

Christ and Gender Roles  
Male and Female

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# Maleness is prevalent in the Bible...

What are we to make of this?

- The patriarchs were male
- The priests and levites who served in the tabernacle and temple were male
- All the writers of Scripture were male
- Jesus was male
- The twelve apostles were male
- The language used in Scripture is overwhelmingly male oriented

God is male, and males  
are in his image

Males and females are just different —  
males are more suited to leadership

Priests were male — it shows God  
wants males to be the religious leaders

Jesus chose apostles who were all  
male — we can't just ignore that



# Image of God

**Gen 1:26-27** Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over ... the earth.”

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

**Gen 9:6** Whoever sheds the blood of a human, by a human shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made humankind.

**Col 1:15** Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;

**Rom 8:29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

**1Cor 15:49** Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

All people are the image of God, and that image is perfected in Christ



# Attributes of God

**1Chr 17:13** I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you

**Matt 6:8-9** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. “Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...”

**Rom 1:7** To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Deut 32:18** You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.

**Ps 131:1-2** O LORD, my heart is not lifted up... But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother;

**Is 49:15** Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

God occasionally describes himself as mother



### Abundance of offspring

**Gen 16:10** The angel of the LORD also said to [Hagar], “I will so **greatly multiply** your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude.”

**Gen 22:17** indeed I will greatly bless you [Abraham], and I will **greatly multiply** your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore;

### Emotional pain, distress

**Gen 6:6** And the LORD was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it **grieved** him to his heart.

**Gen 45:5** And now do not be **distressed**, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

**Gen 3:16** To the woman he said, “I will **greatly multiply** your **toil** and conception, in **grief** you will bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will **rule** over you.”

### Hard physical work

**Gen 3:17** cursed is the ground because of you; in **toil** you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

**Gen 5:29** [Noah] shall bring us relief from our work and from the **toil** of our hands.

### Power and authority

**Gen 1:18** to **rule** over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness.

**Gen 45:8** [God] has made ... lord of all [Pharaoh's] household and **ruler** over all the land of Egypt.



# Patriarchy became the dominant social system

Patriarchy is a social system

- Men are the focus, and hold primary power and leadership
- Men predominate in moral authority, social privilege and control of property
- Women are a means to an end, typically alliances and child bearing

Do we think patriarchy is a product of human nature or of God's intent?

Natural manifestations of patriarchal thinking

- Abram using Sarai as security pawn; Abram/Sarai using Hagar as “concubine”
- Lot offering his daughters for rape
- Jacob drunken wedding, multiple wives all eager for fertilization
- Levite concubine sent out to suffer rape and murder in Gibeah
- David's multiple wives, imprisoning concubines after Absalom sullied them
- Solomon, hundreds of wives, even more concubines



# More human thinking, not all that long ago...

**1789:** US vote given to property-owning white males (6% of the population); married women not allowed to own property

**1801:** Thomas Gisborne (Anglican priest) said women were naturally suited to domestic work and not spheres suited to men such as politics, science, or business, because they did not possess the same level of rational thinking but had superior abilities related to family support.

**1875:** Herbert Spencer (philosopher) said women were incapable of abstract thought, could not understand issues of justice, and only had the ability to understand issues of care.

**1925:** Sigmund Freud (neurologist) said women were less morally developed in the concept of justice and more influenced by feeling than rational thought. Early brain studies concluded that women were intellectually inferior because they have smaller brains.

