



# Gender Roles and Identity

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

Lesson 12 – Gender Reflects the Image  
of God – Conclusion

# 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.



# Review

- Gender reflects the image of God in Creation
  - Men and women are equally loved and valued by God and full partners in stewarding all of creation
  - Men are called to tend and nurture
  - Women are called to provide strength and help



# Review

- Gender reflects the image of God in Marriage
  - Husbands and wives are called to submit to one another
  - The wife is the master of the home; but she is to respect and submit to her husband as the church does to Christ
  - The husband is the head of the wife; but must love her and give himself up for her as Christ did for the church.



# Review

- Gender reflects the image of God in the Assembly
  - Men and women are full partners in salvation and in the gifts of the spirit to build up the church, including in praying, prophesying, and teaching.
  - Principles of male headship still apply in the assembly relative to authoritative (guarding the truth) teaching. Therefore some authoritative roles are reserved for men.



# Review of Roles from Genesis 1 and 2

## Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

- We **affirm** that both men and women are created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27). We **affirm** that this incarnation of the image is in 'male' and 'female' and that both play critical roles in its expression. We **affirm** that men and women are equal in Creation. We **deny** that this makes men and women identical.

So God created man in His own image;  
in the image of God He created him;  
male and female He created them.

Genesis 1:27 (NKJV)



# Review of Roles from Genesis 3

## Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

- We **affirm** that both men and women have fallen into sin and separated from God (Rom. 3:23). We **affirm** that although Eve sinned first (Gen 3:6, 1 Tim. 2:14), because of Adam's position of leadership and responsibility, sin was reckoned to humanity through Adam (Rom. 5:21). We **deny** that one gender is more guilty for sin than the other.
- We **affirm** that both men and women are redeemed through the sacrifice of Christ, and this through individual faith (Eph. 2:4-8; Rom 10:9-13). We **deny** that there is any distinction between the sexes in regard to redeeming grace (1 Pet. 3:7; Gal. 3:26-29).



# Review of Roles from the New Testament Examples

## Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

- **We affirm** that both men and women, upon conversion and baptism, become members of the Body of Christ, the Church (1 Cor. 12:13, 27; Gal. 3:27-28). **We affirm** that both genders have equal access to God. **We deny** that there is a 'preferred' gender.
- **We affirm** that the example of the New Testament Church shows that women prayed (Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 11:4, 13), taught (Acts 18:24-26; Titus 2:3-5), hosted assemblies (Acts 12:12; Rom. 6:5; 1 Cor 16:19; Col. 4:15), were servant leaders (deacons) (Rom. 16:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:11), and proclaimed God's Word (prophesied) (Acts 2:3, 16-18; 21:7-9; 1 Cor. 11:11-16).



# Review of Roles from New Testament Examples

## Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

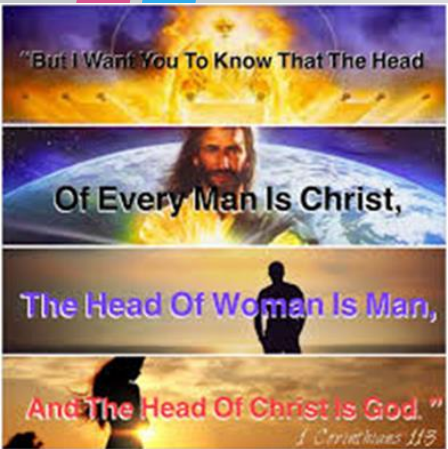
- **We affirm** that both men and women, upon the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the admission to the Church that follows baptism, are given spiritual gifts, each by the will and decision of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 11). **We affirm** that spiritual gifts are given to both men and women for the good of the Church, the Body of Christ, and the building up of its members (1 Cor. 12:7).



# Review of Roles from 1 Cor. 11, Eph. 4-6 and 1 Pet. 2-3

## Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

- We **affirm** that just as there is an order of authority within the Godhead, God has placed an order of authority in marriage which places the husband in a position of authority over his wife (1 Cor. 11:3, Eph. 5:22-24). We **deny** that this makes men superior or women inferior. We **affirm** that this position of authority is a position of service rather than a position of dominance (Eph. 5:21; 25-28).



# Review of Roles from 1 Cor. 14 and 1 Tim. 2, 3

## Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

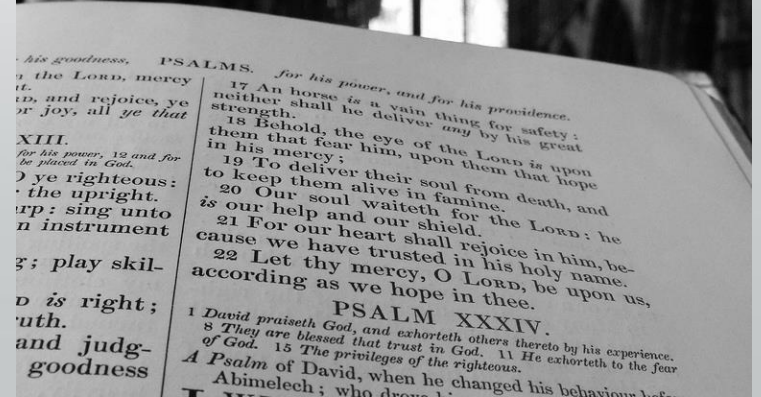
- **We affirm** that the sole authority within the Church is the Risen Lord Jesus (Eph. 5:23).
- **We affirm** that the visible authority of Jesus within the Church structure is represented by a group of elders (1 Tim. 3:4-5). It is the responsibility of these elders to give authoritative teaching and guard the teaching of truth in the church by rebuking those who contradict it (Tit. 1:9).



