



# Gender Roles

## What the Bible Says About Men and Women – and Why It Matters

Lesson 1- Laying the Groundwork



# Order My Steps

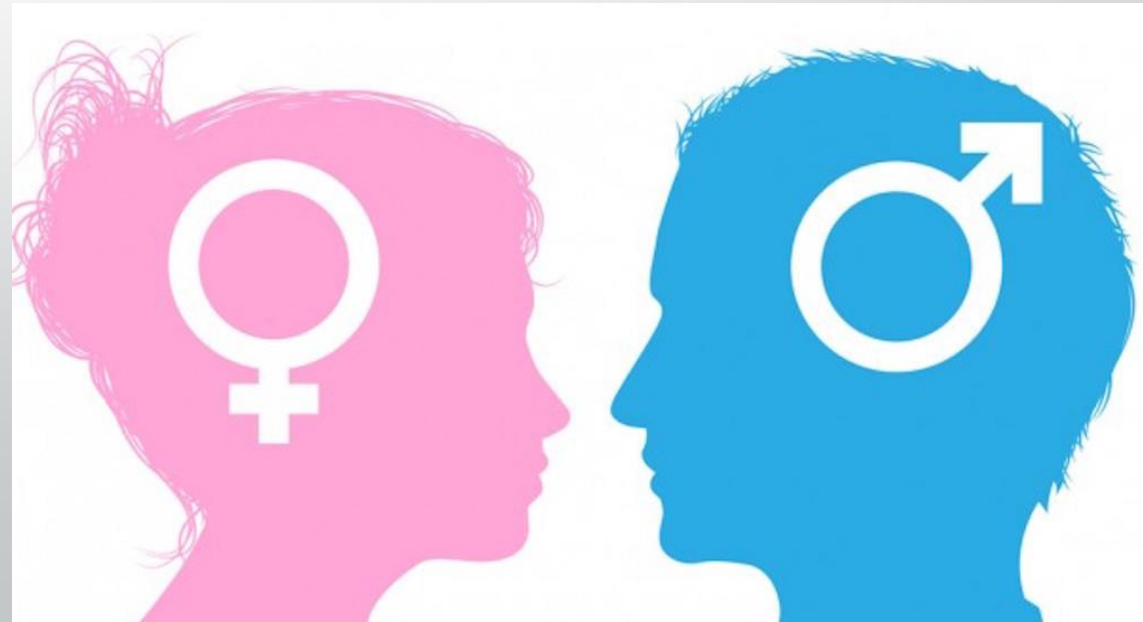
# Why Study Gender Roles?

- There is significant debate and divide in our cultural.
- There is significant debate and divide in Christianity.
- There are difference of opinion among members at HVCOC.
- There is uneasiness of church members on the subject when it is not discussed and positions are not clarified.



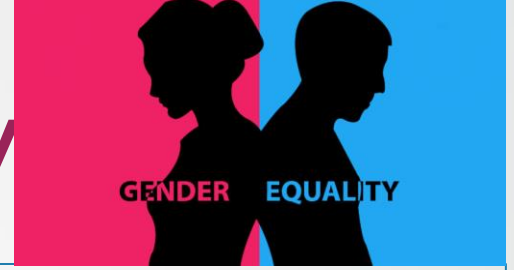
# Gender Role Terminology

- Complementarianism: Men and women are equal in the image of God while maintaining complementary differences in their roles in marriage and the church.
- Egalitarianism: Men and women are equal in the image of God and the standard for fulfilling a role in marriage and the church is gifting, not gender.





# Extremes of Philosophy



## Traditionalism

- “Wrongly apply scripture and over-emphasize authority and submission”
- “Distort the beautiful complementarianism God designed”

Complementarianism

Egalitarianism

## Theological Liberalism

- “Deny the perfection and authority of Scripture”
- “Deny male and female personhood with some corresponding role distinctions”

# Contradicting Culture

## Biblical Theology

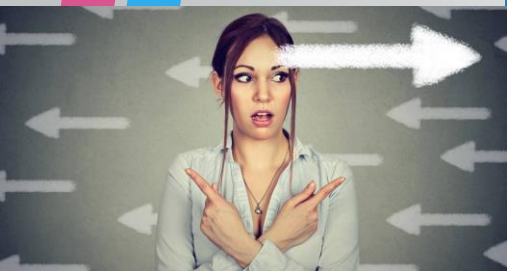
- Scripture is the ultimate source for truth for salvation, holiness, theology and world view.
- Identity is based on the gospel; being transformed from wickedness to righteousness

Biblical Theology

Cultural Norms

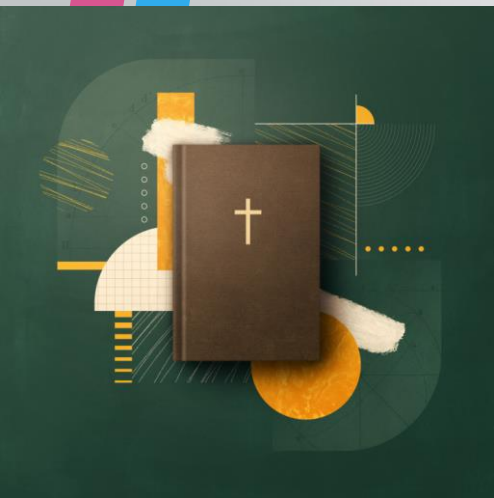
## Cultural Norms

- The majority determines right and wrong and it varies from culture to culture
- Identity is based on looking inside to discover true self based on using feelings as our guide.