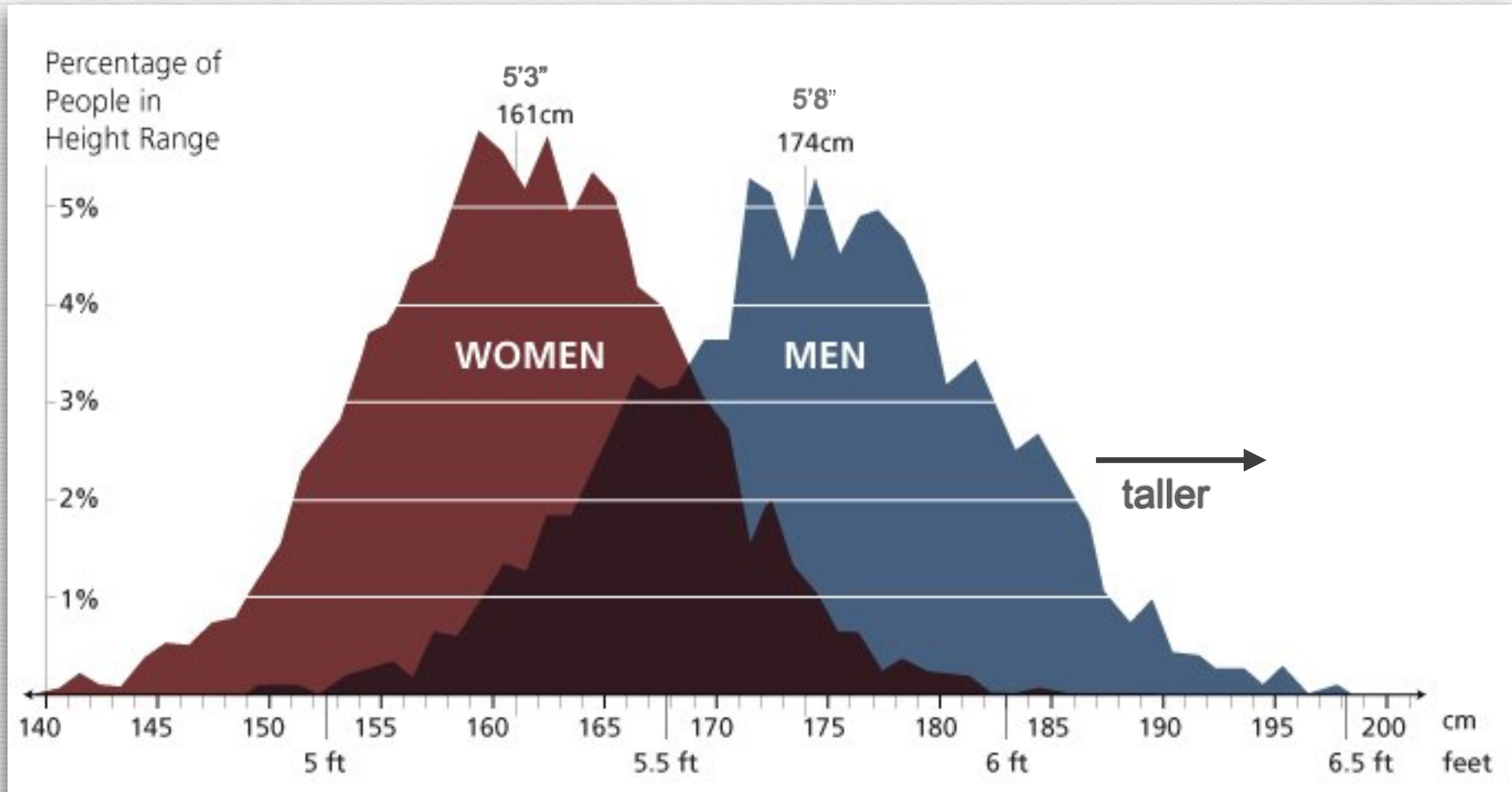
**1874:** Robert Roberts said sisters can serve any role not requiring public speaking

