

# “Church & Gender” Study Guide

## Lesson 1: What Is Gender? What Is Equality?

### Outline

1. What Is Gender?
2. Biblical View of Gender
  - a. **Genesis 1:26-27**
    - i. Humans are **created** beings, not sovereign beings.
    - ii. Humans are **image-bearing** creatures, not image-choosing creatures.
    - iii. Humans are **purpose-given** creatures, not purpose-choosing creatures.
    - iv. God created **two** human genders.
  - b. **Genesis 1:28**, Gender and sexuality have a practical purpose apart from self-actualization.
  - c. **Genesis 2:7, 21-23**, Gender, as human existence in general, has an inescapably physical component.
  - d. **Genesis 3:16-18**, The two genders engage in and suffer from sin differently, suggesting different psychology and spirituality for each.
3. What Is Equality?
  - a. “Am I Equal to Lebron James?”
  - b. Types of Equality
    - i. Identical ( $4 = 4$ )
    - ii. Interchangeable ( $2 + 2 = 4$ )
    - iii. Synonymous (Quiet = Shy)
    - iv. United / Cooperating (United States or Coworkers)
    - v. Legal Equality (Same Under Law)
    - vi. Social Equality (Same Status or Opportunities)
    - vii. Outcome Equality (Same Results for All)
  - c. Example: Equality in the Trinity
  - d. **“Men and women are equal.”**
    - i. This is a true statement.
    - ii. Not everyone who says it means the same thing.

### Discussion Questions

1. How are the biblical and secular definitions of gender similar? How are they different?
2. What do you think about the claim that “men and women engage in and suffer from sin differently”?
3. Think about the “Lebron James” question. Now discuss the following statement: “*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.*” Is it true that “all men are created equal”? What type of equality is this?