

The Sword

A Fun Way to Engage in Healthy Debate
on What the Bible Says
About a Woman's Role

Elaine Ricker Kelly

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1st Edition

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www.elainekelly.ca

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Non-Fiction

Religion>Sexuality & Gender Studies

Religion>Biblical Criticism & Interpretation

Christian Living>Women's Issues

DEDICATION

**To those who draw the Sword to cut out barriers
between us instead of cutting out people.**

“They shall beat their swords into plowshares”
(Isaiah 2:4 KJV).

“Strive diligently to present thyself approved to God, a workman
that has not to be ashamed, cutting in a straight line the word of
truth” (2 Timothy 2:15 Darby).

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than
any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12 KJV).

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17 KJV).

Why Read *The Sword*:

1. Effortlessly and objectively compare Complementarian and Egalitarian views in one resource.
2. Stimulate healthy debate on what the Bible says about a woman's role.
3. Explore the reasons why Christians have diverse and opposing views on a woman's role.
4. Understand the meaning of biblical womanhood and biblical manhood.
5. Discover how Bible-believing Christians support equal opportunities and responsibilities, regardless of gender.
6. Learn new ideas in a fun and memorable way with the visual, auditory, and physical elements of flashcards.
7. Encourage youth and adults to interact with the ideas by using this hands-on resource in Christian education and small groups.
8. Work out your rationale and your stance on the issue of the Bible and gender equality.
9. Broaden your understanding of equality, gender, and the Bible.
10. Appreciate diverse perspectives and build respect for one another.

Contents

Salute One Another: En Garde	1
Unity, not Division	2
Two Perspectives.....	3
Engage in a Match!	5
Round 1.....	6
Round 2	Error!
Bookmark not defined.	
Round 3	Error!
Bookmark not defined.	
Egalitarian Engagement	Error!
Bookmark not defined.	
Complementarian Charge	Error!
Bookmark not defined.	
Final Lunge and Deflect.....	Error!
Bookmark not defined.	
Disengage.....	12
Touché	13
About the Author	Error!
Bookmark not defined.	
Books by This Author	Error!
Bookmark not defined.	
What's Next.....	Error!
Bookmark not defined.	
End Notes	Error!
Bookmark not defined.	

The Sword

A Fun Way to Engage in Healthy Debate
on What the Bible Says
About a Woman's Role

Salute One Another: En Garde

Before beginning a match, fencers salute one another by holding their blades down to the ground to show respect to their opponents. The salute is your commitment to abide by the rules during the engagement. When the referee says “en garde”, get in position ready for the round. With the Bible as our Sword, we want to start by saluting one another and being ready.

Imagine the Bible as the Spirit’s powerful Sword. What if this sword could only be drawn by those with good intentions, ears to hear, and a heart to love? What if people learned to handle this Sword to cut away barriers between us instead of cutting out people?

This book provides 104 flashcards with various understandings of controversial Bible passages. Sword cards thrust one stance, while shield cards deflect with another angle. See how any verse can be weaponized as a proof text to support a pre-existing idea. The flashcards are a fun way to engage in healthy debate on what the Bible says about a woman’s role at home, church, and society.

The goal is to pair the sword and shield flashcards with each other by matching the numbers. Crown cards are wild cards that pair with anything; these statements always win. Joker cards cannot pair with anything; these ideas always lose.

The real goal, though, is to increase mutual respect among Christians. Once we understand a passage from all angles, we can decide how it is most consistent with Jesus’s life, God’s character, and the Bible’s overarching message of God’s redeeming love.

Contemplate, converse, and cut out the flashcards to use as a learning game for adults or youth.

Explore, reflect, and have fun!

Unity, not Division

These cards do not endorse opposition; they address it. Instead of using the Bible as a Sword that cuts people out, let's use it to cut away barriers and build one another up. The Spirit unites us but gifts us differently. Christians are called to unity, not uniformity.

Seeing Scripture from various frames of reference builds mutual respect and can contribute to unity. When an expert in the law asked Jesus how to inherit eternal life, Jesus asked him how he interpreted what was written in the law (Luke 10:26). Alternate ways of reading the Scripture are valid, even among those who take a serious view of Scripture.

The designs on the cards indicate whether the underlying objective of the card is to promote the Complementarian or Egalitarian view. Read the statement on the card with the matching number to see the passage from both perspectives. Seeing alternate perspectives will help you understand the passage fully and will assist you in working out your own views. Developing your views allows you to align your time and money accordingly and choose a spouse and a church that share your perspectives.

