male headship and female submission in marriage
- Pillar #2: Elders' positions and functions are for men only
- Pillar #3: Women's status as image bearers and sons of God is inviolable

The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood - Complementarian

The Danvers Statement, The Nashville Statement

<http://cbmw.org/>

Christians for Biblical Equality – Egalitarian – “Biblical feminism”

<http://cbeinternational.org/>

God's Design for Man and Woman

Andreas J. Köstenberger, Margaret Elizabeth Köstenberger

<https://www.amazon.com/Gods-Design-Man-Woman-Biblical-Theological/dp/1433536994/>

Husband-and-wife biblical scholars set forth a robust biblical theology of gender, examining key texts, employing sound hermeneutical principles, and considering important historical influences related to the Bible's teaching on manhood and womanhood.

10 Things You Should Know about the Bible's Teaching on Men and Women

by: Andreas J. Köstenberger, Margaret Elizabeth Köstenberger

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-things-you-should-know-about-the-bibles-teaching-on-men-and-women/>

2025 Pastor's Summit

<https://corevaluesresources.org/church-leadership/>

Recordings and notes of two sessions on women and ministry:

"Leadership, Gender and the Bible" presented by John Meyer

"Maximizing the Impact of Women in Our Churches" presented by Tony Pierson

A Failure of Nerve, 2017 Revised Edition: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix

By Edwin H. Friedman

<https://www.amazon.com/Failure-Nerve-Revised-Leadership-Quick/dp/1596272791>

Explains the cultural pressure against truth and how leadership concedes.

These are the same emotional herding tactics of the egalitarian movement.

Ashley McGlone's teaching series

<https://www.newsong.family/series/gender-roles>

A two-part deep dive into the exegesis of Genesis 1-3 related to men's and women's roles with downloadable resources. Four-part series on the culture of life vs. the culture of death: Creation mandate, the Fall, culture of death, putting it all together.

A multi-part series on 1 Timothy 2 & 5.

10 Things You Should Know about the Bible's Teaching on Men and Women

by: Andreas J. Köstenberger, Margaret Elizabeth Köstenberger

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-things-you-should-know-about-the-bibles-teaching-on-men-and-women/>

1. We were created male and female by divine design.
2. We were created male and female in God's image.
3. The man was created first and given the responsibility to lead.
4. The man and the woman are partners in exercising dominion over God's creation.
5. Who we are as men and women defines the core of our existence, not merely its periphery.
6. The fall distorted, corrupted, and confused who we are as men and women.
7. God's design is best.
8. The Bible's teaching on God's design for man and woman is consistent and coherent.
9. Every generation must model and explain God's design for man and woman to the next.
10. Current cultural trends reflect humanity's brokenness and deep-seated rebellion against the Creator and his design for men and women.

Ten Affirmations of the Danvers Statement

<https://cbmw.org/about/the-danvers-statement/#affirmations>

Based on our understanding of Biblical teachings, we affirm the following:

1. Both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood ([Gen 1:26-27](#), [2:18](#)).
2. Distinctions in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order, and should find an echo in every human heart ([Gen 2:18](#), [21-24](#); [1 Cor 11:7-9](#); [1 Tim 2:12-14](#)).
3. Adam's headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall, and was not a result of sin ([Gen 2:16-18](#), [21-24](#), [3:1-13](#); [1 Cor 11:7-9](#)).
4. The Fall introduced distortions into the relationships between men and women ([Gen 3:1-7](#), [12](#), [16](#)).
 - a. In the home, the husband's loving, humble headship tends to be replaced by domination or passivity; the wife's intelligent, willing submission tends to be replaced by usurpation or servility.
 - b. In the church, sin inclines men toward a worldly love of power or an abdication of spiritual responsibility, and inclines women to resist limitations on their roles or to neglect the use of their gifts in appropriate ministries.
5. The Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, manifests the equally high value and dignity which God attached to the roles of both men and women ([Gen 1:26-27](#), [2:18](#); [Gal 3:28](#)). Both Old and New Testaments also affirm the principle of male headship in the family and in the covenant community ([Gen 2:18](#); [Eph 5:21-33](#); [Col 3:18-19](#); [1 Tim 2:11-15](#)).
6. Redemption in Christ aims at removing the distortions introduced by the curse.
 - a. In the family, husbands should forsake harsh or selfish leadership and grow in love and care for their wives; wives should forsake resistance to their husbands' authority and grow in willing, joyful submission to their husbands' leadership ([Eph 5:21-33](#); [Col 3:18-19](#); [Tit 2:3-5](#); [1 Pet 3:1-7](#)).
 - b. In the church, redemption in Christ gives men and women an equal share in the blessings of salvation; nevertheless, some governing and teaching roles within the church are restricted to men ([Gal 3:28](#); [1 Cor 11:2-16](#); [1 Tim 2:11-15](#)).
7. In all of life Christ is the supreme authority and guide for men and women, so that no earthly submission—domestic, religious, or civil—ever implies a mandate to follow a human authority into sin ([Dan 3:10-18](#); [Acts 4:19-20](#), [5:27-29](#); [1 Pet 3:1-2](#)).

8. In both men and women a heartfelt sense of call to ministry should never be used to set aside Biblical criteria for particular ministries ([1 Tim 2:11-15](#), [3:1-13](#); [Tit 1:5-9](#)). Rather, Biblical teaching should remain the authority for testing our subjective discernment of God's will.
9. With half the world's population outside the reach of indigenous evangelism; with countless other lost people in those societies that have heard the gospel; with the stresses and miseries of sickness, malnutrition, homelessness, illiteracy, ignorance, aging, addiction, crime, incarceration, neuroses, and loneliness, no man or woman who feels a passion from God to make His grace known in word and deed need ever live without a fulfilling ministry for the glory of Christ and the good of this fallen world ([1 Cor 12:7-21](#)).
10. We are convinced that a denial or neglect of these principles will lead to increasingly destructive consequences in our families, our churches, and the culture at large.