



God's Intention for Men and Women

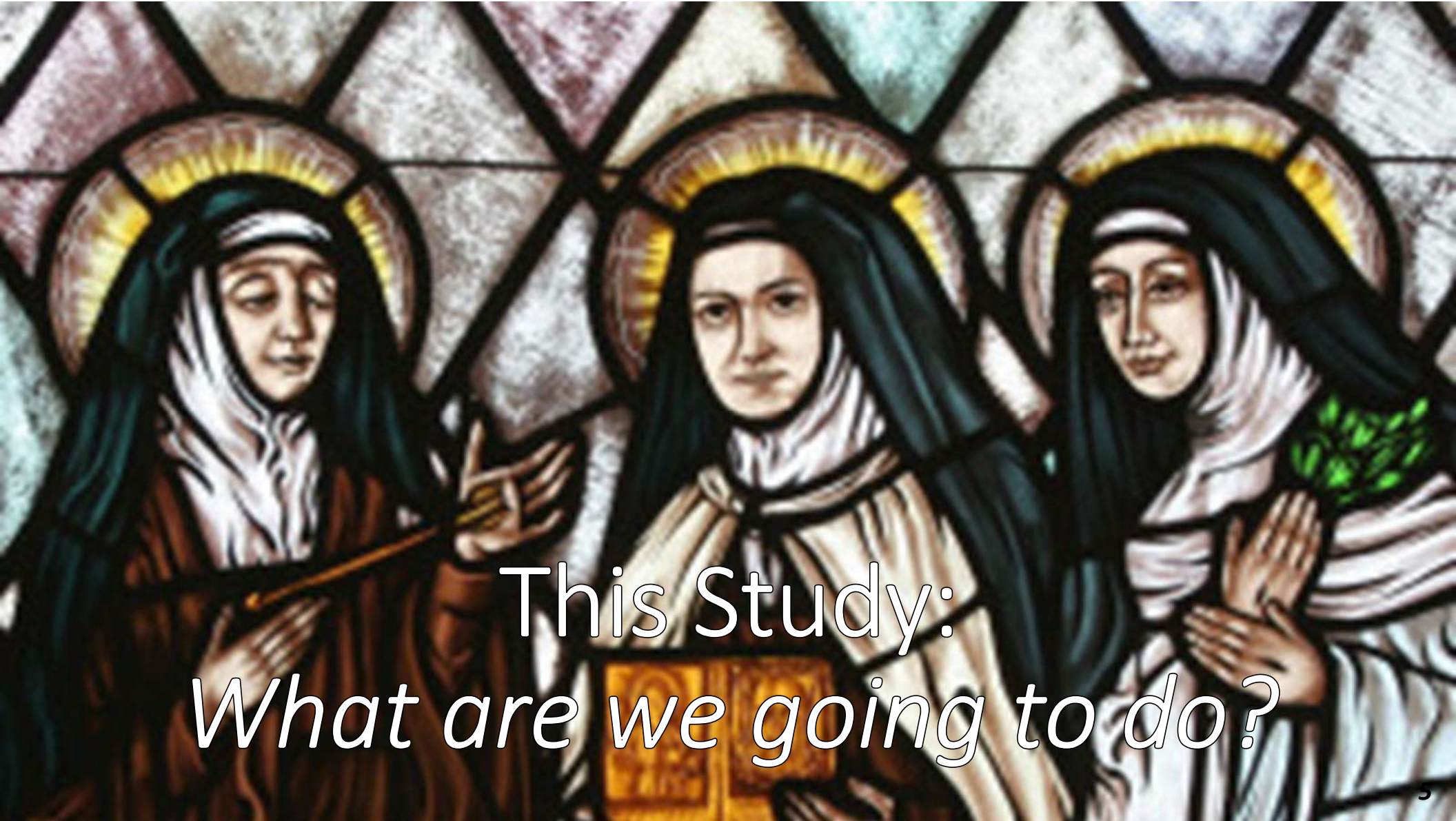


Assumptions about Scripture

- The Bible is the authoritative word of God.
- God's message was written down by humans within history by direction of the Holy Spirit.
- Scripture must be interpreted within the historical and literary context in which it was written.
- Principles can be determined (exegesis) and applied to our situations today (hermeneutics).
- A text *cannot* mean what it could *never* have meant to its author or original readers.
- The Bible is consistent – it does not contradict itself.

Key Principles Discovered

- God created male and female in his image. They equally had dominion over the earth. ***After The Fall***, men began to rule over women.
- Through the redemptive work of Christ, male and female can be reconciled and the two can be one, as God intended.
- While on earth, Jesus elevated women beyond their status at the time in the surrounding culture.
- Women were to pray and prophesy in the assembly in Paul's day. Therefore, the rule that women were to "keep silent" *could not refer to* praying and prophesying for all times & places.
- There are few scriptures that describe the worship assembly - & most of them have to do with behavior and dress rather than "liturgy".
- We are to be culturally sensitive and behave in such a way that the gospel message will be heard and believed.
- Leadership roles were assigned to both men and women in scripture.
- We are all commanded to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.



This Study:
What are we going to do?

Guiding Principles for our Discussion

**The intent is to share our journey
and to join your voice to the
conversation**

Guiding Principles for our Discussion

This is not a debate – but an invitation to review and discuss the Elders’ approach to this topic & study

Guiding Principles for our Discussion

**Respect each other; speak with
love and seek to understand – not
just to be understood**

Guiding Principles for our Discussion

**Commitment to pray for guidance
and to depend on the Holy Spirit to
be our guide and teacher**

Guiding Principles for our Discussion

**Respect for the authority of Scripture
and obedience to God's Word**

Guiding Principles for our Discussion

A willingness to accept that sincere, earnest believers will disagree in difficult matters, while maintaining the unity of the body & the bonds of peace

Study Topics/Progression

- **Jesus' Attitude**
- **Biblical examples & precedents**
- **Approach to Scripture**
- **Viewpoints & Alternatives**
- **Summary & Conclusion**
- **Addressing specific texts**
 - **Genesis 1-3**
 - **Galatians 3:28**
 - **1 Corinthians**
 - **1 Timothy**
- **Questions & Responses**