



Dear Pastor and Church Leaders,

By now, many of you have read the November 19, 2025, letter from Calvary Global Network (CGN) regarding its complementarian position. The purpose of the letter to follow is to offer a broader context and a fuller picture of the situation in question.

The letter referenced a social media post from a recent trip to England. During my time in the UK, I attended a prayer meeting for a friend who had recently become the lead pastor of her church. Some on our Executive Team felt that I acted irresponsibly by posting a picture in which I was supporting a woman in a role that the complementarian position does not allow for—as senior or lead pastor of a church. Some also believed that, besides sending out a confusing message to those within the CGN family of churches, I did “irreparable” damage to the network. For those reasons, some on the board and the Executive Team asked me to resign from the presidency. Although I apologized for the distress it caused some and the concern and confusion it might have caused others, I did not resign.

After a lengthy discussion amongst ourselves and an attempt to find a way forward together, some on the Executive Team felt they could no longer continue in their roles and chose to resign. Of the fourteen Executive Team members, six resigned, and eight remain. I write these details to maintain the transparency that has marked CGN from the beginning, a core value rooted in the call for all believers to walk in the light.

Because some of those who stepped down from the Executive Team were also leading CGN initiatives, there will be a change in the relationship to the initiatives. We hope to continue partnering with ministries like Cultivate and Expositor’s Collective, but they will now operate independently of CGN. Bible exposition and church planting remain at the top of CGN’s priority list, so we are cheering on those ministries, believing there is still

much work to be done. CGN will continue to develop our global connections and build on the strong relational component that is at the heart of what CGN is all about.

We look forward to huddles, conferences, prayer gatherings, and outreaches as the Lord leads, as well as to maintaining and, if possible, improving our online ministry through Calvary Chapel.com and CGN.org.

On a more personal note, and I know I speak for everyone involved, these last few weeks have been difficult. Yet, despite the differences that have led to these changes, our commitment to one another and the mission of Jesus to make disciples remains strong. Just as Paul and Barnabas separated from ministry on one level, they continued to minister together on other levels. I trust that will be the case with those of us who have served together in this Executive Team role.

I know this letter is long, but I do need to come back to the issue that sparked everything—Complementarianism: The role of male leadership and women's roles within the church. From the very beginning, CGN has been complementarian with a small "c," meaning that our understanding of complementarianism has room for different leaders to land at different places on the complementarian spectrum and gives space for those leaders to decide what roles women can and cannot fulfill in their churches according to their understanding of Scripture.

I personally hold to the conviction that under the senior pastor or elders (whatever terms you want to use), a gifted woman can teach the Bible to a mixed group (women and men) in a Sunday school class, a Bible school or college, a Bible study, and even to the whole church gathered on Sunday. Also, women can hold the title of "pastor" if that is what the senior pastor and leaders have decided. (Those are my convictions, and I've never sought to impose them on individuals on the Executive Team or within the network.)

Others on the complementarian spectrum might agree with everything except perhaps the Sunday service, while others might conclude that women are limited to teaching women and children only and cannot be identified as "pastor." Within CGN, we have sought to allow for the freedom of each local church to decide where it lands within complementarianism.

Until recently, although I knew that some on our Executive Team had a hard time with my position, I didn't realize they had reached the point where some felt they couldn't continue serving on the team. I have always welcomed any and all who hold the complementarian position into CGN, yet have always said that those who land on the

harder side of the spectrum would struggle most, and that has indeed proven to be the case.

The reason I'm going into such detail on this here is that it seems like the right time to make sure everyone knows that for CGN, we are complementarian, not with a capital C, but with a small c, or as it has also been termed, "soft" complementarian. We have not and do not ordain women into the senior pastor role or send women out to plant churches. Apart from that, each church is free to decide for itself which roles and titles women may hold within the local church. CGN is committed to the freedom of the local church to be led by the Spirit within the boundaries of Scripture, recognizing that there are varying interpretations of Scripture on this matter that fall well within orthodoxy.

As mentioned in the previous letter, the church in England, where my friend is the lead pastor, is not part of the Calvary Global Network. Yet, my attendance at the prayer meeting was actually consistent with the ethos of CGN as a "Kingdom-Minded" ministry and with the example of my father-in-law and founder of the Calvary Chapel Movement, Pastor Chuck Smith.

In closing, below is a paragraph written to our Executive Team as we navigated these issues, as well as a quote from Pastor Chuck as he answered a question about women pastors on the radio program, "Pastor's Perspective." I believe both of these quotes express the heart and soul of what the Lord intends CGN to be.

My letter to the Executive Team:

"In the course of these discussions and debates over the past several days, I have come to understand more clearly what I think is the bigger issue—kingdom mindedness. Being 'kingdom minded,' like 'complementarian,' has a spectrum, and just as some of us are at two different ends of the spectrum of complementarianism, so too, I believe, we are at two different ends of the spectrum of kingdom mindedness. On my end, I cannot withhold celebrating what God is doing in and through the life of any person, man or woman, he is using. As I've said before, 'it's for freedom that we've been set free.' My vision for CGN has always been to function, not primarily as a healthy expression of Calvary Chapel (although it includes that), but first and foremost as a gospel-centered, Spirit-filled, kingdom-minded community that rejoices in and celebrates all that God is doing, within biblical orthodoxy, of course."

Direct quote from Pastor Chuck:

"You know, there are things that I think you can be dogmatic on—the five basic fundamentals of the Christian faith: That the Bible is God's inspired Word; I am

dogmatic on that. That Jesus was born of a virgin; I think that is extremely important, and I am dogmatic upon that. That Jesus died for my sins; there is no quibbling or controversy on that one.

“But when you come to issues like, say, a woman moderating that kind of a Bible study (with both men and women present), I see absolutely no problem with that at all. In fact, you know, I am probably sort of a funny kind of duck in that I had a sister-in-law who pastored a church for years, and she was a much better pastor than a lot of men that I know. She had a compassion for people, an understanding, and a number of people were saved and nurtured through her ministry. God definitely used her, and so how can you speak against that?

“I believe God can use anybody who is yielded to him. It is not always the best of circumstances, but sometimes there are situations where men are not willing to go or step up, and a woman steps in. And then, of course, later on people might say, ‘Well, a woman should not be pastoring,’ but if God used her in that moment, who am I to judge?

“So, yes, I believe there are places where you can be dogmatic, but there are other issues where you just need to have grace. I am content to let God be the judge on those issues.”

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for us here at CGN. May God lead us into all the good he has for us in the days ahead, and may we together continue to faithfully proclaim Jesus as Lord to a lost and dying world until he comes.

Maranatha!

Brian Brodersen, President
[Calvary Global Network](#)