

O Sister, Where Art Thou?

*Women in the
Ancient Church*

Part One

Introduction



D. L. Moody and the Early Moody Bible Institute



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D. L. Moody and the Early Moody Bible Institute



“MBI women openly served as pastors, evangelists, pulpit supply preachers, Bible teachers and even in the ordained ministry.”

“Consequently, the early MBI stands as an appropriate educational symbol of ‘fundamentalist feminism’.”

Janette Hassey



**Is the Church a
He-Man Women-
Haters Club?**



This is not just a Christian issue, nor is it a Western issue!

Three Concerns:

In the Home

In Church Ministry

In Society

Christian Denominations on the Ordination of Women

Christian Denominations on the Ordination of Women

YES

Episcopal Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Many Pentecostal Churches

United Methodist Church

Society of Friends (Quakers)

Willow Creek Church & Many Evangelicals

NO

Roman Catholic

Eastern Orthodox Churches

Presbyterian Church in America

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Southern Baptist Convention

Fundamentalist & Many Evangelicals

What do the Christian Leaders have to Say?

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F.F. Bruce- YES

“If he (Holy Spirit) manifestly withheld the gifts of teaching or leadership from Christian women, then we should accept that as evidence of his will (1 Cor. 12:11). But experience shows that he bestows these and other gifts, with ‘undistinguishing regard’, on men and women alike—not on all women, of course, nor yet on all men. That being so, it is unsatisfactory to rest with a halfway house in this issue of women’s ministry, where they are allowed to pray and prophesy, but not to teach or lead.”



What do the Christian Leaders have to Say?

J. I. Packer- NO

“Is there not a better way of benefiting from women’s ministry than by ordaining them?”



What do the Christian Leaders have to Say?

YES

N.T. Wright

Walter Kaiser Jr.



NO

Wayne A. Grudem

John Piper

What Would C. S. Lewis Say?



**Council for Biblical Equality
(CBE)**

**Council on Biblical Manhood and
Womanhood (CBMW)**

Council for Biblical Equality
(CBE)

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Womanhood (CBMW)

BOTH

Identify as Evangelical

Teach Christ as Central

Hold Scripture as Authoritative

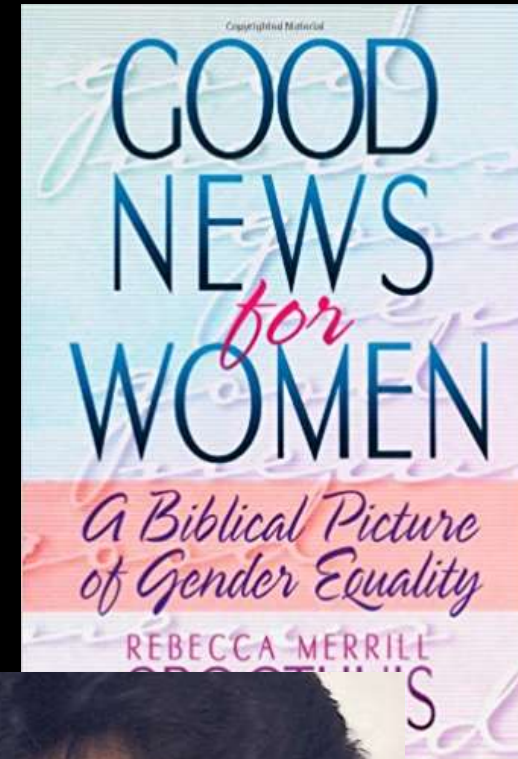
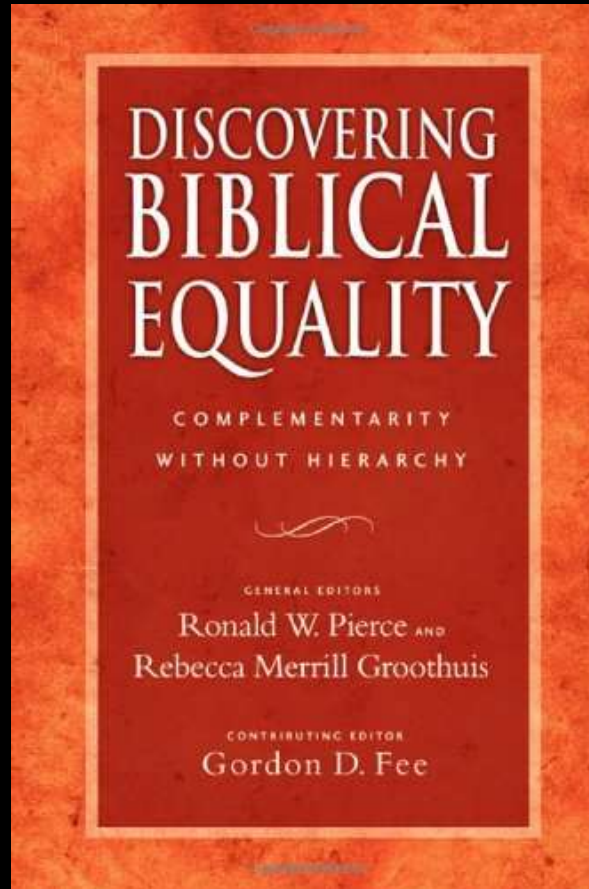
Council for Biblical Equality (CBE)



