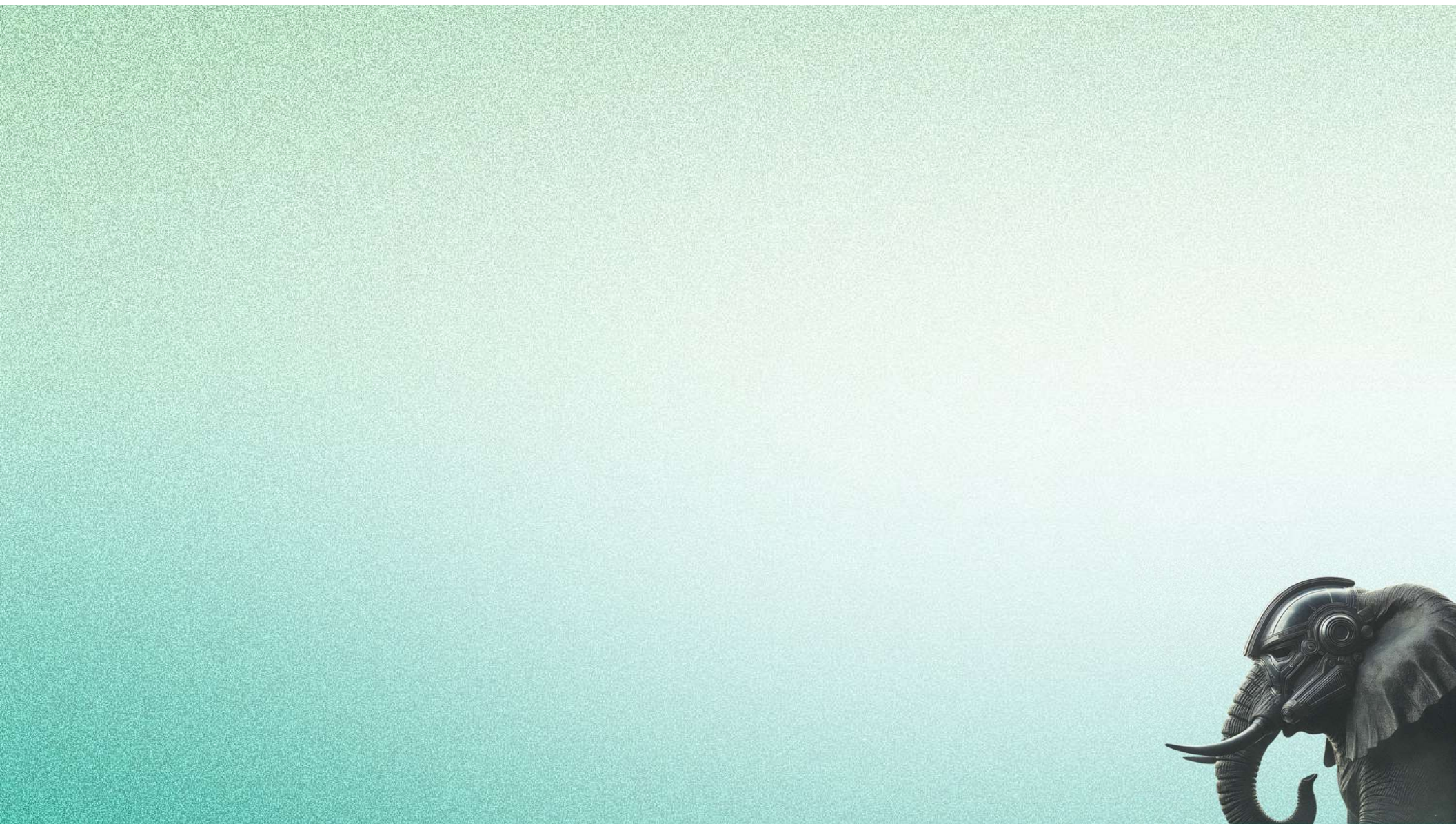




TABOO TWO:

The Elephant Strikes Back





REVIEW

- Disagreement is OK
- Come have a conversation
- Extend grace
- When reviewing time, money, and effort, who is your highest priority?
- Women, we need your help (remember this)

The Role of Men in Church

- Men and Women are different



Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.