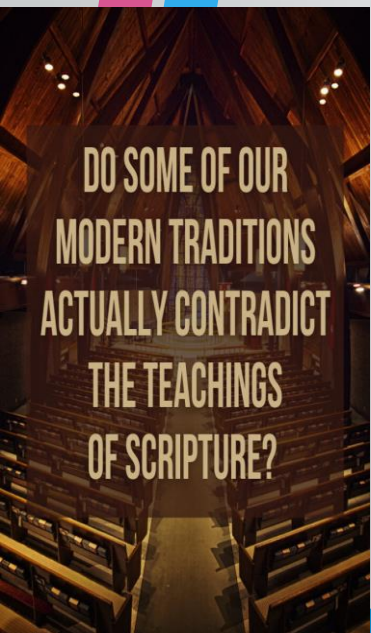
# Importance of Biblical Hermeneutics in Theology

- Hermeneutics - how we interpret Scripture.
- Theology - taking those interpretations and making them fit together, like a puzzle, without setting aside any of the pieces or trimming them to make them fit.
- Good hermeneutics makes for good theology. Bad hermeneutics makes for bad theology.
- Are hermeneutics and theology just for nerds, professors, and preachers?
  - No. Every Christian uses hermeneutics to build a theology—a cohesive, coherent understanding of Scripture, whether they realize it or not. If your hermeneutic is based only on your practice and tradition, changes can make you uncomfortable.



## The Traditions of Men - Matthew 15:1-5

<sup>1</sup>Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, <sup>2</sup>“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” <sup>3</sup>He answered them, “And **why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?** <sup>4</sup>For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ <sup>5</sup>But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” <sup>6</sup>he need not honor his father.’ **So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.** <sup>7</sup>You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: <sup>8</sup>“‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; <sup>9</sup>in vain do they worship me, **teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**””





# Differing Biblical Hermeneutics and Theology

## Blueprint Hermeneutics

- What is the pattern?
- Seeks specific and exclusive blueprint” of explicit commandments, approved (binding) examples, and necessary inferences.
- Legalistic in nature and interpretations for what’s binding and necessary.
- Can be subjective.
- Often impacted by tradition.

## Theological Hermeneutics

- What is the point?
- Seeks the “theological point that is at work” in the text and the point that fits in the “story” of the Bible.
- Assumes a kernel of theological truth can be extracted from a time-bound biblical command.
- Also can be subjective.
- Often, the command itself embodies the theology

WHY ARE THERE SO  
MANY DIFFERENT  
CHRISTIAN  
INTERPRETATIONS?

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# The Hard Question: What Commands or Examples are Theologically Based and What Are Culturally Based



# Rightly Handling the Word of Truth

- 2 Tim. 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.**

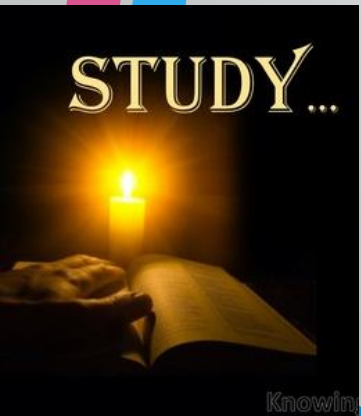
- Acts 17:11

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.**

- 2 Tim 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,** that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

STUDY...



# Three Basic Principles to Interpret Scripture

1. Figure out what Scripture meant to the original readers.

- Historical and literary context

2. Let the Bible explain itself.

- Inspiration, Inerrancy, Authorial Intent
- Exegesis: Genre, Word Meaning, Grammar, Syntax
- Biblical Context: Immediate paragraph > chapter > book > whole Bible. (Interpreting a verse in light of the whole canon of scripture)

3. Figure out how I can obey it.

- Any time I ask, "Did God really say..." (Gen. 3:1) to wriggle out of obedience, I actively participate in Satan's tactics and in Adam and Eve's sin, elevating my own will over God's.

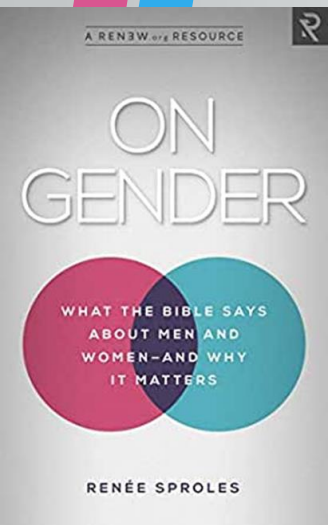




# Let Scripture Speak

- “If God can speak the heavens and earth into existence, if he can breathe the stars into place...then God can clearly communicate his will for us in a collection of writings by many authors over thousand of years.”
- “The Holy Spirit teaches us, instructs us, counsels us, as we wrestle with understanding and obedience.”
- “Let Scripture tell us who we are. Let God’s word surprise you, correct you, or anger you. But don’t miss it.”

Renée Sproles – “On Gender”



# Overview of the Class

- Gender reflects the image of God in creation.
- Gender reflects the image of God in marriage.
- Gender reflects the image of God in Christian community.
- Gender identity issues in today's culture.

# References For Bible Nerds

- “On Gender”, Renée Sproles, Renew.Org, 2019
- “On Gender and the Bible: What John Mark Hicks and Scot McKnight Get Right and Wrong”, Renée Sproles, Rick Oster, Bobby Harrington, and Daniel McCoy (Part 1), <https://renew.org/on-gender-and-the-bible-what-john-mark-hicks-and-scot-mcknight-get-right-and-wrong-part-1/>