Ronald Pierce



Linda Belleville



Rebecca Groothuis

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<https://www.cbeinternational.org>

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Mission Statement

“CBE exists to promote biblical justice and community by educating Christians that the Bible calls women and men to share authority equally in service and leadership in the home, church, and world.”

Council for Biblical Equality (CBE)

Core Values

1. Scripture is our authoritative guide for faith, life, and practice.
2. Patriarchy (male dominance) is not a biblical ideal but a result of sin.
3. Patriarchy is an abuse of power, taking from females what God has given them: their dignity, and freedom, their leadership, and often their very lives.
4. While the Bible reflects patriarchal culture, the Bible does not teach patriarchy in human relationships.

Council for Biblical Equality (CBE)

Core Values

5. Christ's redemptive work frees all people from patriarchy, calling women and men to share authority equally in service and leadership.
6. God's design for relationships includes faithful marriage between a man and a woman, celibate singleness and mutual submission in Christian community.
7. The unrestricted use of women's gifts is integral to the work of the Holy Spirit and essential for the advancement of the gospel in the world.

Council for Biblical Equality (CBE)

Core Values

8. Followers of Christ are to oppose injustice and patriarchal teachings and practices that marginalize and abuse females and males.

9. The Bible “teaches gender equality in church, home and society.”

Council for Biblical Equality (CBE)

“The essential message of biblical equality is simple and straightforward: Gender, in and of itself, neither privileges nor curtails one’s ability to be used to advance the kingdom or to glorify God in any dimension of ministry, mission, or family.”

“Biblical equality, therefore, denies that there is any created or otherwise God-ordained hierarchy *based solely on gender.*”

Council for Biblical Equality (CBE)

In the Beginning: Male and female were equal.

Due to the Fall: There is a divide and patriarchal hierarchy.

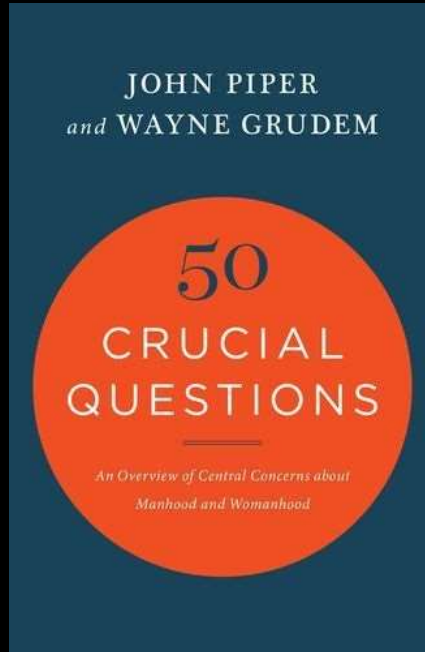
Christ: Heals and restores equality.

New Creation: Equality fully restored.

