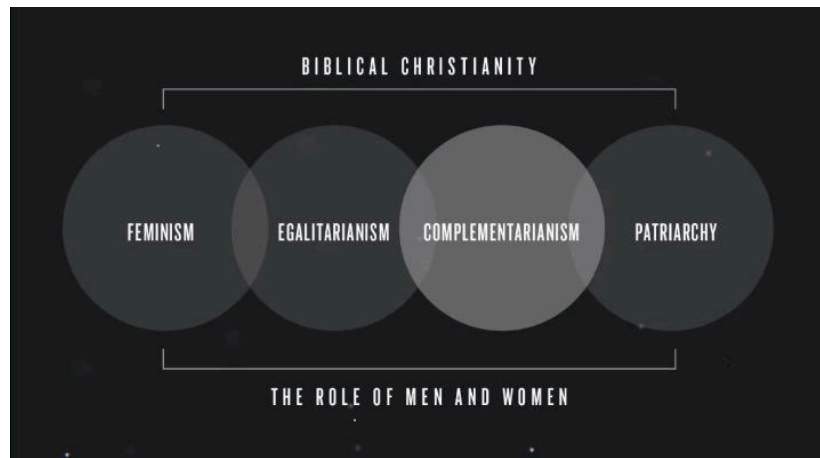


Complementarianism



Complementarianism is a theological view that the Bible teaches that God created men and women equal in personhood, dignity and value, but different in certain roles and functions in both the home and the church. This view arises out of careful reading of Genesis 1-2 especially.

A. Why such Debate?

- A. Conflict that arises among roles of men and women is not caused by cultural pressures alone but rather the conflict itself stems from the very “curse of sin” in Genesis 3 as a result of the Fall. (*Gen 3:16-17*)

Gen 3:16 “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”

- B. The curse of sin, in summary, is that both Men and Women experience Pain and Conflict as they pursue faithfulness in their God given roles. Men’s work will be hard/toilsome which will draw him away from the women and not lead. All the while, all the women wants is the man, so she tries to then lead. Causing Conflict.

B. Men and Women

- A. Creator created men and women in His image.

Gen 1: 27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

- B. All claims that there is a 3rd option, distorts God’s plan.

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C. Men and Women are Equal in personhood, dignity and value

A. Equal in Personhood

Men and Women reflect the the image and likeness of God, aka Trinity. Father, Son, Holy Spirit are three distinct persons, each fully God, only one God.

Gen 1:26-27 *“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”*

B. Equal in Dignity

Both Male and Female are worthy of honor and mutual respect as humans who are the very image of God. Respect is 2 directional.

1 Peter 2:17 say to “honor ALL.”

C. Equal in Value

Acts 2:17-18 *“And it shall be in the last days.’ God says, ‘That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy... even upon my bondservants, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of my Spirit.”*

1 Peter 3:7 *“Husbands love your wives in an understanding way, show honor to the women and the weaker vessels, since they are the heirs with you of the grace of life.”*

D. Men and Women are different in their (equally valuable) roles and functions.

A. Adam created as Leader & Eve created as Helper, pre-fall.

A. Leadership revealed in the Order of Creation. God creates Adam before Eve. In the OT a first born has special responsibility over those born after them. In the NT, Paul grounds his view for church leadership on the created order. (1 Timothy 2:13)

B. Leadership revealed the Order of Accountability. Before the creation of Eve, God commanded Adam to not eat the fruit of the tree (Gen 2:15-17). Eve was the first to eat the fruit although God called Adam to account for the couple's sin first (Gen 3:8-12). Pointing to Adam's unique roles as leader in the marriage.

C. Eve is called to come alongside Adam to assist him in the vocation God gave him, to work and keep the garden.

Genesis 2:18-23 *“Then the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him a helper fit for him...The man gave names to all the livestock and to the birds of the heaven and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was*

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not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man.'

- B. The New Testament applied Genesis 1-3 to the differing roles in the Home and Church, concluding that leadership in both is male.

"Wives submit to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."
(Ephesians 5:22-25)

"I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve" (1 Timothy 2:12-14; see also 1 Corinthians 11:2-12, 14:33-36; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

- C. Both men and women are called to use their gifts in the church. The range of service inside the church that is reserved only for men is quite narrow.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace; whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies- in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belongs glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 4:10-11)

E. Application

- A. BELIEVE IT and Delight in His plan (Psalm 119:16, 18)
- B. LIVE IT and Pursue your calling and your gifts (1 Peter 4:10-11)
- C. TEACH IT by training boys and girls (Ephesians 6:4)