



## Statement on Women

Since the role of men and women is a controversial issue in which devout and sincere Christians disagree and since it seems to be a major issue of debate within the contemporary church and society we feel it is necessary to identify the principles by which our church will speak to the issue. The leadership of the church has struggled with these issues and believes that the following is the most biblical approach to the problem. Having said this we also wish to remain open to correction from others who may understand the scriptures more clearly.

1. Both men and women are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).
2. Both men and women are equal before God as persons (Galatians 3:26-29).
3. Both men and women have worth, value, ability and intelligence and should be treated with love and respect (I Samuel 25:3, Ps 139:13).
4. Men and women are distinct in their manhood and womanhood.
5. Biblical leadership is servant leadership (Luke 22:25-27).
6. All believers both men and women are empowered by the Holy Spirit and gifted to do ministry (Acts 2: 17-21).
7. Women should not hold positions of final human spiritual authority in the church. This would restrict a woman from serving as an Overseer, Teaching Pastor or Senior Pastor. (I Timothy 3:1-13) This would not restrict women in areas such as teacher, preaching, worship leader or associate staff.
8. All believers are called to submit in some way (Romans 13:1;5, I Corinthians 16:15-16, Ephesians 5:21; Hebrews 12:9; 13:17, James 4:7, I Peter 2:13). In the scriptures submission is never looked on as a position of weakness but rather as one of strength. The ultimate example of this is the birth, life and death of Jesus (Philippians 2:1-11).
9. Women may take positions of leadership, teaching and spiritual authority as long as she is willingly and joyfully under the authority of her own husband, the Overseers of the church and the Senior Pastor.
10. Men and women are meant to complement each other in marriage. Husbands are to offer humble, loving, gentle Christ-like servant leadership in the home while wives should offer intelligent, willing submission to the husband's leadership. (Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:18-22; I Peter 3:1-7).
11. Because of sin the relationship between men and women has been perverted. This has caused great injustice, disrespect and abuse against women. We reject all such abuse and believe the church should work to end all such behavior (Genesis 3:26-29).