

The complementarian perspective holds that men and women have different but complementary roles and responsibilities in the church and family, which are ordained by God. These roles are seen as equal in value but distinct in function.

Key Scriptural Passages

Complementarians base their views on a number of Bible verses, primarily from the New Testament, which they interpret as assigning different leadership roles to men and women.

- **Genesis 1:26-27:** This passage establishes that both male and female are created in the image of God, emphasizing their equal value and dignity.
 - **Genesis 2:18-24:** The creation narrative of Adam and Eve is foundational. The order of creation (Adam first), Eve being created as a "helper" (ezerkenegdo) for Adam, and the institution of marriage are often interpreted as establishing a pattern of complementary roles.
 - **1 Corinthians 11:3:** "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." This verse is a central text for complementarians, who see it as a clear statement on the hierarchy of authority in the family and church.
 - **Ephesians 5:22-33:** This passage is a cornerstone of complementarian theology. It instructs wives to submit to their husbands "as to the Lord" and husbands to love their wives "as Christ loved the church." The analogy of Christ and the Church is used to explain the sacrificial headship of the husband and the respectful submission of the wife.
 - **1 Timothy 2:11-14:** "A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner." This is one of the most direct and debated passages. Complementarians interpret it as a prohibition on women holding teaching or authoritative positions over men in the church.
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Theological and Organizational Resources

Many organizations and theologians have published extensive works on the complementarian position. These documents often provide detailed exegesis of the scriptural passages mentioned above and address common counterarguments.

- **The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW):** CBMW is a leading organization that advocates for the complementarian view. Their website has numerous articles and resources, including the **Danvers Statement**, which is a foundational document outlining the complementarian position.

- **John Piper and Wayne Grudem:** These prominent theologians have co-edited the book **"Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism"**. This book is considered a comprehensive defense of the complementarian view and is a key text in the discussion.
- **Al Mohler:** As president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Al Mohler has been a vocal proponent of complementarianism. His writings and sermons frequently address the topic.