# Review of Roles from 1 Tim. 2, 3

## Some Shepherding Affirmations and Denials

- We affirm that the position of elder in the church is to be limited to men (1 Tim. 3:2).
- We affirm that other instances of authoritative teaching, such as regular preaching, are also limited to men (2 Tim. 4:2-5, 1 Tim. 2:12-13).



# Summation of Gender Roles in the Church

- Men and women were created by God to reflect, in **gendered ways**, the nature and character of God in the world.
- There is no distinction between men and women within the Body of Christ regarding standing, importance, membership, privilege, or gifting.
- In the church, men and women serve as partners in the use of their gifts in ministry while seeking to uphold the **Biblical norms for roles**.
- There are Biblical role distinctions between men and women within the Body of Christ with regard to **office and authority**. The distinctions are made because of God's **order of authority** and not based on gifting, ability, or a superior gender.
- The Bible view is an equal partnership on men and women in creation, in marriage, in salvation, in the gifts of the Spirit, and in ministries of the church but exercised in ways that honor gender as described in the Bible.



# Application in Context of Culture and Tradition

- **The Absolutes (regardless of culture or tradition)**
  1. Church authority in the New Testament is reserved for qualified men serving as Elders.
  2. The order of authority between man and woman from creation exists to magnify the Trinity and is an 'above culture' issue.
  3. Christ, while overturning many cultural and religious values of the day, and radically engaging women for His time, culture, and context, did not overturn or reinterpret the male-female paradigm.
  4. A wife is under the authority of her husband, who is under the authority of Christ, who is under the authority of the Father. In the church, all are to demonstrate submission to the authority of the Elders, who are under the headship authority of Christ.



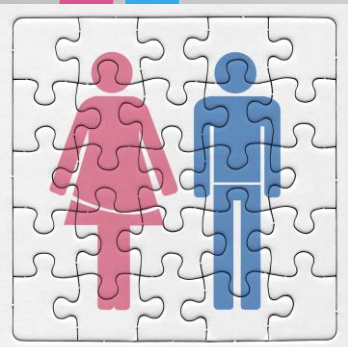
# Application in Context of Culture and Tradition

- **The Absolutes (regardless of culture or tradition) (Cont.)**
  5. Teaching is a gift of the Holy Spirit delivered sovereignly to believers as the Spirit chooses. There is no 'denial' of the gift to women.
  6. Women are commanded to teach in the New Testament.
  7. All believers are called to edify the Church with the gifts they have been given.
- **The Relative (to be culturally applied):**
  1. The understanding of the point at which women teaching or performing other aspects of leadership becomes synonymous with 'exercising authority.'
  2. The understanding of what actions, in our traditions and church culture, would be considered an 'exercise of authority.'



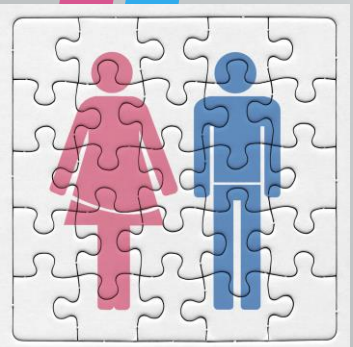
# Current Biblical Position for Gender Roles at HVCOC

1. Ultimate leadership within the church, responsibility for authoritative teaching, and establishment of HVCOC's doctrinal positions reside with qualified men serving as Elders. These Elders exercise oversight, following the instructions of Christ and His inspired servants, like Paul.
2. Men will routinely preach in our Sunday morning assemblies. This consistency will help prevent any confusion regarding HVCOC's position on the complementary nature of gender roles from creation. When variations occur, it will be with oversight from the elders.
3. Women who possess the gift of teaching should vigorously pursue opportunities to edify the body by teaching in non-authoritative settings.



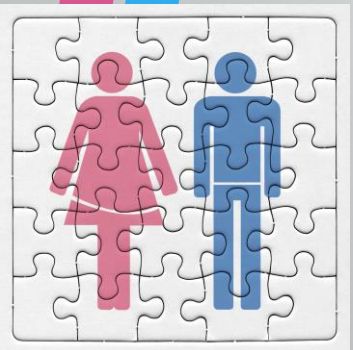
# Current Biblical Position for Gender Roles at HVCOC

- Do we all see it the same way?
- Do we have to see it the same way?
- Because of our varied traditions and the diversity of how “exercising authority” may be understood by members of HVCOC, the Elders are committed to following our **current tradition** of only using males for **leading roles** in our Sunday worship assembly (such as directing worship, leading singing, leading prayers, leading communion thoughts) until, through study of the scriptures, we can reach a common understanding of which roles qualify as authoritative.
- Why have we done this study?



# Gender Identity in the Image of God and Impacts on Holy Sexuality

- The world is shouting at you, your kids, and your grandkids these days, telling them that any and all types of sexuality should be accepted...even celebrated. The world's secular philosophies are also shouting that sexual identity is subjective and that our gender identity is who we are as a person. However, our subjective sexual desires have been impacted by sin nature from the fall. Our true identity is found in that we are made, male and female in the image of God. Identity is important because it impacts how we think, the choices we make, and the relationships that we build.



# Gender Identity in the Image of God and Impacts on Holy Sexuality

- Kids who don't fall in line with culture's ideas often experience significant anxiety. Adult Christians are often unsure how to provide Biblical and loving guidance to someone struggling with gender dysphoria or a same sex attraction. God exhorts parents (and grandparents) to teach his truth "diligently to your children" (Deuteronomy 6:7). Tackling such a challenging subject with your family honors the Lord. In this class, we will use material authored by Dr. Christopher Yuan, "The Holy Sexuality Project™". This class will focus on what God says about sexuality and gender identity through his Word.

