

GENDER ROLES

A discussion with our family

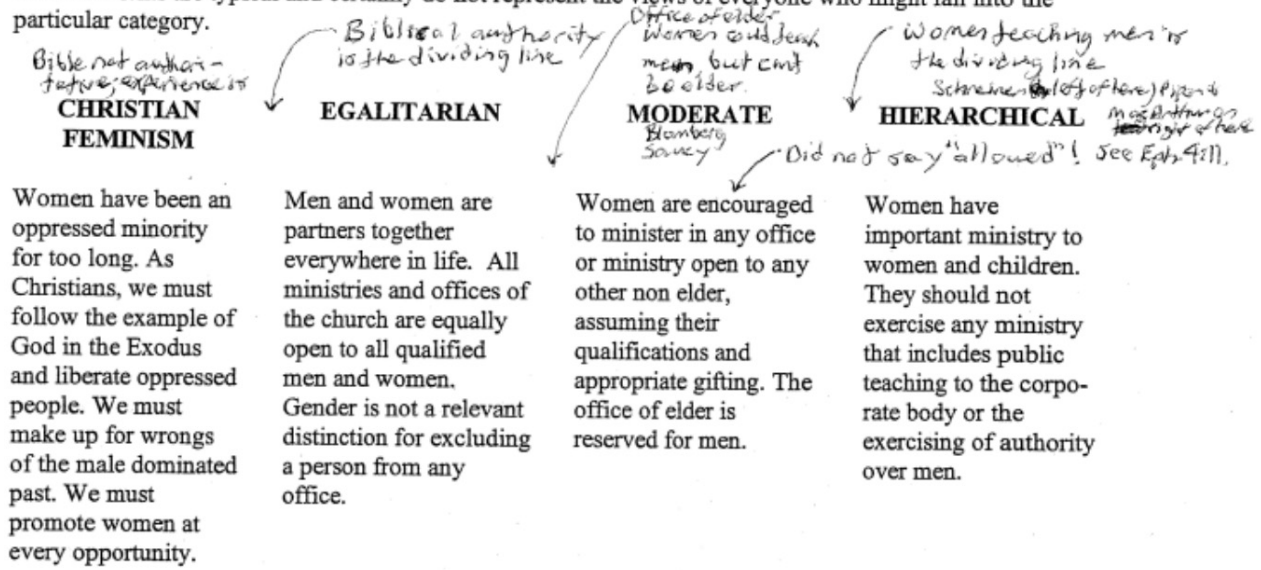
COMPARING POSITIONS ON WOMEN IN MINISTRY

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The following chart is an attempt to show the similarities and differences of the positions in brief form. The statements are typical and certainly do not represent the views of everyone who might fall into the particular category.



Hierarchy in creation Genesis 1 & 2	None. Full equality at creation.	Equal in essence, partnership in work. Hints of male headship in the complementary partnership of marriage.	Equal in essence with hierarchical roles. Male headship defined as a pattern of life.
Effect of Fall Genesis 3	Created illegitimate hierarchical system. Man becomes ruler because of sin.	Woman's desire is for oneness with her husband (cf. Gen. 2:23-24). Husband's rule instituted. Desire and rule may be positive or negative.	Painful distortion of creation hierarchy. Woman's desire is to overthrow God's pattern of male headship. Men exercise legitimate authority in domineering way.
Restoration in Christ	Abolished hierarchy as redemption is achieved.	Christlike roles in relationship.	Proper creational role relationships restored.

	Egalitarian	Moderate	Hierarchical
1 Cor. 11	Shows women active in ministry in the local church but must use freedom in Christ properly.	Shows women active in ministry in the local church but must use freedom in Christ properly. Male headship is tied to Genesis 2 & 3.	Shows pattern of male headship in creation. Does not apply to ministry in the assembly of the church.
1 Cor. 14	Paul bans disruptive speech.	Women are to be silent in the judging of prophecies, a role for elders only.	Women are to be silent in the assembly of the church.
Gal. 3:28	Magna Charta of freedom. No gender distinctions in Christ or Christ's body.	No gender distinctions in salvation.	No gender distinctions in salvation.
1 Tim. 2:11-15	Corrects a first century problem in Ephesus and is not universally normative.	Limits women from eldership and the elder exclusive roles as defined by a local church.	Limits women from teaching men at any time in the church or having any authority over men.
Biblical Offices	All offices including senior pastor open to qualified women and men.	Elder office and functions for qualified men only; Deacon office open to qualified women and men.	Both elder and deacon offices closed to women.
Gifts	All gifts given apart from gender distinctions.	All gifts given apart from gender distinctions. Used in biblically appropriate roles and offices.	All gifts given apart from gender distinctions. The gifted persons of Eph. 4:11 are males only.
Ministry	All ministries open to qualified women and men.	All non-elder ministries open to qualified women and men.	All ministries involving authority over or teaching men reserved for men.

