



POLICY ON MINISTRY ROLES FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

In agreement with the EFCA, Oxlip Church upholds a view known as *complementarianism*. This view affirms although men and women are equal in dignity, there are distinct roles in the church and home. Therefore, the office of pastor, along with the primary role of preaching and teaching the Bible in the gathered assembly of men and women, is reserved for men only. According to Scripture, women are given other complementary roles to serve within the church to help it flourish in its God-ordained assignment to each other and the world. (1 Cor. 14:33-38; Eph. 4:4:16; 1 Tim. 2:11-3:13; Titus 1:5-9).

For instance, Scripture does encourage women to teach other women (Titus 2:3-5); therefore, we enthusiastically support women teaching other ladies in Bible studies, Life Groups, and Sunday School outlets. Teaching is also separate from reading Scripture together with facilitated conversations among men and women. These kinds of casual, facilitated conversations in mixed company are encouraged at Oxlip Church. As Christians who adhere to the Bible, we seek to faithfully uphold a standard of complementarian principles, while also being sensitive to men and women building up one another in biblical fellowship. Conversation between women and men is distinct from teaching or preaching in an authoritative way in the gathered assembly or Christian education where men and women are present as disallowed by Scripture.

Though we want freedom in a casual environment, we also want to be careful and advise that there not be a different approach to this biblical standard on the teaching roles of men and women among mixed company. Therefore, only women should attend a small group with other women if a woman is teaching the Bible in that group. Other outlets of fellowship will be provided as opportunities for Christians to encourage each other in mixed company of men and women.

*Please reference the following sermons preached by Pastor Joel from the series on 1 Corinthians related to this subject:

<https://oxlip.org/media/g6bkesc/the-glory-of-god-in-creation-and-his-church>

<https://oxlip.org/media/fppf8pw/god-s-order-of-worship-in-the-church>

Additionally, the below pieces are *adapted* from the 1987 Danver's Statement provided by the Council of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. To see the full statement, please visit cbmw.org for more information and resources.

Affirmations

Based on our understanding of Biblical teachings, we affirm the following:

1. Both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood (Gen 1:26-27, 2:18).

2. Distinctions in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order, and should find an echo in every human heart (Gen 2:18, 21-24; 1 Cor 11:7-9; 1 Tim 2:12-14).
3. Adam's headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall, and was not a result of sin (Gen 2:16-18, 21-24, 3:1-13; 1 Cor 11:7-9).
4. The Fall introduced distortions into the relationships between men and women (Gen 3:1-7, 12, 16).
5. Scripture affirms the equally high value and dignity which God attached to the roles of both men and women (Gen 1:26-27, 2:18; Gal 3:28; Eph 5:21-33; Col 3:18-19; 1 Tim 2:11-15).
6. In all of life, Christ is the supreme authority and guide for men and women, so that no earthly submission—domestic, religious, or civil—ever implies a mandate to follow a human authority into sin (Dan 3:10-18; Acts 4:19-20, 5:27-29; 1 Pet 3:1-2).
7. In both men and women, a heartfelt sense of call to ministry should never be used to set aside Biblical criteria for particular ministries (1 Tim 2:11-15, 3:1-13; Tit 1:5-9). Rather, Biblical teaching should remain the authority for testing our subjective discernment of God's will.