



Mid-Cities Community Church
Position Paper
Women's Role in Church Leadership
July 21st, 2016

Introduction:

As an elder team at Mid-Cities we have discussed, prayed, and studied the scriptures to determine what God's desire for women's leadership roles within the local church are as expressed in the Bible. We believe it is important to provide clarity on our biblical understanding of this important issue to allow men and women at Mid-Cities a way forward to advance the kingdom of God. We believe that ambiguity on this issue is a disservice to women who are trying to discern God's will for their lives and how that intersects with the local church of which they are full members and participants. We desire to see both men and women pursue God's will for their lives and be free to operate in the spiritual gifts and abilities that God has given them both inside and outside the context of the local congregation. For this reason, we have produced a summary statement that includes our understanding of scripture on this important topic.

Summary Statement:

It is the view of Mid-Cities that men and women, being equal image bearers of God, are fully equal in dignity and value before God and one another. Both men and women are equally in need of, and dependent upon, God's grace found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

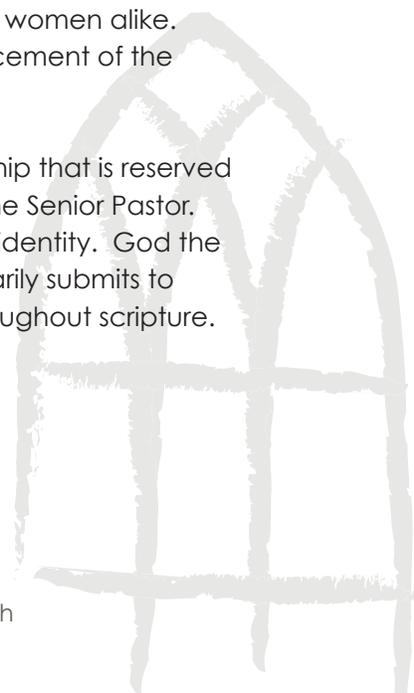
We celebrate the beauty and creativity of the distinctiveness that exist between men and women and we reject the idea that equality equals sameness.

The gift of salvation and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are available for men and women alike. This means that men and women are to be partners in ministry and the advancement of the kingdom of God.

We believe that scripture teaches that there is one role in local church leadership that is reserved for men. That is the role of Elder/Overseer. At Mid-Cities, the lead elder is also the Senior Pastor. We believe that the church and the home are both rooted in God's Trinitarian identity. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are equal and yet the Son voluntarily submits to the Father. We see this structure prescribed in the home and in the Church throughout scripture. Scripture calls this concept "headship."

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We believe women can serve and teach in various gatherings within the church as they are submitted to Christ and submitted to the elders of the church. Clearly women were an integral part of the first century church and filled a number of ministry roles and should be encouraged to do so today. We believe the prohibition for women to teach or have authority over men found in I Timothy 2:11-15 speaks of authoritative teaching engaged in by elders who distinctively judge doctrine and exercise church discipline according to the Word of God within the local church.

Our Desire:

At Mid-Cities, we desire to release men and women in their God-given gifts. We desire to create a culture where both men and women are highly valued for their unique contributions to move forward the vision and mission of the Church. Wherein men and women at Mid-Cities work together as ministry partners under the headship of our local elders, our hope is that the full expression of God's church would come to bear on the Permian Basin and our community through intentionally partnering together.

Biblical References:

Genesis 1:26-27, 31; Joel 2:28; John 8:28-29; Acts 2:17-18, 18:24-28; Romans 2:11, 3:23, 16:1-7; I Corinthians 11:1-16, 12, 14; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:8-16, 5:22-25; Philippians 2:5-8, 4:2; Colossians 3:18-25; I Timothy 2:11-15, 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9, 2; I Peter 3:1-7

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