

IS THE BIBLE SEXIST?

HEAD

1. **Where do we go to understand?**

-search the scriptures – stick to what the scriptures say

- 1 Genesis 1:26-27
- 2 Galatians 3:28
- 3 Isaiah 66:12-13
- 4 John 4:7-10, 27
- 5 Acts 18:24-28



HEART

2. **What questions does this cause you to ask?**

-acknowledge the struggle – do not attempt to answer now

- Does God give preferences?
- Does God care about people in minority positions of power?
- Do my gifts have validity?
- Does God love my husband more than me?
- Is God a Father figure I can't relate to?
- Other?

3. **How do the scriptures above help as you wrestle through your questions?**

-Invite the Spirit into the mystery – use your Bible study to wrestle



**What Chapel Hill's pastors have understood in our wrestling:**

The Bible affirms men and women as equally made in the image of God. Furthermore, Scripture consistently elevates women as leaders and disciples in the midst of cultures that denied women basic dignities.

## HANDS



### **4. How can we talk about this with others?**

-Practice the conversation

- You're talking with a friend who is the parent of a six-year-old. You have a friend who is a successful executive in the workplace. She thinks there is no place in the church for her because, "God is a chauvinist." What do you tell her?
- A woman in your small group confides that she was verbally abused by her father, who was a leader in the church. She has struggled to pray to God since then. How would you invite her to begin her conversations with God?

### **5. Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

*God, give us vision for the perfect image of male and female as you created us. Help us to reflect who you are to a world who needs you. May they see your image in our friendships, work relationships, families, and small groups. Be a perfect Parent for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Additional resources:

- *Is God Intolerant? Oppressive? Sexist? Homophobic? Outdated?* - A book covering a range of topics related to Scripture perspectives on minority communities.
- "Women's Service In the Church: A Biblical Perspective" – An article by N.T. Wright on contentious Scriptures regarding women in leadership roles in the church.

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