These simple cards introduce general concepts and cannot represent the full range of varying understandings of the passages discussed. They are suitable for anyone who is new to the ideas or who wants a quick look at a sample rationale for each view. They do not outline all views. Other resources are available for thorough analysis and in-depth discussion.

Two Perspectives

There are an equal number of flashcards from two existing predominant viewpoints: complementarian and egalitarian. These names are not perfect, because both groups believe men and women should work together effectively, and both believe men and women have equal worth. There is a wide variance in the definition of the terms, and individuals may hold either view on each topic or land anywhere in the wide range between the two.

Complementarian

For the purpose of these flashcards, complementarian is defined as:

- God created men and women, and together, they reflect God's image.¹
- God values all people equally and preordained genders for distinct, complementary responsibilities at home, church, and in society.²
- Men fill roles as heads, leaders, and authorities while women fill roles supporting and helping men.^{3, 4}
- Embracing our gender-ordained roles allows us to function according to God's perfect plan.^{5, 6}

Egalitarian


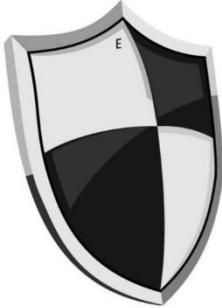

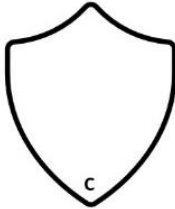
For the purpose of these flashcards, egalitarian is defined as:

- God created each human in the full image of God.⁷
- God made all humans as equals and mandated equal freedom, authority, and responsibility at home, church, and in society.⁸
- Roles are determined by God's gifts, regardless of gender.⁹
- Fully using our God-given gifts allows all believers to function effectively to build up the body of believers.^{10, 11}

^{10, 11}

Sword and Shield Card Designs

Check each flashcard's design to know if the card aims to support the Complementarian or Egalitarian view.

<p>Complementarian Swords</p>  <p>Cards with this design promote the strongest or most traditional arguments for distinct, gender-assigned roles.</p>	<p>Egalitarian Shields</p>  <p>Cards with this design present a defence to counter or neutralize the Complementarian Sword arguments and affirm equal freedoms and responsibilities.</p>
<p>Egalitarian Sword</p>  <p>Cards with this design present the strongest biblical arguments for genders having both equal worth and equal opportunities and responsibilities.</p>	<p>Complementarian Shields</p>  <p>Cards with this design present a typical defence that refutes the reading of Scripture on the Egalitarian Sword and affirms the Complementarian view.</p>

Engage in a Match!

This book is formatted so you can cut out the pages and use the cards for a game with adults or youth. Treat the designs as suits and find the matching numbers.

Rummy Pairs

For 4–8 players

Shuffle deck and distribute eight cards each. Stack the remaining cards facedown. Flip over the top one, forming a discard pile. Begin your turn by picking up one card from either the facedown cards or the discard pile. Check your hand for any matching numbers. Place face up on the table any pairs from your hand. Finish your turn by discarding one card. The winner is the first to place four pairs on the table.

Concentration

For 1–3 players

Place all cards face down, spread out as a grid on the table. Begin your turn by flipping two cards over for all players to see. Try to remember the location and number on the cards shown. If they match, pick them up and take another turn. If they do not match, flip them face down again. That is the end of your turn. The winner is the one who collects the most pairs.

Oranges to Oranges

For 4–8 players

Separate sword and shield cards. Sword cards go in the centre, face down, and each player receives 6 shield cards. Take turns as the judge. The judge flips a sword card from the centre pile. Players submit face-down shield cards. The judge decides which is the best match to deflect the thrust of the sword.

End Match by Saluting One Another

Round 1

Christian responsibilities and unity in Ephesians and 1 Peter

1



Jesus commanded both women and men to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Women must let their light shine before men and women. (Matthew 5:13-16)

1



Jesus commanded women and men to be salt of the earth and light of the world. Men and women will glorify God by doing this in their divinely-set gender roles. (Matthew 5:13-16)

2



God created man first, in the image of God; Woman is a derivative of man, a suitable helper. Men have dominion over earth. Women serve men. Gender distinctions are God's design from creation. Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-22

2



Creation order is irrelevant. Both genders are the full image of God. Woman is a protector and ally of man, a suitable counterpart. Together humans have dominion over the earth. Women and men serve God. Distinct gender roles are the result of sin. Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-22

3



Gender is irrelevant
to salvation and to calling.