What is the Topic?

- Egalitarian

- Complementarian

Why Now?

- Current events in the C&MA
- Growing divide in our body

Q about Scripture

- What is the authorial intent?
- Not a question of capacity, value, worth, preference ...

Dogmatic Rank

- Tier 1 = Core Christian beliefs
- Tier 2 = Division in the family
- Tier 3 = What is God's fav. Color?

Dogmatic Rank

- Naïve ambition
- Common Mission & Enemy

Historic Disposition

- Animosity on both sides
- Difficulty in communicating

Historic Disposition

- God and eternity in common
- Seek to share God's heart

The Disadvantage of Tradition

- Service-centered tradition
- “Ministry” means material involvement in the service

The Disadvantage of Tradition

- A shift towards discipleship (the mission) increases the pie
- An increasingly small piece is gender exclusive

Capitalism!

Capitalism!

**The presumption of
selfishness**

Capitalism!

**Conflating function
and value**

Abuses of Men

- Active
- “Passive”

One last
thought

The title

“Pastor”

Observation 1

Elder & Overseer is
used interchangeably
in Scripture

Titus 1:5-7a

5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint

elders in every town as I
directed you—⁶ if
anyone is above
reproach, the husband
of one wife, and his

children are believers
and not open to the
charge of debauchery or
insubordination. ⁷ For an
overseer, as God's

steward, must be above
reproach

1 Peter 5:1-2a

¹ So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ,

as well as a partaker in
the glory that is going to
be revealed: ² shepherd
the flock of God that is
among you,

exercising oversight not
under compulsion, but
willingly, as God would
have you

Observation 2

Shepherd (sometimes translated Pastor) is the exhortation to Elders/Overseers

Acts 20:28

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made

you overseers, to care
for the church of God,
which he obtained with
his own blood.



Elder/
Overseer

Shepherd
/Pastor

Observation 3

Common use:

Pastor → Overseer

Elder → Old person

Conclusion

Exit's Elders will be
the people with the
Title "Pastor".

The use of the Pulpit

Observation 1

Leaders in both the home and Church are stewards of the word

Ephesians 5:25-26

²⁵ Husbands, love

your wives, as Christ

loved the church

and gave himself up
for her, ²⁶ that he
might sanctify her,
having cleansed her

by the washing of
water with the word,

1 Timothy 3:2

2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach,

the husband of one
wife, sober-minded,
self-controlled,
respectable,

hospitable, able to
teach

Titus 1:7-9

7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach.

He must not be
arrogant or quick-
tempered or a
drunkard or violent or

greedy for gain,⁸ but
hospitable, a lover of
good, self-controlled,
upright, holy,

and disciplined. ⁹ He
must hold firm to the
trustworthy word as
taught, so that he

may be able to give
instruction in sound
doctrine and also to
rebuke those who
contradict it.

Observation 2

Tradition informs the means of stewarding God's word.

Acts 15:1-9 – letters

2 Timothy 4:1-5 –

Preaching & Teaching

The public exposition
of Scripture during the
primary weekly
corporate worship
service.

Observation 3

We are told not to
cause anyone to violate
their conscience

Romans 14:20-23

²⁰ Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God.

Everything is indeed
clean, but it is wrong
for anyone to make
another stumble by

what he eats. ²¹ It is
good not to eat meat
or drink wine or do
anything that causes

your brother to
stumble. ²² The faith
that you have, keep
between yourself and
God.

Blessed is the one
who has no reason to
pass judgment on
himself for what he

approves. ²³ But
whoever has doubts
is condemned if he
eats, because the

eating is not from
faith. For whatever
does not proceed
from faith is sin.

Observation 4

The combination of
observations 2 & 3

Conclusion

The public exposition
of Scripture during
the primary weekly

corporate worship
service will be done by
either Elders or Elder-
qualified people.

Other

conclusions

When engaging with
the Church around us,
we will honor titles
given.

Other than Elder-
exclusive functions,
no other work is
gender exclusive.

Formal discipleship pairings should be same-gender pairings.

Q & A