



September 5, 2021
Worship Service
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Re-Engage the Church

Lesson Four • Galatians 3:28
Oeness Not Sameness

Galatians 3:28

A beautiful verse on unity but also a **BATTLEGROUND** for disunity in the debate over male/female roles.

Key Passages

Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16; 14:34-36, 1 Timothy 2:11-15

Two Main Views

Egalitarians: All believers—without regard to gender, ethnicity, or class—must exercise their God-given gifts with equal authority and equal responsibility in church, home, and world.

Complementarians: Men and women are equal in value but have different roles in the home and the church. While both are gifted for service in the church, the office and function of pastors are limited to qualified men according to Scripture.

How Egalitarians Handle Galatians 3:28

A verse to **CANCEL** other passages about gender roles.

Three Options Plus the Best One

Option 1 Paul later **CONTRADICTS** himself.

Option 2 Paul later **COMPROMISES** himself.

Option 3 Paul must be **CORRECTED** by this controlling verse.

Option 4 Paul is **CONSISTENT** with himself and the rest of the bible.

How Complementarians Handle Galatians 3:28

A verse that is **CONSISTENT** with other passages.

Three Timely Truths from Galatians 3:28

1. Equal Access to God Brings **ONE**NESS in Christ.

Galatians: Don't Forsake the Gospel to Get More of God or from God!

Stop trying to gain greater access to God and His blessings by the works of the flesh vs. the gracious work of the Spirit through faith in the gospel of Christ. 1:3-6; 3:1-5

Old Testament Temple Barriers to Entering and Enjoying God's Presence

➤ "Courts" separated Jew/Gentiles, Slave/Free, Male/Female.

In Christ We Are One in Entering and Enjoying God's Presence

- All are spiritual **SEED** of Abraham *including Gentiles!* (3:29)
- All are **SET FREE** by the Spirit *including slaves!* (3:25)
- All are **SONS** of God *including women!* (3:26)

2. Oeness is Not **SAMENESS** in the Church.

- "One" means **unity** not **EQUALITY** in all things.
- "One" means **oneness** not **SAMENESS** in all things.

Oeness Is Not Sameness

1. In *spiritual gifting* – Romans 12:4-5
2. In *ministry functions* - 1 Corinthians 3:7-9
3. In *leadership roles* in the home and church – 1 Peter 3:7
Ephesians 5:22-31; Titus 2:1-10; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16; 14:34-36; 1 Timothy 2:8-15

3. Oeness Makes a **DIFFERENCE** in Our Community.

*Egalitarians have misunderstood, misused, and misapplied this verse, but complementarians have also **MISSED** opportunities to apply it.*

- There's no place for **BOASTING** in our church.
- There's no place for **DIVISIONS** in our church.
- There's no place for **OUTCASTS** in our church.
- There's no place for "**JUST MY PEOPLE**" in our church.

Let's Re-Engage with Oeness Not Sameness

Oeness in Christ neither eliminates **diversity** in ethnicity, class, and gender nor does it eliminate **differences** in roles and responsibilities, but it must make a **difference** in our community.

Entering & Enjoying God's Presence in the OT and the NT

OLD TESTAMENT TEMPLE ACCESS to GOD'S PRESENCE



Historians tell us that Jewish men in the first century, perhaps even when Paul wrote Galatians, would pray this prayer:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has ***not made me a Gentile.***

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has ***not made me a slave.***

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has ***not made me a woman.***

At which point the women in the congregation would thank God ***'that you have made me according to your will'.***

This sounds harsh to our modern ears and it certainly could be used in abusive ways by sinful hearts, but *the focus* was on the *spiritual privileges* that gave Jewish free males *greater access* to God's presence in Temple worship under the Old Covenant. But in the New Covenant such walls of separation to entering and enjoying God's presence and privileges have been *broken down* in Christ!

IN CHRIST WE ARE ALL ONE in HAVING ACCESS to GOD'S PRESENCE



"There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus." – Apostle Paul, *Galatians 3:28*

"In Christ there is no inferiority of the one sex to the other, or one class to another; men and women of completely diverse origins are gathered together in unity in Christ through a common allegiance to their Lord. There is no difference in spiritual status between them."

– Peter O'Brien

We enter God's presence and enjoy all His blessings as ONE PEOPLE by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone with His Spirit for God's glory alone!