

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!

Different came to mean “unequal,” rather than simply distinct. *Role* came to mean “a fixed, permanent position,” rather than an interchangeable function (like in acting or in household chores, i.e. “Whose role is it to wash dishes?”)

Forget spiritual giftedness, determined by the Holy Spirit. Never mind the need for multiplied laborers in the Great Commission. Ignore godly character, personality, and experience. Hierarchical theologians now had the vocabulary. Men lead and take charge. It’s their permanent *role*. Women follow and help. It’s their fixed *role* forever.

Five Punches

The enemy smiles as the Church promotes pride, limits laborers, and makes God look bad. Notice five key attacks by the enemy based on our identity as “equal but different.”

1. Men lost their co-equal partner that God intended.
2. Women lost their place to rule alongside men.
3. Non-Christians remain in darkness as fewer Gospel harvesters go out.
4. God’s image is marred with a bad reflection by his image bearers.
5. God’s character looks bad if he intended such a disunified arrangement.

Pray the Church will recognize the harmful impacts of this theology and work to set it right.

Theology vs. Ideology

Our understanding of male and female MUST be grounded in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation! If it is not, we will fall into ideologies that do not align with the kingdom of God. We know we have an ideology, rather than a theology, when we speak inconsistently on the passages regarding men and women, when we add to the text to push an agenda, when we refuse to consider the character and godliness of the people in question.

- “I will never associate with a church with a trace of misogyny in it.” Ideology
- “We will never allow any woman to preach.” Ideology
- “We only allow gifted and godly men and women to lead.” Theology

It’s not that hard to recognize!

May attacks on the IDENTITY of women based on faulty understanding of ROLES be demolished. And may every woman realize her value given by God and walk in her purpose as fitting a redeemed daughter and ambassador of the Almighty God!