

(b) serving together with the men of the church

- challenges
- how do we overcome them?

Questions to discuss

If you've questions or suggestions that you'd like to share privately please either email Andrew or Charlotte, or use the question box.

For Men: talk about serving the church as men...

1. How do you feel about being a spiritual "father"?
2. How might we encourage or discourage our sisters-in-Christ?

For Women: talk about serving the church as women...

1. How can we encourage women to pray more?
2. How can we encourage one another in serving the whole body of Christ at Immanuel?
3. What is your experience of being a woman at Immanuel? What have been positive things and what have been difficult things?

Good things to read...

Scott Hubbard, "Single men with many sons"

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/single-men-with-many-sons>

John Benton, "Male leadership that works for women"

<https://www.londonseminary.org/male-leadership-that-works-for-women/>

Susan Hunt, *By Design: God's distinctive calling for women* (1994; Crossway)

Being male, being female: part 4 – in the church**Recap...****Why are we doing this series?**

1. The mess around us
2. Bible puzzles: e.g. 1 Corinthians 11:3
3. Bible convictions

Key Bible principles

1. We have a purpose:
we were made to glorify God... with body and soul...
as either a man or a woman Genesis 1:26-28
2. The "disposition" of men and women: our duty & design is to be
either fathers Genesis 2:15, 2:26-27 or mothers 2:18,20, 3:20
3. How men and women relate:
we are "complementary" Genesis 3:18

1. Being a man in the family of the church

1 Timothy 3:1-7, "The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

(a) Commitment to Bible and truth

- Growing?
- Passing it on?

(b) Godliness... that can be imitated

- **Fighting besetting sins?**
Anger and abuse (Genesis 3:16, 1 Tim. 2:8, 1 Peter 3:7)
Abdicating responsibility (Genesis 3:6)
- **Can “children” imitate you?**
1 Corinthians 4:14-16, “I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵ For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶ I urge you, then, be imitators of me.”

(c) In relationship with the women of Immanuel

- **Love** (1 Timothy 5:2, John 11:5, 2 John 1)
- **Acknowledge our debt to them** (Romans 16:1-16)
- **Seek their counsel and encouragement**

(d) = the proper context for male leadership of the church

- **Creation pattern** → 1 Timothy 2:12-13

2. Being a woman in the family church

(a) Being a “helper” (Genesis 2:18,20)

God is the original “helper”. When we look at God the helper, we get a brilliant picture of what it means for US as women to helpers. There is depth and power in the way that the Lord has designed women.

- **Helper Defender (Intercessory Prayer)**
The Lord - Exodus 18:4
Mary - Acts 12
- **Helper Supporter (Marriage)**
See previous Sunday School session
- **Helper Protector (Mothering moments)**
The Lord - Isaiah 66:13, Matthew 23:37
Deborah - Judges 5:7, “... as a mother in Israel”
- **Helper in Deed (Mercy ministries)**
The Lord - Psalm 72:12
Mary – John 12:3; Dorcas – Acts 9:36-39; Lydia – Acts 16:14,40
The godly wife of Proverbs 31:20
- **Helper in Word (Life giver)**
Proverbs 31:26, “she opens her mouth with wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.”