

<https://glenwoodchurch.com/resources/women-in-the-church>

Link to view the announcement that was made at the conclusion of the study:

- <https://vimeo.com/210312754>

## Women's Study Resources

Dear Glenwood Church Family:

On September 18, 2016, we launched a congregational study on women's roles in the worship assembly. The Task Force, Bible Study Team, and Prayer Team engaged in much thought, conversation, planning and prayer throughout our congregational discernment process. We conducted an intentional, structured, prayerful, and co-discerning process that focused on the question, "Does Scripture permit increased roles for women in the worship services of the church?" During the study phase of the process, we examined the various positions, biblical texts and interpretations that must be considered in an effort to determine a congregational response to this important and often sensitive subject.

On March 26, 2017, Roger McCown made an announcement on behalf of the Shepherds regarding the conclusion of the women's study. [Watch the recording of the announcement](#) and [download the survey results handout](#) that was distributed at the end of the service.

[VIEW THE ANNOUNCEMENT](#) | [DOWNLOAD THE HANDOUT](#)

To our Glenwood family, thank you for engaging this study with a prayerful, listening, and loving presence. Our continued prayer is that we will love one another, encourage each other, and learn how to seek God's will for us as a community of His people.

The following resources were made available to our members in their personal studies of this topic. They represent a variety of perspectives, and we hope they will provide more clarity as to why Christ-followers often approach this subject differently from one another.

SCROLL DOWN FOR MORE

TIMELINE FOR OUR STUDY

## PRESENTATIONS

**September 18:** "God Is Faithful," Glenwood Shepherds—a one-day combined adult class in the Worship Center ([Watch the presentation.](#))

**October 9:** "What's a Woman to Do? A Dialogue on the Public Roles of Women in the Church," Jeff Childers, via video presentation—a combined adult class in the Worship Center ([Watch the presentation.](#))

**November 4–6:** "How to Study Women's Roles in the Church," Ken Cukrowski—a weekend seminar (Watch the presentations: [Session 1](#), [Session 2](#), [Session 3](#), [Session 4](#) | Download the handouts: [Handouts 1–4](#), [Handouts 5–7](#))

**January 8:** "Various Views of Women's Roles in the Church," John Mark Hicks—a combined adult class in the Worship Center ([Listen to the presentation](#) | [Download the study guide](#))

**January 15:** "Women in the Old Testament," Mark Hamilton—a combined adult class in the Worship Center ([Watch the presentation](#) | [Download the study guide](#))

**January 22:** "Jesus and Women in the Gospels," John York—a combined adult class in the Worship Center ([Watch the presentation](#) | [Download the study guide](#))

**January 29:** "The Role of Women in the Letters of Paul," James Thompson—a combined adult class in the Worship Center ([Watch the presentation](#) | [Download the study guide](#))

## LISTENING GROUPS

Listening Groups were hosted by the Shepherds as an opportunities for members to voice questions and concerns they had about the process.

- Sunday, October 9, 2:30 p.m., Chapel
- Sunday, November 13, 2:30 p.m., Chapel

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

Discussion Groups were held on Sunday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. after each guest speaker in January. Discussion Groups were large group discussions of the specific material presented the speakers. Each speakers provided a study guide with discussion questions.

## FOCUS GROUPS

Focus Groups were small group discussions of 10–12 people led by two shepherds per group. Multiple Focus Groups met during each of the four sessions. Focus Groups were designed so that we could listen to each other, share what we had learned throughout the process, and let the Shepherds hear from the members.

- Sunday, February 5, 1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 8, 6:30 p.m. (Childcare provided)
- Sunday, February 12, 1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 p.m. (Childcare provided)

# 40 DAYS OF PRAYER

The Prayer Team invited the congregation to participate in 40 Days of Prayer beginning February 5. A prayer calendar was made available with suggested topics for each day. ([Download the 40 Days of Prayer calendar.](#))

## FROM THE ELDERS

As part of the ongoing communication from the elders to the congregation, these documents were created to answer some of the questions being asked regarding Glenwood's study of the role of women in the assembly. These responses expressed the general sense of the elders and were intended to help those interested learn more about these issues and to encourage input from the congregation.