Basic Truths

- Men and Women are different
- God declared those differences to be good



Genesis 1:31

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold,
it was very good.



The Issue

- The Culture
- The Church
- The Bible



The numbers

- The typical U.S. Congregation draws an adult crowd that's 61% female, 39% male. This gender gap shows up in all age categories.
- On any given Sunday there are 13 million more adult women than men in America's churches.



The numbers

- As of June 2022, 36 percent of women say they went to church last week (either in person or online) whereas only 24 percent of men did.
- Midweek activities often draw 70 to 80 percent female participants.



The numbers

- Christian universities are becoming convents. The typical Christian college in the U.S. enrolls almost 2 women for every 1 man.
- Fewer than 10% of U.S. churches are able to establish or maintain a vibrant men's ministry.

Source: davidmurrow.com



How did we get here?

- When did it all start?
- As early as the 13th century
- 17th century in America –

“There are far more Godly Women in the World than Godly Men...I have seen it without going a Mile from home, That in a Church of Three or Four Hundred Communicants, there are but a few more than One Hundred Men, all the Rest are Women.”



How did we get here?

- Historian Richard D. Shields stated that 59 percent of all new members from 1730 to 1769 were women. The figures for southern churches were the same. In 1792, 'southern women outnumbered southern men in the churches (65 to 35) though men outnumbered women in the general population (51.5 to 48.5).



How did we get here?

- 1899 Cortland Myers writes a book “Why Do Men Not Go To Church?”
- The New York Times finds a few years later that 69% of worshippers in Manhattan are women
- Muscular Christianity



Why did we need to know that?

- The bridal/feminine imagery continued into the modern age
- Became synonymous with the Christian church
- A “personal relationship” with Jesus is tough for men to imagine



So what?

- If the congregation is mostly women...
- Then the church caters to women...
- Which keeps men away...
- Etc. etc.
- Men lack purpose, get sidelined



And?

- Do we want men in church?
- Do we NEED men in church?



Galatians 3:27-29

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 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. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.



Titus 2

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness...6 Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.



SO WHAT?

- Women, we need your help (and understanding)
- Men, we need their help

But what do I DO with that?

- Be a servant like Christ.



Mark 9:35

And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and **servant of all.**”



Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church
and gave himself up for her.



Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the meek for they
shall inherit the earth.



SO WHAT?

- Women, we need your help (and understanding)
- Men, we need their help
- Don't be the world's tough guy

But what do I DO with that?

- Be a servant like Christ
- Know that Christ was compassionate, but not weak



True strength

- Jesus didn't allow injustice (Matthew 21)
- 40 days in the wilderness, fighting Satan's temptation (Matthew 4)
- Defended a woman caught in adultery (John 8)
- Defied leaders and customs by associating with "tax collectors and sinners" (Luke 7)
- Died on the cross



1 Corinthians 16:13-14

13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be **strong**. 14 Let all that you do be done in **love**.



SO WHAT?

- Women, we need your help (and understanding)
- Men, we need their help
- Don't be the world's tough guy
- Do the TOUGH thing

But what do I DO with that?

- Be a servant like Christ
- Know that Christ was compassionate, but not weak
- Understand headship



Submission

Partnering together with another group or individual to complete a task with the understanding that THEY are ultimately responsible for the outcome and you are only responsible for your role or task.

1 Corinthians 11:2-7

Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. 3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, **and the head of Christ is God.**



Accountability

**Responsibility always rests on the
one who was given the task**

Choosing easy

- Cruelty
- Anger
- Hurt
- Inward focus
- Putting up walls
- Never changing



What's tough

- Compassion
- Making peace
- Getting called out
- Calling out a friend
- Shouldering a burden
- Sacrifice
- Crying
- Telling the truth



One more statistic

- Over 70 percent of the boys who are being raised in church will abandon it during their teens and twenties. Many of these boys will never return.



SO WHAT?

- Women, we need your help (and understanding)
- Men, we need their help
- Don't be the world's tough guy
- Do the TOUGH thing
- Do the tough thing instead of living in fear of the tough thing

TIME OF GIVING

Online giving is also available on our church website,
www.westmiddlebury.org, and on our Tithely app.

Offering boxes are
available at both entrances.

2 Corinthians 9:7