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW)



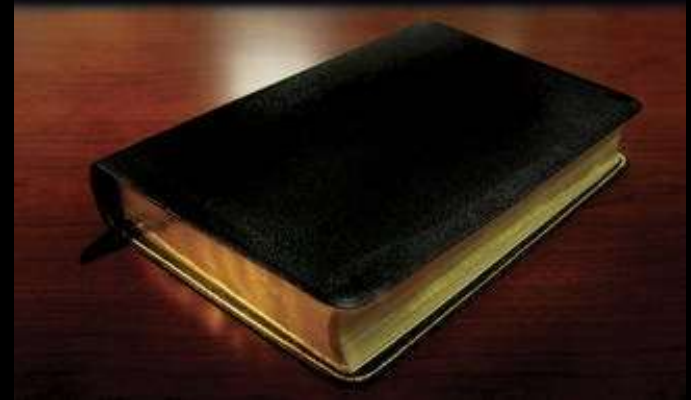
John Piper



Wayne Grudem
EDITOR
BIBLICAL
FOUNDATIONS FOR
MANHOOD AND
WOMANHOOD



Wayne A. Grudem



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<https://cbmw.org/>

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Mission

“The mission of The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood is to set forth the teachings of the Bible about the complementary differences between men and women, created equally in the image of God, because these teachings are essential for obedience to Scripture and for the health of the family and the church.”

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW)

The Danvers Statement

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW)

The Danvers Statement

Based on our understanding of Biblical teachings, we affirm the following:

Both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW)

The Danvers Statement

Adam's headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall, and was not a result of sin.

The Fall introduced distortions into the relationships between men and women.

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW)

The Danvers Statement

Both Old and New Testaments also affirm the principle of male headship in the family and in the covenant community.

Redemption in Christ aims at removing the distortions introduced by the curse.

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The Danvers Statement

In the home, the husband's loving, humble headship tends to be replaced by domination or passivity; the wife's intelligent, willing submission tends to be replaced by usurpation or servility.

In the church, sin inclines men toward a worldly love of power or an abdication of spiritual responsibility, and inclines women to resist limitations on their roles or to neglect the use of their gifts in appropriate ministries.

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW)

The Danvers Statement

In the church, redemption in Christ gives men and women an equal share in the blessings of salvation; nevertheless, some governing and teaching roles within the church are restricted to men.

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW)

Men and women equally share in the image of God,
but not their roles in life and ministry.

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW)

- In the Beginning:* Male and female have different roles.
Women were subordinate.
- Due to the Fall:* Distorts relationships.
- Christ:* Heals the broken relationships.
- New Creation:* Original order restored (Patriarchy)

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Hold Scripture as Authoritative

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Egalitarian

Hierarchical

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Egalitarian

Patriarchy is result of sin

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Hierarchical

Patriarchy is God's idea

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Egalitarian

Patriarchy is result of sin

Leadership is based on gifts

**Council on Biblical Manhood and
Womanhood (CBMW)**

Hierarchical

Patriarchy is God's idea

Leadership is based on gifts
and gender

Council for Biblical Equality (CBE)

Egalitarian

Patriarchy is result of sin

Leadership is based on gifts

Hermeneutics focused on
historical context

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW)

Hierarchical

Patriarchy is God's idea

Leadership is based on gifts
and gender

Hermeneutics focused on the
universal



Complementarianism



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The *complementarian* view of **Hildegard of Bingen** (1098-1179)



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The *complementarian* view of **Hildegard of Bingen** (1098-1179)

Background: Middle Ages
Two Views

Aristotle's

Male and female are opposites.

Jerome's (Plato)

The soul is sexless, male and female are potentially equal.



Complementarianism

The *complementarian* view of **Hildegard of Bingen** (1098-1179)

Hildegard

Held to an equality of male and female together with significant observed and documented differences.



What would John Chrysostom say?



What would John Chrysostom say?

In the Beginning:

Male and female were created equal.

Due to the Fall:

Women became subordinate.

Christ:

Begins to heal the broken relationships, but the curse is still in effect.

New Creation:

Equality restored.



Where are we going?



O Sister, Where Art Thou?

*Christian Women:
Past, Present, &
Future*