[MARCH: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

[APRIL: FORMATION OF TASK FORCE](#)

[MAY: TASK FORCE IS AT WORK](#)

[JUNE: JOURNEY OF FAITH](#)

[JULY: TASK FORCE IS AT WORK](#)

[JULY: UPDATE FROM THE TASK FORCE](#)

[AUGUST: TIMELINE FOR OUR STUDY](#)

[SEPTEMBER: TIMELINE FOR OUR STUDY](#)

[OCTOBER: OUR STUDY HAS BEGUN](#)

[NOVEMBER: FAQs—LISTENING GROUP ONE](#)

[DECEMBER: WOMEN'S STUDY TIMELINE](#)

[JANUARY: JANUARY SCHEDULE](#)

[FEBRUARY: 40 DAYS OF PRAYER](#)

[MARCH: CONCLUDING OUR STUDY](#)

## BIBLICAL TEXTS

### Biblical Texts Often Cited in the Study of Women's Roles

*This list is not exhaustive, yet should assist one's personal study of the topic.*

## OLD TESTAMENT

### The Creation/Fall Narrative

- Genesis 1–3 (especially 1:26–27; 2:18–24; 3:16)

### Women Prophets

- Exodus 15:20 (see 4:13–16; 7:1–2; cf. Micah 6:4)
- Judges 4:4
- Isaiah 8:3
- II Kings 22:8–20
- II Chronicles 34:14–28
- Joel 2:28–29

### Women Musicians

- Exodus 15:20–21
- Judges 5
- I Samuel 2:1–10; 18:6–7; 21:11; 29:5
- II Samuel 1:24
- II Chronicles 35:25
- Jeremiah 9:17–22
- Lamentations 1:4
- Ezekiel 32:16
- Ezra 2:65
- Nehemiah 7:67

## NEW TESTAMENT

### Women Prophets

- Luke 2:36
- Acts 2:17-18 (Joel 2:28-29)
- Acts 21:9
- I Corinthians 11:5

### Women Disciples

- Luke 8:1-3; 10:38-42
- John 4:1-42

### Women as the First Gospel Proclaimers

- Matthew 28:1-10
- Mark 16:1-11
- Luke 24:1-10

### Men and Women as One in Christ

- Galatians 3:28

### Women Deacons

- Romans 16:1-2 (cf. I Timothy 3:11: "wives of deacons" or "female deacons"?)

### Women Teachers

- Acts 18:24-28

### Household Codes

- Ephesians 5:21-6:9
- Colossians 3:12-4:6
- I Peter 2:11-3:22

### Women Praying and Prophesying

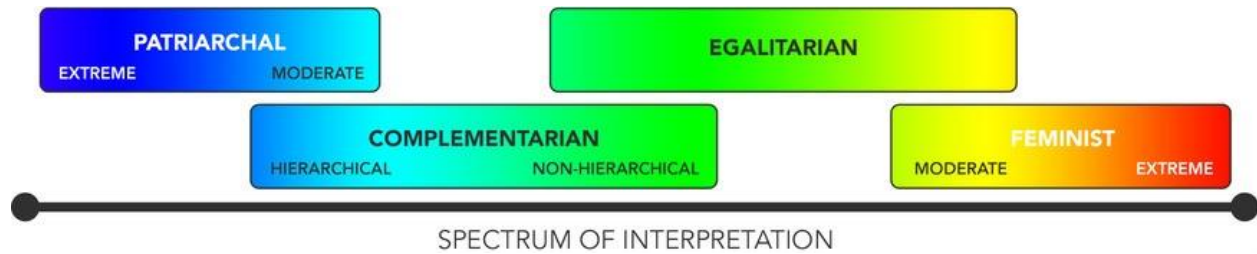
- I Corinthians 11:2-16

### Paul's Instructions to the Corinthian Church

- I Corinthians 14:26-40

### Paul's Instructions to Timothy

- I Timothy 2:8-15



## Description of Terms

**Patriarchal (extreme):** Men are required to rule over women in personal life, home, marriage, religious institutions, and society.

**Patriarchal (moderate)\*:** Subordination of women to men is considered voluntary rather than required. Leadership, not rulership, is the preferred terminology. There are strong similarities between moderate patriarchy and hierarchical complementarian.

**Complementarian (hierarchical)\*:** This term stresses the complementary "difference" or "distinction" between genders and affirms male hierarchy. The complementary "role" of women is to be in subjection to, under the final authority of, and led by men in the home and in the church.

