



Dig Deeper: Men & Women1- Equal & Different- “Positive Complementarianism”

Welcome to our series on Men & Women. Here are some questions and resources to help you dig deeper into the passages we have looked at. You might like to pray the prayer on the reverse of this sheet as you begin...

Talk 1 (Sunday 14th Sept): “Equal and different”

<u>Men & Women #1 - “Equal and Different”</u>	
1) CREATION Gen 1:27-28 Gen 2:18-25	Men and Women are <u>equal</u> in dignity yet <u>different</u> in design
2) CRISIS Gen 3, eg v16	Men and Women are <u>equally</u> fallen yet show brokenness in <u>different</u> ways
3) CHRIST Jn 1:14, Lk 8:3, Mt28:1, Gal 3:28, Eph 5:22-33	Men and Women are <u>equal</u> in the church yet Christ has <u>different</u> roles for us
4) NEW CREATION 1 Cor 15, Matt 22:30 Rev 7:9, 19:1, 21:2	Men and Women though different will one day be praising Christ as his bride!



Lifegroups Session 1 (week commencing 14th Sept), questions to choose from...

1. Why do you think it is so important to look at what the Bible is saying when discussing this issue? Do you think there are any ways in which the Bible is out of date? Are you willing to change your mind if you discover something new in God's Word?
 2. What issues, questions, even hopes or fears do you bring to a series on men and women? NB the Q&A discussion evening on 1st October (see below).
 3. Have another look at Genesis 1:27. Where do we end up if we fail to include both sides of the “equal and different” pair? Can you think of ways in which we may be in danger of doing that?
 4. How do you see the “battle of the sexes” Gen 3:16 played out today?
 5. How was Christ the perfect human? How did he succeed in imaging God where Adam failed? How did he treat women? How do you (men & women) want to be like him?
 6. As a church and in marriage, is it possible for men and women to be equal (Gal 3:28) yet to have different roles (Eph 5:22-33, 1 Cor 11:3, 1 Tim 2:11-15)?
- Spend some time praying together about all this.

Dates for the series

Talk 2 (Sunday 21st Sept) “Every member ministry” followed by lifegroups.

Talk 3 (Sunday 28th Sept) “Men and Women in leadership” followed by....

Q&A Discussion evening (1st October) at Trinity Free Church

Start thinking of questions you'd like to ask, and we'll share a “pigeonhole” Q&A nearer the time so that people can submit a question electronically. For those who aren't so techy, people will also be able to raise a hand on the evening or put one in writing! We welcome anonymous questions, but if you are willing to leave a name we can come back to you if we run out of time or don't cover things sufficiently. Please also use this evening to join the conversation, share your views, help one another (including me!) to understand our blind spots and different perspectives.

A Prayer...

Heavenly Father, please as generations of Christians have prayed, would you “inspire your church with the spirit of truth, unity and concord”. Help us “in essential matters to pursue unity, in non-essential matters liberty and in all things to pursue charity”. Please speak to us and help us to love one another well. We ask this in Jesus name and for his glory. Amen.

A couple of terms...

- “Complementarianism”- the theological idea that men and women have different and complementary roles in the home and the church.
- “Egalitarianism” – the theological idea that there are no distinctions between the roles men and women can take in the home and the church.

Resources...

Come and chat...

- We know that **this topic** can raise strong feelings. You may feel that I (Charlie) or we (the elders) have got some things wrong. We sincerely don’t mean to hurt or discourage anyone through this series, and we are available to chat. Even if we’ve done a lot of thinking, it doesn’t mean we don’t value insights from across the church, or that we don’t get things wrong. Please keep the conversation going, it is still a work in progress and we need each other. Men and women in our church are available for pastoral chats on any related area if that would be helpful.

Internal resources...

- All the **sermon scripts** will be online in due course, including a few footnotes that point to resources.
- We have produced a **paper** on how we seek to put our understanding of men and women into practice in our church. It will be available at the Partnership Sunday meeting on 21st Sept.

Books...

- **“Embracing Complementarianism- Turning Biblical convictions into positive Church culture”, Graham Beynon & Jane Tooher, Good Book Company.** An engaging and warm book helping churches to think through these thorny issues including some of the grey areas.
- **“God’s Good Design- What the Bible really says about Men and Women”, Claire Smith, Matthias Media.** A former feminist shares the parts of the bible that have helped her to come to a complementarian understanding of ministry in the church.
- **“The Manual- getting masculinity right”.** Al Stewart. Being a godly men in a confusing world.
- **“Jesus through women’s eyes”,** Rebecca McLaughlin. Jesus’ treatment of women was revolutionary.

Online resources... (there are plenty of others if you have specific questions)...

- **Fifty Questions** at <https://cbmw.org/2014/09/04/50-crucial-questions/> produced by CBMW (the **Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood**) answers many FAQ’s on this topic. They have also produced a detailed book “Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood” edited by John Piper and Wayne Grudem which I can lend for those who want to go deeper.
- **Christians for Biblical Equality** is an egalitarian grouping that would take a different approach from what I have been arguing for, while seeking to maintain a high view of Scripture’s authority <https://www.cbeinternational.org/>.
- There are a series of articles from **9Marks** including an interesting paper by Alastair Roberts on Creation <https://www.9marks.org/journal/complementarianism-a-moment-of-reckoning/>.
- Some of the elders have been working through **Mike Winger’s** (very long & comprehensive) podcasts at <https://biblethinker.org/women-in-ministry/> He analyses many different perspectives.
- <https://www.jenwilkin.net/blog/2015/02/three-female-ghosts-that-haunt-church.html>. A helpful analysis by a woman in ministry on how men can unhelpfully **stereotype** women as ‘usurpers’, ‘temptresses’, ‘children’.