Paul opposed Peter for
separating Jews and Gentiles.

(Galatians 2:11-14)

There is no longer Jew or
Gentile, slave or citizen, male or
female; we are all God's
children and heirs.

Justice brings unity.

(Romans 3:22, Colossians 3:11,
Galatians 3:26-29)

3



Gender is irrelevant
to salvation. There is no
difference regarding how we are
adopted as God's children.

Gender is relevant to our
distinct, ordained calling,
function and role.

Obeying God's design
brings unity.

(Romans 3:22, Colossians 3:11,
Galatians 3:26-29)

4



God shows no partiality.
(Romans 2:11, Acts 10:34-35)

Salvation is for all who believe.
(Romans 10:11, John 3:16)

Assigning roles by gender is
unloving favouritism. Partiality
and favouritism break God's
royal law: 'love your neighbour
as yourself.'

(James 2:8-9, Matthew 7:12)

4



God shows no partiality, in
redemption
(Romans 2:11, Acts 10:34-35)
Salvation for the elect is based
on God's grace.
(Romans 9:15, Ephesians 1:4)

Gender roles are not related to
value, equality, or favouritism.

Gender roles show love and
achieve harmony.

(James 2:8-9, Matthew 7:12)

5



Be gentle and peaceful like past holy women. Be like Sarah, who obeyed her husband Abraham and called him her lord.

We are free, offspring of Sarah; Jews and believers are children of the promise.

Non-believers are slaves, offspring of Hagar, children of the flesh.

(Genesis 18:12, 1 Peter 3:4-6, Galatians 3:29, 4:28)

5



All believers are to be gentle and peaceful.

(Galatians 5:22-23)

God told Abraham to listen to his wife Sarah. All are called to the New Covenant through Sarah's descendant, Jesus.

Being a slave to the Mosaic Covenant is like choosing to be a child of the slave Hagar.

(Genesis 21:12, 1 Peter 3:4-6, Galatians 3:29, 4:21-31)

6



Wives should submit to husbands.

Husbands should be compassionate since women are usually weaker, both physically and possibly emotionally or morally (since Satan deceived Eve)

Men and women have equal value and access to God's grace as co-heirs.

(1 Peter 3:1-7, Ephesians 5:22, Romans 8:17, Galatians 4:4-7)

6



Submit to human authorities (1 Peter 2:13)

Likewise, wives, live so that unbelieving husbands who are "without the word be won by the conversation of the wives." (1 Peter 3:1 KJV)

Likewise, husbands, live by the knowledge of the Word, honour her as weaker until she knows God's Word and becomes a co-heir, so your prayers are effective. (1 Peter 3:1-7, Romans 8:17, Galatians 4:7)

7



All believers
submit to one another.

(Ephesians 5:21)

"Yea, all of you be subject one to another" (1 Peter 5:5 KJV),
All to be subject to one another as Greco-Roman wives are to husbands. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

Submit = love, wanting what's best for another.

All believers follow Christ's example of sacrificial love.

(Ephesians 5:2)

7



Submitting = serving
per God's gender design:

- men love sacrificially, for their wife's sanctification, as Christ did;
- women sacrifice their wants to men's as the church defers to Christ.

(Ephesians 5:2, 21-33)

A wife is always subject to her husband; she must reverence and respect her husband.

(Ephesians 5:21-33)

8



A husband is to love his wife so 'that she may reverence the husband' Eph. 5:33 YLT)

Men must 'be worthy of respect' (Titus 2:2 VOICE).

A husband must respect his wife so nothing obstructs his prayers (1 Peter 3:7 VOICE).

Husbands are told four times to love their wives; they are not told to lead or have authority.

(Ephesians 5:21-33)

8



Wives are told four times to submit. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

Women are subject to men. (1 Peter 3:1)

Position or rank is not related to value.

"a wife should respect her husband."

(Ephesians 5:33 NRSVUE)

A husband is to honour or lift up his wife because she is weaker. (1 Peter 3:7)



Submission is one directional.

A husband is the head of his wife like Christ is for the church.

He is to lead her, guide her because she is spiritually and physically weaker.

A wife's role is permanent subjugation to her husband.

(1 Peter 3:1-7

Ephesians 5:22-24)



Submission is mutual.

Each sometimes submits. Take turns, submit ideas to peers to consider. Be understanding that your wife is in a more vulnerable position.

Be subject to one another as wives are to husbands.