**1883:** Ecclesial Guide is explicit that sisters get to vote in ecclesial elections

**1920:** the 19th Amendment provides women the right to vote in US elections

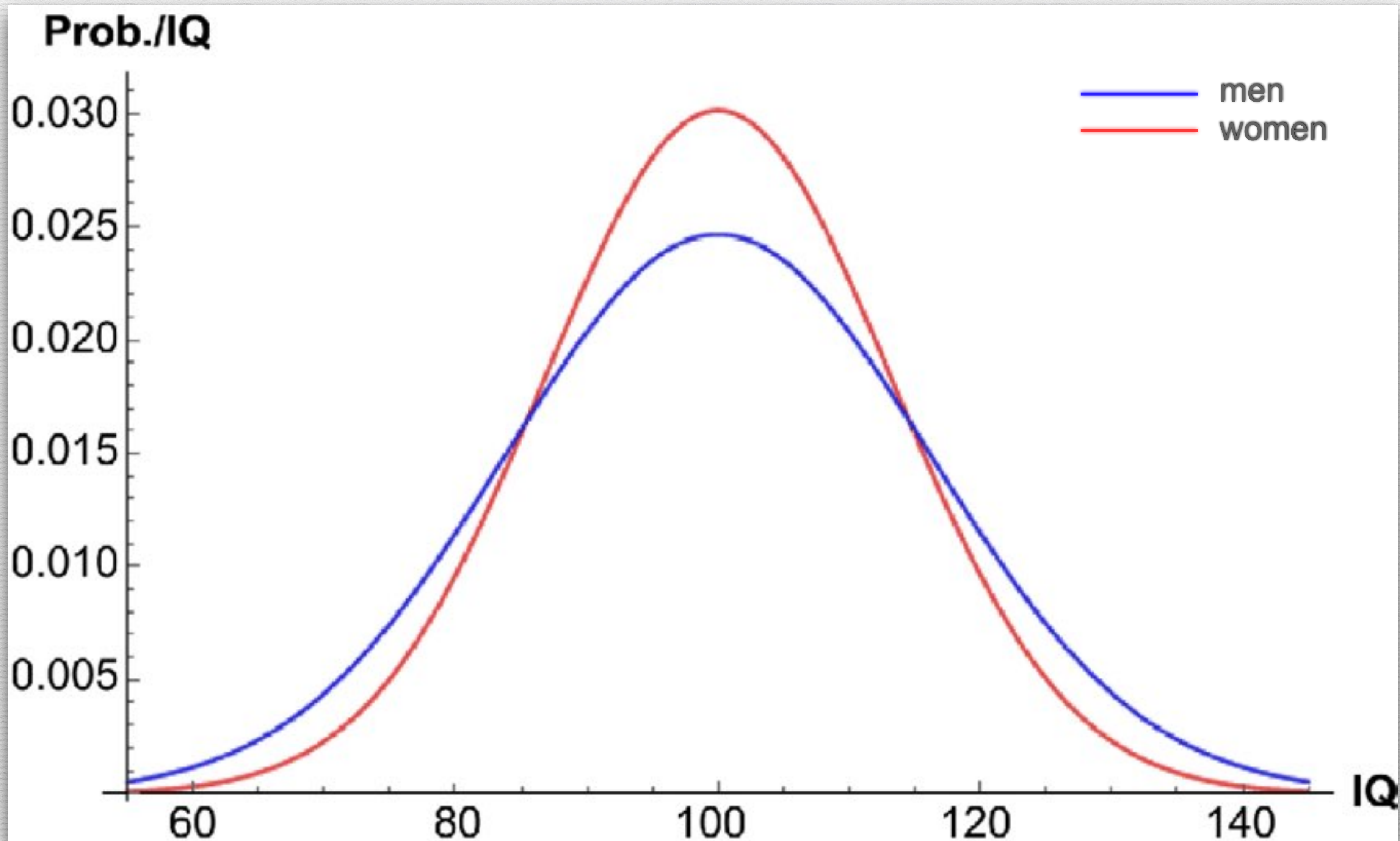


# Statistical trends do not define individuals





# Statistical measures of intelligence





## 1Cor 12:4-11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit;  
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;  
and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the spirit the utterance of wisdom, and  
to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same spirit,  
to another faith by the same spirit,  
to another gifts of healing by the one spirit,  
to another the working of miracles,  
to another prophecy,  
to another the discernment of spirits,  
to another various kinds of tongues,  
to another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are activated by one and the same spirit,  
who allots to each one individually just as the spirit chooses.



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  - Jesus was male
  - The twelve apostles were male
  - The language used in Scripture is overwhelmingly male oriented
- The patriarchs were Jewish
  - The priests and levites who served in the tabernacle and temple were Jewish
  - All the writers of Scripture were Jewish
  - Jesus was Jewish
  - The twelve apostles were Jewish
  - The language used in Scripture is overwhelmingly Jewish oriented

An argument that emphasizes maleness should equally emphasize Jewishness...



# Patterns established from Genesis onwards

The law introduces many practices and ‘types’

- Sabbath (Creation)
- Adam and Eve (Eden)
- Clean and unclean animals (Noah)
- Covenant of circumcision (Abraham)
- Sacrifice of the loved son (Isaac)
- Priests and sacrifices (Melchizedek, Moses)



These patterns are shadows — their reality is in transformation in Christ



# Christ contrasted with Law

## Christ is

- the reality of God's plan
- seeking direct internal change
- saving us through transforming faith
- inclusive (young, old, Jew, Greek, male, female, able, lame)

## but the Law was

- a pale shadow of the things to come
- working indirectly through externals
- restraining us from the worst of our sin
- discriminatory based on age, race, tribe, gender, and disability



# Transition from Law to Christ

Gal 3:23-28

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed.

Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.

But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.



# There is a time for respecting local practices

1Cor 9:20

To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law.



# When Paul visited Jerusalem...

## Acts 21:20-26

When [James and the Jerusalem elders] heard [Paul's account of Gentile conversions], they praised God.

Then they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands of believers there are among the Jews, and they are all zealous for the law. They have been told about you that you teach all the Jews living among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, and that you tell them not to circumcise their children or observe the customs. What then is to be done?"

They will certainly hear that you have come. So do what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow. Join these men, go through the rite of purification with them, and pay for the shaving of their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself observe and guard the law..."

Then Paul took the men, and the next day, having purified himself, he entered the temple with them, making public the completion of the days of purification when the sacrifice would be made for each of them.



# Jesus was sent to try to convert Israel

## Matt 10:5-6

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

## Matt 15:22-26

Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

As ambassadors to Israel, Jesus selected Twelve Hebraic Jewish Free Men



# Now that we are in Christ through faith...

## Gal. 5:6

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Gentiles are to be accepted fully .....	[covenant of Moses]
Circumcision is nothing .....	[covenant of Abraham]
All meat is clean .....	[covenant of Noah]
No day is particularly important .....	[established in Creation]

All of these could be laid aside, but not gender distinctions in religion ??