



WAYMAKER.CHURCH

ON GENDER AND LEADERSHIP

As Waymaker.Church continues to walk in obedience to our calling to share the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection with the world, we find it necessary to articulate our position on the role of gender in the leadership of our local church. We, the elders and leaders of Waymaker.Church, desire to clearly describe what Waymaker.Church believes about gender roles and leadership to provide unity in faith and mission. As such, we offer the following observations and affirmations, supported by Scripture, to outline our beliefs.

WE OBSERVE Humanity is created in the image of God as male and female. (Genesis 1:27)

WE OBSERVE Males and females possess equal authority and responsibility in the creation mandate to "Fill the earth and govern it," yet, pre-fall God established distinct gender roles for humanity. (Genesis 1:28, Genesis 2:18-25, 1 Corinthians 11:7-9)

WE OBSERVE Sin warps the relationship between men and women in the family and the church with both genders becoming power-hungry, passive, and resistant to authority. (Genesis 3:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:10-11)

WE OBSERVE Throughout the Old Testament women exercised prophecy and leadership at high levels of influence. (Exodus 15:20, Judges 4:4, Esther 4:14)

WE OBSERVE Throughout Jesus' ministry, He protected and defended women and empowered and commissioned them to proclaim His Kingdom. (John 8:10, John 11:5, Luke 8:2-3, John 4:25-30, John 20:17-18)

WE OBSERVE The death and resurrection of Jesus restores relationships distorted by sin, including the relationship between men and women. Thus, all believers have equal value and authority in Christ's Kingdom. (Romans 15:5-6, Ephesians 2:14-16, Galatians 3:28)

WE OBSERVE The model of leadership in both the family and church is one of mutual submission and humility. (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Corinthians 16:13-18, 1 Timothy 5:1-3)



WE OBSERVE Scripture establishes male responsibility and headship within the family, modeled after the sacrificial servant leadership of Jesus. (Ephesians 5:21-33, Colossians 3:18-19, Philippians 2:1-11, 1 Peter 3:1-12)

WE OBSERVE The New Testament contains instructions and qualifications for church leaders of both genders. (1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 2:1-6)

WE OBSERVE Women exercised influence and leadership in the first-century church and, in his epistles, Paul greets women as fellow leaders in the church. (Acts 16:14-15, Acts 18:26, Romans 16:1, Romans 16:3, Romans 16:7, Philippians 4:2-3, 1 Timothy 3:11)

WE OBSERVE Paul provides instruction to both genders for the practice of spiritual gifts—including teaching and prophecy. (Romans 15:14, 1 Corinthians 11:5-6, 1 Corinthians 12:1-6)

WE OBSERVE The governing leaders of the first-century church (the Twelve Apostles) were exclusively male. (Matthew 10:1-4, Acts 1:13, Acts 1:21-22)

WE OBSERVE There are passages in the New Testament that direct the conduct of women in the gathering of the local church. (1 Corinthians 11:1-16, 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, 1 Timothy 2:11-15, Titus 2:3-5)

BASED ON THESE OBSERVATIONS, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING AFFIRMATIONS:

WE BELIEVE Passages that provide interpretive challenges must be interpreted in light of their historical and cultural context, easier to interpret passages, and the overall Biblical story.

WE BELIEVE Scripture describes the normative practices of God's people, and in the absence of clear prohibition or guidance, the church operates in freedom and grace.

WE BELIEVE Both men and women equally bear the image of God, and thus equally carry God's delegated authority to build His Kingdom.



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WE BELIEVE The indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the outpouring of specific spiritual gifts are not restricted by gender.

WE BELIEVE Scripture sets a precedent for the governing leadership of the church to mirror God's design for the family by being exclusively male.

WE BELIEVE The normative picture of the church in the New Testament is one in which men and women both exercise leadership and teaching gifts.

THEREFORE:

AT WAYMAKER.CHURCH WE BELIEVE Men and women are equally empowered by the Holy Spirit to teach and lead.

AT WAYMAKER.CHURCH WE BELIEVE We are called to develop, launch, and empower teachers and leaders of both genders.

AT WAYMAKER.CHURCH WE BELIEVE the roles of governing elder and lead pastor are restricted to males.

If you have further questions about this statement or any other doctrines or beliefs Waymaker.Church has, please email questions@waymaker.church for further information.



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FURTHER READING

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