



Gender Leadership Question

Spruce Grove Alliance Church

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Western District

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Where are we headed?



- Opening Comments
- Defining Two Views: Complementarian/Egalitarian
- Who is the Alliance?
- Salient CMA Doc's
- Key Biblical Texts
- Prayer of Indifference

Opening Comments...

- This is an important issue



Opening Comments...

- This is an important issue
- This is not more important than Christian love & unity



Opening Comments...

- This is an important issue
- This is not more important than Christian love & unity
- **This is not a simple issue**



What do we find on a superficial reading of Scripture?



- M/F created equal in God's image; in worth & responsibility
- Genesis 2 hierarchical relationship between man/woman
- Fall mars M/F relationship – but God plans to reconcile ALL
- Patriarchal cultures in OT/NT, in Israel and beyond
- NT statements of liberty, equality and borderless freedom across lines of race, gender, social class

What do we find on a superficial reading of Scripture?



- Direct NT instructions limiting female leadership function
- OT/NT several sterling examples of female leaders
- OT/NT practice/presumption that leadership is male
- Jesus chooses male leaders, supported by strong/godly women

Godly gifted Bible scholars come to different conclusions on the gender leadership question...

- FF Bruce
- Shane Claiborne
- Tony Campolo
- Mimi Haddad
- Catherine Kroeger
- Gordon Fee
- Scot McKnight
- John Ortberg
- Ron Sider
- John Stackhouse
- Andy Stanley
- NT Wright

- Matt Chandler
- Mark Driscoll
- Wayne Grudem
- Tim Keller
- Erwin Lutzer
- John MacArthur
- J.I. Packer
- John Piper
- Dennis Rainey
- Priscilla Shirer
- RC Sproule
- Joseph M Stowell

Opening Comments...



- This is an important issue
- This is not more important than Christian love & unity
- This is not a simple issue
- You (members only) get to decide!

Opening Comments...



- This is an important issue
- This is not more important than Christian love & unity
- This is not a simple issue
- You (members only) get to decide!
- **My role here**

Defining the two views...



- **Complementarianism** stresses that although men and women are equal in personhood, they are created for different roles.
- **Egalitarianism** also agrees that men and women are equal in personhood but holds that there are no gender-based limitations on the roles of men and women.

Complementarian beliefs...



Though not all who call themselves complementarian will adhere to the same views, they are usually characterized by:

- Belief that only men should hold church leadership positions over other men. Usually, women may hold positions that do not place them in authority over men.
- A patriarchal view of the family, with the father as the head.
- The view that 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.

Egalitarian beliefs...



Though not all who call themselves egalitarian will adhere to the same views, they are usually characterized by:

- Men and women can both hold any church leadership positions.
- Spouses are equally responsible for the family.
- Marriage is a partnership of two equals submitting to one another.
- Roles should be ability-based and not gender-based.

Who is the Alliance...



Salient Christian & Missionary Alliance Doc's

...from 2021 CMA Manual



- **LCC Article 8.1** “The church may, by two-thirds majority of the members present at a duly called meeting of the membership, choose to have women serve on the board”
- **LCC Article 9.1** “Churches, which by 2/3 majority vote of the members present at a duly called meeting of the membership have affirmed to have women serve on the Board, may call a woman to serve as senior pastor in consultation with the district superintendent.”

Salient Christian & Missionary Alliance Doc's ...from 2021 CMA Manual



- **Statement on the Roles of Men and Women in Ministry**
 - An Official Statement of the Alliance Canada

- **The Roles of Men and Women in Ministry: Complementarian and Egalitarian Guidelines**
 - A companion to the Official Statement above

Key Biblical Texts...the first place we look for guidance on this question is God's Word



- **Genesis 1-3**
- **Judges 4-5**
- **Joel 2:28-32**
- **Luke 6:12-16**
- **Acts 18:24-28**
- **Romans 16:1-16**
- **I Corinthians 11:1-16**
- **I Corinthians 14:26-40**
- **Galatians 3:23-29**
- **Philippians 4:2-3**
- **Colossians 3:16**
- **I Timothy 2:8 – 3:15**
- **Titus 1:5-9**
- **Titus 2:1-10**

The Prayer of Indifference/Relinquishment...



The *prayer of indifference* expresses the fact that we have come to a place where we want God's will—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

...It is a **prayer** in which we abandon ourselves to God.

The Prayer of Indifference/Relinquishment...



“In the context of spiritual discernment, indifference is a positive term signifying that I am indifferent to anything but God’s will. This is interior freedom or a state of openness to God in which we are free from undue attachment to any particular outcome.... We ask God to bring us to a place where we want God’s will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.”

Ruth Haley Barton, *Pursuing God’s Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups* ~ page 63

In short, through this prayer we follow the example of our Lord and say, **“Not my will but yours be done.”**

The Prayer of Indifference/Relinquishment...



- ❖ Begin with a Prayer for Indifference (Luke 22:42)
- ❖ Continue with a Prayer for Wisdom (James 1:5)
- ❖ Conclude with a Prayer of Quiet Trust (Psalm 131)



Making Disciples ~ Seeking Renewal ~ Reaching the Least Reached

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