

“For the Life of the World”

ELCA Bible Study on Gender Justice

Definition of “Gender Justice” (*Faith, Sexism, and Justice*, ELCA, 2019):

Gender justice is expressed through equality and balanced power relations for people of all genders to live into their individual callings. Gender justice is sought by eliminating power imbalances among people at individual and societal levels, as well as eliminating discrimination against women and people who do not adhere to stereotypes associated with men and women.

Scriptural Spotlights

- Proverbs 8: *Wisdom recounts the first creation and her delight in humanity.*
- John 1: *The Word of God becomes flesh and dwells among us.*

Questions for Consideration

- 1) For gender justice, what are the theological implications of a divine Creator who is engaged in ongoing, creative dialogue with each person? Particularly, consider this question from the foundations of Wisdom’s playful divine delight in humankind.
- 2) Considering the earth, the stars and all life as the vocabulary of God’s cosmic opus, does this illuminate Scripture’s celebratory emphasis on a diverse creation? For example, how do depth and breadth in our own spoken or written vocabulary help us convey meaning more richly and beautifully?
- 3) As a Christian, how have you learned or might you learn how to recognize that “piece of the oppressor which is planted deeply in [you]?” How does God’s grace and our Lutheran conviction of “simultaneously saint and sinner” help create enough safety for vulnerable honesty?

- 4) How will you commit to gender justice in such a way that witnesses to God's creative, redeeming and sanctifying activity in the world?
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References and Recommendations

(asterisked references double as a recommended resource for further engagement):

Accompaniment, ELCA GLOCAL Mission Gathering, 2014.

*“ALOK: The Urgent Need for Compassion,” The Man Enough Podcast, 2021 (available on YouTube).

“Doctrine of Creation,” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Martin Luther, Volume 1*, Derek R. Nelson and Paul R. Hinlicky, 2017.

**Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action*, ELCA, 2019.

The Hebrew Bible: A Translation With Commentary, Robert Alter, 2018.