

Does the Bible ever mention “roles” for males/females?

No! No Bible verse exists that distinguishes *roles* between men and women. The Bible never states, “leadership is male” or “cooking is female.” By true definition, *roles* are interchangeable. Multiple people can do the job. Often cultural context determines whether a job is held by a man or woman. But when it comes to Christian leadership, some people have changed the definition of *role*, describing leadership as fixed, permanent, and based on gender.

Key Term

Role

What people do...

Sample “role” questions for men and women:

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| Whose role is baking? | Whose role is being a chef at a restaurant? | Whose role is disciplining children? |
| Whose role is flying airplanes? | Whose role is working in a factory? | Whose role is sewing clothes? |
| Whose role is teaching children? | Whose role is defending helpless people? | Whose role is farming/gardening? |
| Whose role is making the bed? | Whose role is governing a city, state, or nation? | Whose role is weaving baskets? |
| Whose role is cutting lawn grass? | Whose role is news broadcasting? | Whose role is praying? |
| Whose role is changing diapers? | Whose role is managing finances? | Whose role is witnessing the Gospel? |

A brief history of “role subordination”

Most all ancient Church Fathers believed men were over women. Every biblical commentary before the 1960’s stated, “Men were first and superior. Females were secondary and inferior.” But in the 1960’s in the West, the Women’s Rights Movement gained traction, and women gained a stronger voice. Theologians realized the “superior/inferior” vocabulary needed revising because of culture. Certain theologians wondered how they could maintain male dominance, but say it nicely. Then in 1977, the book *The New Testament Teaching on the Role Relationship of Men and Women*. gave hierarchical Christians new terminology... “Men and women are *equal* in **essence**, but *different* in **role**.” Voila! Women were NOT subordinate in *nature* or *being*, but they WERE subordinate in *role*, *function*, and *authority*. Soon, theologians *identified* roles, *ranked* roles, and *closed* certain roles to women. They made female role subordination *permanent*, and many based it on the Trinity to gain support!

The Triune God is eternally unequal (subordinated)? What?!

The author claimed men and women were “different,” meaning “unequal.” To defend his position, he based “role subordination” of male/female within the Trinity! He ranked the work of Father, Son, and Spirit, claiming the Triune Godhead was *eternally unequal* in authority, power, and will. Some current, well-known Bible teachers also claim that the “commanding Father” and “submissive Son” (which we see in the incarnation) extends into eternity. Beware the Bible teacher who distorts the Trinity to defend their position of permanent male dominance and female submission.

God differentiates male and female by biology, not by work.

Conclusion

Leave the Trinity alone! “Roles” are a terrible way to speak with theological accuracy. Men and women are certainly equal in essence, and they are certainly differentiated by gender/biology, not by God’s ability to gift them as he desires. God created both male and female to share dominion of the world!

4 Crucial Questions

1. What does this teach us about **GOD**?
2. What does this teach us about **PEOPLE**?
3. What command should I **OBEY**?
4. With whom can I **SHARE** this?