

Session 4: Gender

FRONTLINE MEMBERSHIP CLASS

A biblical vision of gender:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Can you see any ways in which your understanding of gender is shaped more by the world or your past than by what God blesses in men and women?

The man had a unique responsibility within the world to _____ and _____.

Masculinity is oriented toward self-sacrificial initiative that cultivates and guards a space where growth and flourishing are possible.

The first woman was created to bring _____ and _____ to a weary world.

A “helper” supplies strength and life where it is lacking. In the Old Testament, this word is used dozens of times—only twice for women, with the vast majority of other uses referring to God.

Marriage points outside of itself as a picture of _____ and the _____.

Offices of leadership in the local church:

1. _____
2. _____

✓ *Flip page for exercise.*



Exercise: Submission and Authority

David Powlison reminds us that in various areas of life, we are all called to either submission or authority: “All of us are called to major on submission within some relationships and to major on initiating love within others.” In light of this dual reality, work through the following exercise with your table.

Part 1: Identify Where You Lead and Follow

The following chart lists various Scriptures where God speaks about human authority in different areas of our lives.

Take 3 minutes to read through the chart silently. Circle those Scriptures that specifically apply to you, in an area where you are either called to lead or follow. In some areas, you may be called to both lead and follow (e.g., you *have* parents, and you *are* a parent).

Part 2: Discuss Together

Take 5 minutes to discuss the following questions with your table.

1. In what ways has God called you to *lead* others? How can you increasingly lead in a way that honors God’s heart for those under your care?
2. In what ways had God called you to *follow* others? How can you grow in reflecting Christ to those placed over you?

Part 3: Pray Together

Take 3 minutes to pray for one another to lead and follow in ways that honor Jesus.

		CALLED TO LEAD	CALLED TO FOLLOW
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE	FAMILY	Do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:4)	Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. (Eph 6:2-3)
	MARRIAGE	Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. (Eph 5:25)	Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (Eph 5:22)
	CHURCH	[Elders], shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:2-3)	Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. (Heb 13:17)
	WORK	Masters, treat your [servants] justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. (Col 4:1)	Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Col 3:23-24)
	GOVERNMENT	For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad... He is God’s servant for your good... He is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. (Rom 13:3-4)	Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.” (1 Pet 2:13-14)