**Complementarian (non-hierarchical)\*\*:** There are complementary "differences" between the genders, yet without an emphasis on male hierarchy (chain of command). This term avoids seeing the genders as identical, interchangeable, or basically the same.

**Egalitarian\*\*:** This term stresses the "biblical equality" between genders without referring to an essential sameness or interchangeability of male and female. It suggests that the Bible does not teach a stereotyped gender "role" in which women are subordinate to men.

**Feminist (moderate)\*\*:** In moderate feminism there is equal worth, justice, privilege, standing, opportunity for service, and leadership of women in all spheres of life: home, marriage, church, and social structures. However, this view maintains significant gender distinctions.

**Feminist (extreme):** In extreme feminism, gender distinctions are blurred and female hierarchy is often assumed.

\* There are strong similarities between moderate patriarchalism and hierarchical complementarianism.

\*\* There are similarities between non-hierarchical complementarianism and egalitarianism, and perhaps moderate feminism as well.

ARTICLES & PAPERS

## FROM A TRADITIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Ferguson, Everett. Two papers delivered at the 2012 ACU Summit.

- ["Women in the Church: Doctrinal Considerations"](#)
- ["Women in the Church: New Testament Texts"](#)

Lewis, C. S. A tract published in 1948.

- ["Priestesses in the Church"](#)

Lewis, Jack P. A paper delivered in Malibu, California in 1992.

- ["Women's Role in Worship"](#)

Lightfoot, Neil R. A paper delivered in 1993.

- ["Wives, Be Subject to Your Husbands"](#)

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood



- [Complementarianism and Eschatology: Engaging Gordon Fee's "New Creation" Egalitarianism](#)
- [The Danvers Statement](#)
- [Resource Library](#)

## FROM A GENDER-INCLUSIVE PERSPECTIVE

Boyd, Greg.

- ["Women, Leadership and the Bible"](#)
- ["Some Thoughts on Women in Ministry"](#)

Leaven: A Journal of Christian Ministry

- [Gender-Inclusion among Churches of Christ](#)
- [Gender-Inclusion in Christian Churches](#)

Pauls, Dale. Published by Stamford Church of Christ in 1998.

- ["Seven Questions: On Faith, Gender, and the Church"](#)

Pulley, Kathy J. An article in Leaven, Spring 1996.

- ["Change Factors Affecting Women in the Local Church"](#)

Viola, Frank

- ["Reimagining a Woman's Role in the Church: An Open Letter"](#)

Wright, N. T. A paper presented at a 2004 conference in Durham, England.

- ["Women's Service in the Church: The Biblical Basis"](#)

## MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

- [Summaries of the Egalitarian and Complementarian Positions](#)

*If you would like a printed copy of any the above resources, please [contact the church office](#).*

Expanded Study Guides

Piper, John and Grudem, Wayne.

- [Fifty Crucial Questions: An Overview of Central Concerns about Manhood and Womanhood. Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, 1992.](#)

Robinson, Thomas.

- [A Community Without Barriers: Women in the New Testament and the Church Today. Manhattan Church of Christ, 2010.](#)

*If you would like a printed copy of any the above resources, please [contact the church office](#).*

BOOKS

## **FROM A TRADITIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

[\*Jesus, Justice, and Gender Roles: A Case for Gender Roles in Ministry\*, by Kathy Keller](#)

[\*Man and Woman: A Divine Invention\*, by Alice von Hildebrand](#)

[\*Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood\*, by Piper and Grudem](#)

[\*Seven Women and the Secret of Their Greatness\*, by Eric Metaxas](#)

[\*Women in the Church\*, by Everett Ferguson](#)

## FROM A GENDER-INCLUSIVE PERSPECTIVE

[\*Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity Without Hierarchy\*, by Pierce, Groothuis, and Fee](#)

[\*How I Changed My Mind About Women in Leadership: Compelling Stories from Prominent Evangelicals\*, Alan F. Johnson, ed.](#)

[\*Man and Woman, One in Christ\*, by Philip Payne](#)

[\*Partners in Christ: A Conservative Case for Egalitarianism\*, by John Stackhouse](#)

[\*Women in the Church: Reclaiming the Ideal\*, by Carroll Osburn](#)

## MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

[\*Two Views on Women in Ministry\*, by Gundry, Beck, Belleville, Blomberg, Keener, and Schreiber](#)