

So you are a complementarian?

(blue is the letter – red is my reply)

I will say right off the bat that I am a complementarian in my views on gender roles in the family and the church. With that said, I am open to having a discussion about our differing views. If you, or any group asserting some new interpretation and application of Scripture, wants to engage in such a dialogue, I would love to hear your Scriptural basis for such opinions and beliefs. Could you please provide some that both support your view and refute the view you are opposing?

Dear Billy, (name changed)

Complementarian - but. That is way that description should read. Men and women are designed to compliment each other on the basis of their gender is the premise, but we know that we must adhere to the prescribed roles the church has given men and given women. As long as women stay in those "complementary" roles, it is acceptable.

But when a woman feels led by God to express herself outside that role, we forget all about our complementarian views. You see, the only way you can maintain a complementarian view is to be egalitarian.

That doesn't mean "Equal - but." That means being equal in marriage, religious leadership opportunities and elsewhere.

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 says this about equality in the home and marriage.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family.

A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

See that Equal - but? She is equal, but - she must serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation. It is his household and it is his children. She is to be the housekeeper, and caretaker of his children.

Equal - but. She must submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband.

Equal - but. She has equal worth before God, but the rest of the paragraph does not give her equal worth before her husband.

A helper is never equal, no matter how much "worth" we try to give it.

So you want to be a Complementarian. Have you defined just what "but" you are putting to that description?

Remember, Baptists believe in the priesthood of the believer, not the priesthood of a husband.

As far as Scriptural support, we have both read and poured over those scriptures. I can't add any new scriptures to those you already know and have decided what they mean.

Well, now this was interesting, wasn't it? I appreciate you writing. I appreciate this opportunity to further speak about equality for women.

Thank you,

Shirley Taylor
bWe Baptist Women for Equality