



One in
CHRIST

WOMEN & MEN

At Gateway we believe that men and women are equally called to leadership, service, and spiritual authority, and while being created with distinct natures, equal in value, dignity, and purpose before God.

GALATIANS 3:26-28

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Emi Frances Oh (Fiji)

“The goal is not reverse discrimination, women dominating men, but a new heaven and a new earth taking hold, with no one being dominated or subordinated, each participating according to their gifts in genuine mutuality.”



- On every continent, church affiliation is more female than the general population.
- But on every continent, decision-making and leadership roles in the Church are significantly male.

- The 2019 UN report states that no country has achieved full gender equality.
- Progress (toward equality) is slowing as women reach easier milestones, like primary education.
- At the current rate of progress, it will take 202 years for women to be fully equal.

PATRIARCHY

A form of social organisation where power is held by men, where customs favour men, and withhold opportunity from women.

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COMPLEMENTARIANISM

A belief system in some branches of Christianity that teaches that only men are to lead households and churches, and women are to *compliment* that practice. It teaches that women may exercise their gifts, but may not exercise authority over men.

1. CREATION ORDER.

GENESIS 1:26-27

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

GENESIS 2:18

Then God said that “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

“Eve was not created from Adam’s feet to be his subordinate, nor from his head to be his master, but from his side to be his partner.”

PETER LOMBARD

Adam and Eve don't so much represent marriage as they do community. The sexes side by side revealing God's goodness and ruling as vice-regents together.

1 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

“A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve.”



2. WOMAN = “HELPER.”

GENESIS 2:18

“The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

The word that the LORD God used to describe what the man needed is the Hebrew word 'ezer.' *Ezer* is most frequently used in the Old Testament to describe **God Himself** as the 'helper' or 'rescuer' or 'deliverer' of Israel.

EXODUS 18:4

After Moses had sent away his wife Zipporah, his father-in-law Jethro received her and her two sons. One son was named Gershom, for Moses said, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land”; and the other was named Eliezer, for he said, “My father’s God was my helper; he saved me from the sword of Pharaoh.”

PSALM 33:20

We wait in hope for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.
May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,
even as we put our hope in you.

Hebrew: '*neged*,' that means a counterpart, a mate, a complementary equal.' Something or someone 'in front of' or face to face.'

POWERFUL, INDISPENSABLE, EQUAL PARTNERS IN LIFE.

If we the Body of Christ, hope to fulfil our God-given mission in the world,
to bring God's kingdom whoever we are wherever we go,
to love the Lord our God,
to love our neighbours as ourselves,
and to make disciples of all nations,
we must recognise and enable all the gifted people God has put us
together with, male and female, side by side, One in Christ.

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