



The Nature and Roles of Men & Women

Since the role of men and women is a controversial issue in which devout and sincere Christians disagree, and since it seems to be a major issue of debate within the contemporary church and society, we feel it is necessary to identify the principles by which our church will speak to the issue. The church leadership has struggled with these issues and believes that the following is the most biblical approach to the issue. Having said this, we also wish to remain open to correction from others who may understand the scriptures more clearly.

1. Men and women are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).
2. Both men and women are equal before God as persons (Galatians 3:26-29).
3. There are meaningful and mysterious differences between men and women. (Proverbs 30:18-19)
4. Both men and women have worth, value, ability, and intelligence, and should be treated with love and respect (I Samuel 25:3, Ps 139:13).
5. Men and women are distinct in their manhood and womanhood. (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:18)
6. Biblical leadership is servant leadership (Luke 22:25-27).
7. All believers, both men, and women are empowered by the Holy Spirit and are gifted to do ministry (Acts 2: 17-21).
8. All believers are called to submit in some way (Romans 13:1;5, I Corinthians 16:15-16, Ephesians 5:21; Hebrews 12:9; 13:17, James 4:7, I Peter 2:13). Healthy human relationships are built on a foundation of mutual submission, love, and respect. In the scriptures, submission is not viewed as a position of weakness but rather as one of strength. The ultimate example of this is the birth, life, and death of Jesus (Philippians 2:1-11).
9. All qualified believers, both men and women may take roles of leadership, teaching, preaching, worship, and spiritual authority, including Church Officer positions, as long as he/she is willingly and joyfully under the authority of the Overseers of the church.
10. The specific role of Overseer (inclusive of Senior Pastor) has been uniquely assigned solely to qualified men of the church (1 Timothy 3:1-13).
11. Men and women are to complement each other in marriage. A husband and a wife partner in leading a family and raising children together. Husbands are to offer humble, loving, gentle, sacrificial, and Christ-like servant leadership in the home, while wives are to offer intelligent, respectful, constructive, impactful, and willing submission and support to the husband as they lead together. (Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:18-22; I Peter 3:1-7).
12. Because of sin the relationship between men and women has been perverted. This has caused great injustice, disrespect, and abuse. This has been especially true for women. We reject all such abuse and believe the church should work to end all such behavior (Genesis 3:26-29).