

SGAC – WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP – DEFINITIONS & RESOURCES

Complementarian - Complementarians affirm that God's creation purpose for men and women entail equality of individual value but also distinct roles in marriage, family life and the church. Their understanding of scripture is that men and women *complement* each other, and that masculinity and femininity were created by God as meaningful distinctions. He is directing specialized roles that will lead to the best possible spiritual wellbeing for believers.

Complementarian General Beliefs

- That only men should hold church leadership positions over other men. Women can hold positions that do not place them in authority over men.
- Fathers as the head of the family.
- A man should love his wife as Christ loved the church and a woman should submit to her husband as the church submits to Christ.

Biblical Scriptures: 1 Timothy 2:11-13, Genesis 2:18, Genesis 3:15-16, 1 Corinthians 11:9-10, Ephesians 5:21-33, Titus 2:3-5, 1 Peter 3:1-7

Egalitarian - Christian Egalitarians agree with Complementarians that men and women are equal in worth, value and dignity. Egalitarians however, state that men and women can equally fulfill positions in church, home and society based on gifting and ability, not on gender roles. There are no gender restrictions on where men and women can serve as long as there is mutual submission with Christ as head of the church and home. There is no question that males and females were created by design to have different strengths and weaknesses, but it is not because of these differences that one is to have authority over the other, nor is the fact that because Adam was created first that this becomes the message of God's ordaining men's authority in the church. Both men and women submit to each other and ultimately submit to Christ and His leading.

Egalitarian General Beliefs

- Men and women hold church leadership positions based on God given talents and giftings to serve, not on gender roles.
- Spouses are equally responsible for the family.
- Marriage is a partnership of two equals submitting to one another.
- Roles should be ability/gifting based and not gender-based.

Biblical Scriptures: Galatians 3:28, Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 3:16, Genesis 2:22-24, 1 Corinthians 12:7-13, Romans 16:1-27, Mark 10:42-45

<u>A Complementarian Church Future</u>	<u>An Egalitarian Church Future</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male Elder Board • Male Lead Pastor • Women Pastors serve in areas of ministry that does not place them in authority over men such as women' & children's ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men & Women serve equally on Elder / Deacon Board • Lead Pastor may be male or female based on church decision. • Women & Men may serve in whatever ministry they feel spirit led & gifted in.

Resources - Watch for more to be posted on *sgac.net* at a later date.

Summaries of the Egalitarian and Complementarian Position by Bruce Ware
<https://cbmw.org/2007/06/26/summaries-of-the-egalitarian-and-complementarian-positions/>

What Are Complementarianism and Egalitarianism? What's the Difference? by Alyssa Roat Contributing Writer
<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-are-complementarianism-and-egalitarianism-what-s-the-difference.html>

An Exegetical Study of 1 Timothy 2:11-15 by Dr. Franklin Pyles
https://online.ambrose.edu/alliancestudies/Pyles_1Tim2.html

4 Common Misconceptions About Egalitarianism by Rachael Held Evans
<https://rachelheldevans.com/blog/4-common-misconceptions-egalitarianism>

Did Authoritative Male Headship Exist in the Garden of Eden Before the Fall? By Lee Ann Trees
<https://www.beautifulchristianlife.com/blog/did-authoritative-male-headship-exist-in-the-garden-of-eden-before-the-fall>

Men & Women in Christian Ministry: An Introduction to the "Gender Roles" Question for Church Leaders by Kenneth G. Radant
<https://transformcma.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Men-Women-In-Christian-Ministry-K.-Radant.pdf>

Podcasts: *To think seriously about Biblical Patriarchy* with Carolyn Custis James, *A Biblical View of Femininity - Classic* - Sandra Glahn, Darrell L. Bock, and Kymberli Cook

Book List: *The Blue Parakeet: Scot McKnight, Neither Complementarian nor Egalitarian: A Kingdom Corrective to the Evangelical Gender Debate* by Michelle Lee-Barnewall, *Two Views on Women in Ministry* by Stanley Gundry and James Beck