

WHAT WINGER PRESENTLY GETS WRONG:
EGALITARIAN SILVER BULLET? (GALATIANS 3:28)

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Our full article takes up Mike Winger's kind invitation to give feedback. We hope you will enjoy reading it. Here's a quick summary in less than a page.

QUICK SUMMARY OF ARTICLE ON GALATIANS 3:28 by Andrew Bartlett and Terran Williams

Galatians 3:28 says:

‘There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.’ (ESV, as used by Mike)

There are *some* egalitarian scholars who claim that this verse on its own proves that women, like men, may become church elders/pastors.

Mike says that egalitarian claim should not be made because it is not correct. We agree with him on that. So do many egalitarian scholars.

Nevertheless, Mike misses the full significance of Galatians 3:28.

We look at the context in detail and conclude Paul is teaching that the Galatians, as one in Christ, have a new *identity* (‘sons of God’, inheriting God’s promised new creation), a new *worth* (no one is now second class because of their ethnicity, social position or gender), and a new *purpose* (to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ).

The gospel abolishes hierarchical systems of worth rooted in ethnicity, social status, and gender.

In the light of this oneness of identity, oneness of worth, and oneness of purpose, it looks very unlikely that women, any more than Greeks or slaves, are to be restricted from church leadership.

And in fact the New Testament does not anywhere exclude women from being elders (see Acts 14:21-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and <https://terranwilliams.com/what-winger-presently-gets-wrong-women-leaders-in-the-new-testament-part-a/>), and spiritual gifts are given without gender distinction.

Galatians 3:28 presents a clear truth about women’s co-worthiness and unity with men in Christ. It is an important part of the larger picture that makes Mike’s complementarian position an implausible interpretation of Scripture.