(Ephesians 5:21-22)

As a wife submits to her husband; likewise husbands to wives.(1 Peter 3:7)



Head and body shows a husband has authority and is responsible for making decisions.

A husband is head of the wife, the benevolent authority who loves his wife as his own body so as to lead her to sanctification and present her as glorious.

(Ephesians 5:25-31)



Head and torso show unity as one body.

The great mystery revealed is that Christ and the church are united together just as husbands and wives are united as one flesh. Husbands should love their wives to glorify God and strengthen unity. Only

Christ sanctifies us.

(Ephesians 5:23-31

Colossians 3:15-19)

11



Head means men have authority as leaders, overseers.
 A woman's head is man.
 A man's head is Christ.
 Christ's head is God.
 The Trinity is a model for a wife to submit to her husband as Christ submits to the Father.
 Distinct roles are a divine hierarchy.
 (Ephesians 5:23-24,
 1 Corinthians 11:3, 12)

11



Head means source, like a river's headwater. Christ is the beginning, first in all things (Colossians 1:18), source of support. (Colossians 2:19)
 Christ is the "head of the corner" (1 Peter 2:6-7 KJV), the foundation. "All things and all people share the same ultimate source, God." (1 Corinthians 11:12 VOICE) The Trinity is a model for mutual submission, a divine unity.

12



God gifts
 and equips individuals to speak or serve as God calls.
 (1 Peter 4:10-11
 Ephesians 4:11-15)
 All believers "are empowered to speak to each other."
 (Ephesians 5:19 VOICE)
 and to "teach, counsel, and instruct one another" (Colossians 3:16 VOICE)
 Functions are based on gifts, not gender.

12



God gives gifts to believers to employ in serving others in their ordained realm, according to complementary gender roles.

Equal value;
 distinct functions.

(1 Peter 4:7-11
 Ephesians 4:11-13)

Disengage

In fencing, to disengage is to evade the opponent and change the line of engagement. A Joker card disengages and gets away from discussing what the Bible says about a woman's role. Instead, it turns towards judging or condemning a fellow Christian. To disengage is to close your eyes to other's views and your ears to dialogue. Both egalitarians and complementarians use disengage statements. Holding onto a disengage statement puts you at a disadvantage. A disengage Joker card cannot pair with anything.

Disengage

We select the Bible passages to use and prioritize.



Where contradictions appear, choose based on preconceived notions. Ignore any verse that does not fit personal views; treat it as unimportant or irrelevant.

Disengage

We decide what to condone and condemn.



Disagreeing with our beliefs or policies means you are unfaithful, heretical, not Christian. God has chosen not to open their eyes, not to elect them.

Touché

In fencing, Touché acknowledges a successful, appropriate, or great point. It is a true statement that no one can deny. For example, Christians may disagree on how to show love while agreeing that the Bible commands us to love. Holding onto a Touché statement puts you at an advantage. It provides a way to find agreement and respect. A Touché card can pair with anything.

Touché

The Greatest Commandments:

1. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
2. Love your neighbour as yourself.

All the laws rest on these two commandments.



Matthew 22:37-40

Mark 12:29-31, Luke 10:25-28

Touché

A New Commandment:

Love One Another

John 13:34-35

John 15:12

Romans 12:10

Romans 13:8

1 Corinthians 13:13

Galatians 5:14

Colossians 3:14

James 2:8

1 Peter 4:8

1 John 3:11

1 John 3:18

1 John 4:7-11



**The End:
Begin Your Journey in Biblical Equality**

Review

1. Did *The Sword* allow you to effortlessly and objectively compare Complementarian and Egalitarian views?
2. Did the flashcards stimulate healthy debate on what the Bible says about a woman's role?
3. Do you have increased understanding on the reasons for diverse and opposing views on a woman's role?
4. Did you gain respect for Christian biblical scholarship?
5. Did the flashcard format allow you to explore a range of Christian views in a fun and memorable way?
6. Will you refer to these flashcards as cue cards, sound bites or future discussion starters?
7. Would this hands-on resource be useful in your Christian education, small groups, and youth groups?
8. Did the flashcards help you work out your stance and rationale on the Bible and gender equality?
9. Did seeing all perspectives grant empathy, understanding, and respect for fellow Christians?
10. What has changed in your understanding of equality, gender, and the Bible?

Would you like others to find this resource?

Post a rating or review:

Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/Sword-engage-healthy-debate-womans/dp/173882330X>

Goodreads:

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/122868560-the-sword>

End Notes related to the cards have been removed from this free sample.

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