



THE COUNCIL ON BIBLICAL
MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD

Website: cbmw.org

**Excellent resource for a Biblical view of the roles of men and women in marriage, the church, and society.

Danvers Statement

Affirming the Gender Roles of Men and Women

The “Danvers Statement” was prepared by several evangelical leaders at a CBMW meeting in Danvers, Mass., in December, 1987

1. Both Adam and Eve were created in God’s image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood.
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.
3. Adam’s headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall, and was not a result of sin.

4. The Fall introduced distortions into the relationships between men and women.
 - 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.
 - 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. Both Old and New Testaments also affirm the principle of male headship in the family and in the covenant community.

6. Redemption in Christ aims at removing the distortions introduced by the curse.
 - 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.
 - 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.
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.
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. 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.
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.

In terms of equality, men and women share the same spiritual privileges and responsibilities.

- the law was given for both men and women.
- the rules about the Passover were given for both men and women
- God personally appeared to both men and women.
- Men and women had equal access to God.
- Men and women can equally come to God through Jesus Christ for salvation.
- Every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies has been given to both men and women.
- The Holy Spirit in the Church Age has been given to both men and women.
- Service to God involves both men and women. They both have ministry opportunities.
- Both men and women are given spiritual gifts.
- Women have a very, very important place in the economy of God and they are on equal level with men in terms of spiritual life.
- Both are equally responsible to obey the 10 commandments, to obey the law, to love God with all of their heart, to worship God, to serve Him, to pray, to evangelize, to study, learn, grow, and mature in the Christian life.
- Men and women equally will be given rewards at the judgment seat of Christ dependent on whether they have been faithful in their stewardship of what God has entrusted to each of them.

O.T.

- No women kings.
- No women priests.
- No women elders.
- No women prophets with an on-going prophetic office.
- No O.T. book written by a woman. (Ruth and Esther are named after women but were not written by women.)
- Miriam, Deborah and Huldah are all three called prophetesses and the only thing we know about them is that each of them, in the Bible is recorded that on one occasion they gave a message from God.
- The wife of Isaiah was only called a prophetess because she was going to give birth to a child whose name had prophetic meaning, not because she said anything.

N.T.

- No woman is one of the 12 disciples.
- No woman is an apostle.
- No woman is an evangelist.
- No woman is a pastor – teacher.
- No woman pastors a congregation.
- No woman takes the role of an elder.
- No sermon is delivered by a woman.
- No teaching (section of Scripture) is given by a woman.
- No N.T. book written by a woman.

1 Tim 2:8-15

- 8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.
- 9 Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,
- 10 but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.
- 11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.
- 12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.
- 13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.
- 14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.
- 15 But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

Titus 1:5-9

5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

6 namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,

8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict

1 Tim 3:2-7

2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

1 Cor 11:3

3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

God



Christ



Man



Woman

1 Cor 14:34-35

34 The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

35 If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

1 Cor 14:26-33

26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret;

28 but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.

29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment.

30 But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, the first one must keep silent.

31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted;

32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets;

33 for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

34 The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

35 If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

Eph 5:22-31

- 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.
- 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.
- 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
- 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
- 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
- 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;
- 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,
- 30 because we are members of His body.

Gal 3:26-29

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Titus 2:3-5

- 3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,
- 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,
- 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

- **4 daughters of Phillip –**

- Acts 21:9**

- 9 Now this man had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses.

- *It does not say they were elders. It does not say they were pastor- teachers. it just says they prophesied, they spoke forth for God.

- **Anna –**

- Luke 2 Anna is said to be a prophetess . Her husband had died seven years after their marriage and she for over 80 years had stayed in the temple waiting for the Messiah. Anyone who came in the temple she would tell them about the Messiah coming and what a joy it was when she met the Messiah even as an infant. She was a prophetess in the sense that she spoke about the Messiah to anyone who came along.

- **Priscilla**

Acts 18:24-26

24 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

*This is not teaching or preaching in the church and she is not exercising authority over a man or her husband.

“The Perfect Storm”

1950 Emergence of “thought for thought” translations →

1983 Emergence of “gender-neutral” translations →

1. 1970’s →

Feminist reformers set forth their radical agenda in universities and eventually society:

1. Remove gender-exclusive language, from classroom and textbooks.
2. Remove any role differentiation between men and women.
3. Fueled by the LGBT mov., attack traditional marriage because it promotes differences.

2. 1980’s →

The feminist movement and agenda penetrates liberal mainline protestant seminaries:

1. Remove gender exclusive language from Scripture, hymns, prayers, etc.
2. Remove any role differentiation between men and women in ministry.
3. Remove any LGBT discrimination in the church.

3. 1990’s →

The feminist agenda penetrates the mainline evangelical churches.

New translations reflect the feminist influence:

- **New Revised Standard Version**
- **The Message**
- **New International Readers Version**
- **New International, Inclusive Language Version**
- **New Living Translation**

4. 2005

Today’s New International Version

- 3,686 changes from masculine to gender-neutral /inclusive.

Summary of Old Testament Revisions from TNIV to 2011 NIV

Category ***Same as TNIV*** ***Revised from TNIV*** ***%Same*** ***%Revised***

A. Changes Made from Singular to Plural (and a Few Related Changes) to Avoid the Use of —He/Him/His	1617	429	79%	21%
B. Changes Made to Avoid the Word —Father	293	23	93%	7%
C. Changes to Avoid the Word —Brother	10	17	37%	63%
D. Changes to Avoid the Word —Man	256	117	69%	31%
E. Changes to Avoid the Word —Son	14	11	56%	44%
F. Changes Made to Avoid the Word —Women	4	0	100%	0%
Total	2194	597	79%	21%

Summary of New Testament Revisions from TNIV to 2011 NIV

Category	Same as TNIV	Revised from TNIV	%Same	%Revised	
A. Changes from Singular to Plural to Avoid the Use of —He/Him/His	385	223	63%	37%	
B. Changes to Avoid the Word —Father and Related Words	35	4	90%	10%	
C. Changes to Avoid the Word —Brother (Or to Add the Word —Sister)	53	33	62%	38%	
D. Changes to Avoid the Word —Man	22	52	30%	70%	
E. Changes to Avoid the Word —Son	19	6	76%	24%	
F. Changes to Avoid the Phrase —The Jews	24	0	100%	0%	
G. Changes that Lose the Nuance of Holiness in —Saints	27	14	66%	34%	
H. Other Changes	7	4	64%	36%	
	Total	572	336	63%	37%

1984 NIV **Prov 15:5** A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

2011 NIV **Prov 15:5** A fool spurns a parent's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence. (same as TNIV)

1984 NIV **1 Sam 18:2** From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house.

2011 NIV **1 Sam 18:2** From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. (same as TNIV)

1984 NIV **Prov 13:24** He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

2011 NIV **Prov 13:24** Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

1984 NIV **Ps 8:4** what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

2011 NIV **Ps 8:4** what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

1984 NIV **Luke 17:3** So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.

2011 NIV **Luke 17:3** So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them.