

Gender Equality

Gender equality is important because inequality restricts your potential to become all God created you to be.

1. The bible assumes and celebrates men and women as equal
2. If we work hard to confront stereotypes we'll all benefit enormously
3. Women and men have free rein to be who they are in this church

Galatians 3:26-28 *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, **nor is there male and female**, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 *Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. And so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

*God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, **but that its parts should have equal concern for each other**. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.*

Exercise

Which of these behaviours would you say is typically masculine or feminine or equal?

1. Being a leader with authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Being an advocate for small children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Making plans to have a party with friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Crying in public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Taking action after getting angry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Caring for the sick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Teaching in church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Spending quality time with friends of own sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Rescuing someone from hostile situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Being a peacemaker in an aggressive situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Asking for help	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Making sure relatives are cared for as they get old	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Taking risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Cooking breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Confronting people over their hypocrisy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Jenny Baker, Equals www.waterstones.com/book/equals/jenny-baker/

Anne Atkins, Split Image www.abebooks.co.uk

www.richnathan.org/article/why-vineyard-columbus-encourages-women-to-preach-pastor-church-plant/

Men and women are created equal:

Equally human

Genesis 1:27 God created mankind in His own image ... male and female He created them.

1 Corinthians 11:12 so as woman came from man so every man comes from woman.

Equal in value

Equal Pay Act – 40 years ago

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10:10 "the worker is worth his or her keep"

Equal rights

Philippians 2:6,7 Christ Jesus ... did not consider equality with God something to be grasped but made himself nothing, taking the nature of a servant, ...

Human Rights Acts - 1948

Equal in intelligence

Luke 10: 38-42 Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said ... Mary has chosen what is better.

Equal in potential

Psalms 139:13-16 you created my inmost being ... I am fearfully and wonderfully made All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Equal in faith

John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Acts 2:18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days and they will prophesy.

What about gender equality in the church?

Complementarianism & Egalitarianism

There are five bible passages which lead some to take a complementarian position. However I interpret these from an egalitarian perspective. What do you think?

- Genesis 2&3
- 1 Timothy 2:11-15
- 1 Corinthians 11:3
- 1 Corinthians 14:34
- Ephesians 5:22