



Equal in Christ: A Biblical Case for Women in Leadership

1. Consider the following positions on women in leadership. If you grew up in the church, which position did your church(es) hold? How would you describe your own position? Why do you hold this position?

Hard Complementarianism: God ordained men to have authority and for women to submit to their leadership. Women must submit to their husbands in the home and to male leadership in the church. Women are not to assume any leadership roles even in society (i.e., any situation where a woman has authority over a man such as a manager of a work team)

Soft Complementarianism: Generally, God ordained men to lead and women to follow, but women may exercise some forms of leadership (e.g., managers at work, possibly deacons at church). Women may not assume the role of a pastor/elder, teaching or leading men in any way. Some describe "tie-breaking authority" in marriage.

The overall view of the complementarian position is that while women are equal to men in worth, their roles given by God differ in marriage, the church, and in society.

Egalitarianism: God ordained men and women to have equal access to positions of leadership in society and the church. Woman may fulfill the role of pastor/elder in a local church. The overall belief is that men and women are fully equal in both their worth *and* the roles that they play in the family, the church, and society.

2. What were the key arguments forwarded for an egalitarian position in the two sermons? What are your thoughts on these arguments?
3. In the second sermon, Pastor Steve argued that although complementarians and egalitarians differ on some key points (e.g., ordaining women pastors) the foundational ways in which men and women relate to one another ought to look pretty similar. What did he mean by this? Do you agree?
4. How would you feel if Thrive/ICC adopted an egalitarian position regarding women in church leadership?