

# COMPLEMENTARIANISM :

A DOCTRINAL PERSPECTIVE

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1 The complementarian position affirms the equality of men and women as Gods image bearers

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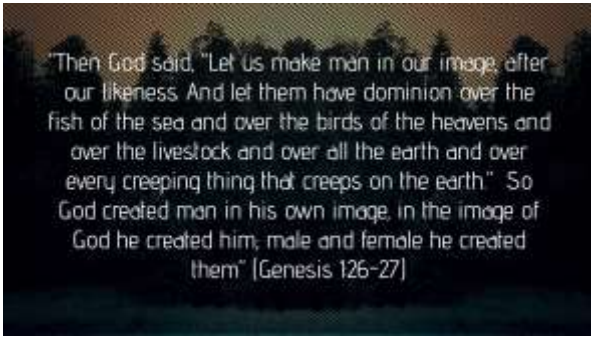
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"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them" [Genesis 1:26-27]

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"For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"  
(Galatians 3:26-28)

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"Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7)

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2. The complementarian position values the significant role women play in the ministry and life of the church

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3 The complementarian position maintains that there are functional/complementary difference between men and women

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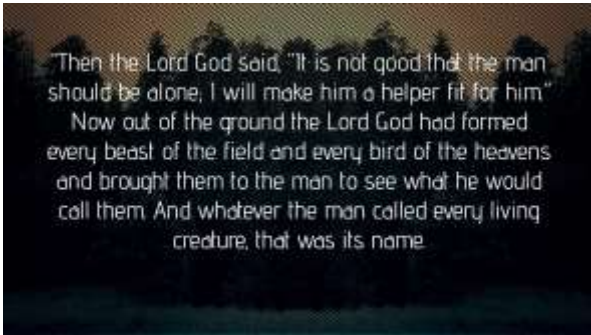
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Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

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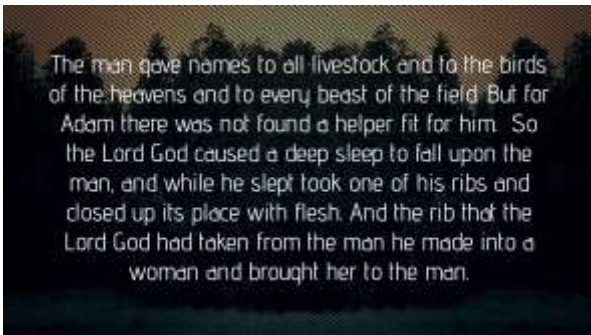
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The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

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Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man"  
(Genesis 2:18-23)

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"But I want you to understand that the head of every  
man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and  
the head of Christ is God"  
(1 Corinthians 11:2)

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"As in all the churches of the saints, the women  
should keep silent in the churches. For they are not  
permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as  
the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to  
learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is  
shameful for a woman to speak in church"  
(1 Corinthians 14:3-35)

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"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

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Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

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In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

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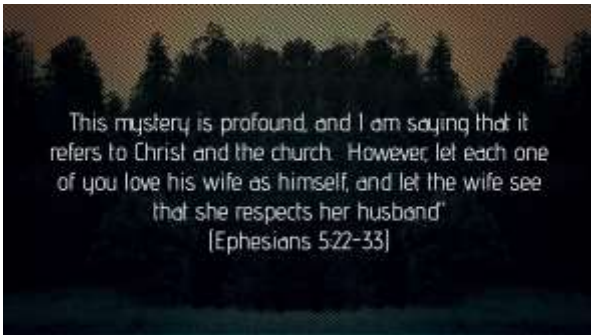
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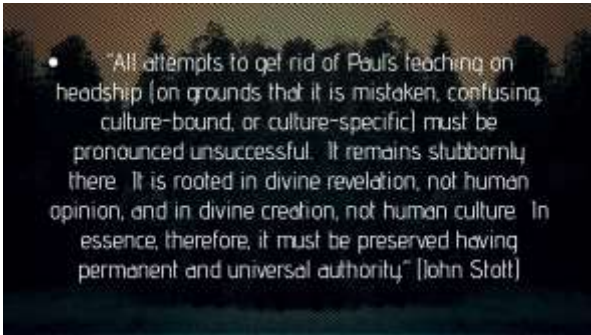
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3. Doesn't **Galatians 3:28** do away with gender specific roles in the church?

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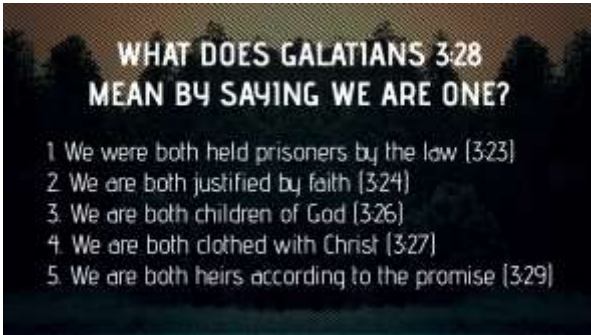
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**WHAT DOES GALATIANS 3:28 MEAN BY SAYING WE ARE ONE?**

- 1. We were both held prisoners by the law [3:23]
- 2. We are both justified by faith [3:24]
- 3. We are both children of God [3:26]
- 4. We are both clothed with Christ [3:27]
- 5. We are both heirs according to the promise [3:29]

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4. Isn't this a recipe for oppression?

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5. Aren't women given the gift of teaching?

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6. Isn't there a double standard when it comes to foreign missionaries?

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