

Position Statement

On the Gender Issue in Pastoral Leadership In Fellowship Churches as voted on at National Convention, November 4, 1997

STATEMENT:

1. We believe that the Bible affirms that both men and women are equal as image bearers of God and together share the responsibilities of ruling over creation.
2. As created and ordered by God, men and women are distinct from one another in their maleness and femaleness.
3. While the fall added the dimension of conflict into the male/female relationship, redemption in Christ aims at removing conflict and establishing relational harmony.
4. Within the church men and women have equal standing before God as heirs of the faith and members of the body of Christ, sharing equally as recipients in the distribution of spiritual gifts according to their divinely intended ministries.
5. A basic pattern of functional order exists in the church in which certain designated men are given the responsibility of a teaching, governing ministry. Men not designated to such leadership, as well as women, are to respect and honour their leadership.

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS:

1. In Fellowship Baptist Churches the biblical office of Pastor/Elder/Overseer is for qualified men appointed by the local church to a teaching, governing ministry, thus shaping the doctrine and practice of the church.
2. Churches are expected to call staff members “pastors” only when they qualify for the biblical office of pastor/elder/overseer.

NOTES:

1. For a Biblical understanding that supports these statements we encourage you to see the Danvers Statement of The Council of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.
2. To study further the Biblical perspective, see Gen. 1:26-28, 2:7, 18-25, 3:1-22; Rom 8:16-17, 12:3-8; I Cor. 11:3-9, 12: 1-31; Gal. 3:26-29; Eph. 5:21-33; Phil. 2:3-4; Col. 3:12-19; I Tim. 2:11-14, 3:1-7, 5:17-20; Tit. 1: 5-9; I Pet. 2:13-25, 3:1-7, 4:10-11, 5:1-6.
3. A Position Statement is an expression of the majority of messengers meeting at National Convention concerning a particular issue. This statement has been developed through broad consultation across Canada at regional conventions and in local churches.