



CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

Affirmation of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

The elders, deacons, and members of Crossroads Bible Church are committed to believing, obeying, and teaching the Bible. In all cultures, certain social and political matters give rise to the need for local churches to make clear statements of Biblical clarity about pressing issues. It is to this end that we ask that all of the elders, deacons, and members affirm and adhere to the following two statements concerning Biblical manhood and womanhood. The first is “The Danvers Statement” from the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.¹ The second statement explains our specific practices of men’s and women’s roles in the church.

Danvers Statement

Rationale

We have been moved in our purpose by the following contemporary developments which we observe with deep concern:

1. The widespread uncertainty and confusion in our culture regarding the complementary differences between masculinity and femininity;
2. the tragic effects of this confusion in unraveling the fabric of marriage woven by God out of the beautiful and diverse strands of manhood and womanhood;
3. the increasing promotion given to feminist egalitarianism with accompanying distortions or neglect of the glad harmony portrayed in Scripture between the loving, humble leadership of redeemed husbands and the intelligent, willing support of that leadership by redeemed wives;
4. the widespread ambivalence regarding the values of motherhood, vocational homemaking, and the many ministries historically performed by women;
5. the growing claims of legitimacy for sexual relationships which have Biblically and historically been considered illicit or perverse, and the increase in pornographic portrayal of human sexuality;
6. the upsurge of physical and emotional abuse in the family;
7. the emergence of roles for men and women in church leadership that do not conform to Biblical teaching but backfire in the crippling of Biblically faithful witness;
8. the increasing prevalence and acceptance of hermeneutical oddities devised to reinterpret apparently plain meanings of Biblical texts;
9. the consequent threat to Biblical authority as the clarity of Scripture is jeopardized and the accessibility of its meaning to ordinary people is withdrawn into the restricted realm of technical ingenuity;
10. and behind all this the apparent accommodation of some within the church to the spirit of the age at the expense of winsome, radical Biblical authenticity which in the power of the Holy Spirit may reform rather than reflect our ailing culture.



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Affirmations

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

1. Both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood (Gen 1:26-27, 2:18).
2. Distinctions in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order, and should find an echo in every human heart (Gen 2:18, 21-24; 1 Cor 11:7-9; 1 Tim 2:12-14).
3. Adam's headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall, and was not a result of sin (Gen 2:16-18, 21-24, 3:1-13; 1 Cor 11:7-9).
4. The Fall introduced distortions into the relationships between men and women (Gen 3:1-7, 12, 16).
 1. 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.
 2. 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.
5. The Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, manifests the equally high value and dignity which God attached to the roles of both men and women (Gen 1:26-27, 2:18; Gal 3:28). Both Old and New Testaments also affirm the principle of male headship in the family and in the covenant community (Gen 2:18; Eph 5:21-33; Col 3:18-19; 1 Tim 2:11-15).
6. Redemption in Christ aims at removing the distortions introduced by the curse.
 - A. In the family, husbands should forsake harsh or selfish leadership and grow in love and care for their wives; wives should forsake resistance to their husbands' authority and grow in willing, joyful submission to their husbands' leadership (Eph 5:21-33; Col 3:18-19; Tit 2:3-5; 1 Pet 3:1-7).
 - B. 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 (Gal 3:28; 1 Cor 11:2-16; 1 Tim 2:11-15).
7. In all of life Christ is the supreme authority and guide for men and women, so that no earthly submission—domestic, religious, or civil—ever implies a mandate to follow a human authority into sin (Dan 3:10-18; Acts 4:19-20, 5:27-29; 1 Pet 3:1-2).
8. In both men and women a heartfelt sense of call to ministry should never be used to set aside Biblical criteria for particular ministries (1 Tim 2:11-15, 3:1-13; Tit 1:5-9). Rather, Biblical teaching should remain the authority for testing our subjective discernment of God's will.
9. With half the world's population outside the reach of indigenous evangelism; with countless other lost people in those societies that have heard the gospel; with the stresses and miseries of sickness, malnutrition, homelessness, illiteracy, ignorance, aging, addiction, crime, incarceration, neuroses, and loneliness, no man or woman who feels a passion from God to make His grace known in word and deed need ever live without a fulfilling ministry for the glory of Christ and the good of this fallen world (1 Cor 12:7-21).



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10. We are convinced that a denial or neglect of these principles will lead to increasingly destructive consequences in our families, our churches, and the culture at large.

The Practice of Men's & Women's Roles at Crossroads Bible Church

1. The local church is a picture of the entire body of Christ. Therefore, both men and women who demonstrate faith in Christ and commit themselves to one another are able to become members of Crossroads Bible Church (1 Cor. 12:13, Gal. 3:23-29).
2. As members of the body of Christ, both men and women are given the Holy Spirit and are graced with gifts that ought to be used for the mutual upbuilding of the church (1 Cor. 12:4-7, 1 Pet. 4:10).
3. The Bible teaches that church leadership is designated to elders, who are to be men of exemplary Christ-like character. The office and responsibilities of elders should not be pursued by women, even in the absence of men (1 Tim. 2:8-15, 1 Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-5).
 - A. Women are encouraged to pursue ministries under the authority, guidance, and accountability of the elders.
 - B. Roles of teaching and oversight should be reserved for men in situations where other men, or the entire body, will be participating. Women who are gifted and called to teach the Bible and exercise oversight should do so in ministries expressly offered to other women, youthⁱⁱ, or children, under the loving leadership of the church elders (1 Tim. 2:8-15).
 - i. The authoritative teaching ministry of Crossroads Bible Church is the exposition and application of Biblical truth as represented by the EFCA Statement of Faith. Settings where the exposition of the Scriptures to adult mixed groups is the primary goal will be reserved for men under the authority of the elders. Other roles of instruction at Crossroads Bible Church will be subject to the approval and oversight of the elders. Private, personal, or casual teaching of the Scriptures outside of the oversight of Crossroads Bible Church should be approached with diligence and care, and counsel from the elders is encouraged.
4. We affirm that both men and women are able to serve as deacons (or deaconesses) who operate under the authority of the elders (1 Tim. 3:8-13).

This document was officially adopted by the membership of Crossroads Bible Church on August 2, 2015.

Tim Karr _____
Elder

Justin Bolles _____
Leadership Council Member

Cheryl Champlin _____
Secretary

ⁱ Used with permission. The Danvers statement as well as a list of contributors can be found at the Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood's website: <http://cbmw.org/core-beliefs/>

ⁱⁱ "Youth" is defined as anyone under the age of 18