

## **“Man” and “Men” in Contexts where Women are Included**

**We recommend that HCSB double-check all translations of “man” and “men,” and shift some of them to a gender inclusive rendering.**

In our opinion, the HCSB for the most part follows an acceptable path with gender inclusive language. The HCSB continues to use “man” and “men” in a generic way, but it avoids doing so “unnecessarily” (“HCSB Introduction”). The HCSB claims to follow the “Colorado Springs Guidelines for Translation of Gender-Related language in Scripture.” These Guidelines state that “‘man’ should ordinarily be used to designate the human race,” but “in many cases, *anthrōpoi* refers to people in general, and can be translated ‘people’ rather than ‘men.’”

However, the HCSB continues to translate “man” or “men” in a fair number of contexts where it could legitimately translate in a gender inclusive way. This could make the HCSB miscommunicate today when the generic use of “man” and “men” has been reduced significantly in common usage. This could make the HCSB sound more “masculine” than the original Hebrew or Greek would have sounded to its original hearers.

We recommend that the HCSB Oversight Committee double-check all translations of “man” and “men” with a view toward shifting some of them to a gender inclusive rendering. The following is a sampling of some passages where such a shift should be considered. With these passages you can see that even the English Standard Version (ESV)—a translation that follows a cautious course similar to the HCSB with gender inclusive language—has not used the word “man” or “men.” We are not suggesting that the ESV translation of each verse, taken as a whole, is better than the HCSB rendering. We see some infelicities of translation in some of these ESV passages. We are simply observing that the ESV tries to avoid introducing gender specific language where there is none in the original text.

### **Old Testament passages that do not use אָדָם or אִישׁ**

- Psalm 37:21 (also verse 16)  
HCSB: The wicked man borrows and does not repay  
ESV: The wicked borrows but does not pay back,
- Psalm 49:10  
HCSB: For one can see that wise men die; foolish and stupid men also pass away.  
ESV: For he sees that even the wise die; the fool and the stupid alike must perish,
- Proverbs 1:5  
HCSB: a wise man will listen and increase his learning, and a discerning man will obtain guidance  
ESV: Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.
- Proverbs 12:10  
HCSB: A righteous man cares about his animal’s health  
ESV: Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast

- Proverbs 12:26  
HCSB: A righteous man is careful in dealing with his neighbor  
ESV: One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor.
- Proverbs 13:14  
HCSB: A wise man's instruction is a fountain of life,  
ESV: The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life,
- Proverbs 13:25  
HCSB: A righteous man eats until he is satisfied,  
ESV: The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite,
- Proverbs 14:20  
HCSB: A poor man is hated even by his neighbor,  
ESV: The poor is disliked even by his neighbor,
- Proverbs 15:26  
HCSB: The LORD detests the plans of an evil man,  
ESV: The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD,
- Proverbs 18:23  
HCSB: The poor man pleads,  
ESV: The poor use entreaties,
- Proverbs 19:1  
HCSB: Better a poor man who lives with integrity  
ESV: Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity
- Proverbs 22:22  
HCSB: Don't rob a poor man because he is poor,  
ESV: Do not rob the poor, because he is poor,
- Proverbs 1:5  
HCSB: a wise man will listen and increase his learning, and a discerning man will obtain guidance  
ESV: Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance.

**Old Testament passages that use אָדָם but the context is not limited to males**

Proverbs 3:13

HCSB: Happy is a man who finds wisdom  
ESV: Blessed is the one who finds wisdom

- Psalm 49:10  
HCSB: For one can see that wise men die; foolish and stupid men also pass away.  
ESV: For he sees that even the wise die; the fool and the stupid alike must perish,

**New Testament passages that use ἄνθρωπος but the context is not limited to males**

- Matthew 5:16  
HCSB: let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works.  
ESV: let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works.
- Matthew 15:11 (cf. also verses 18 + 20)  
HCSB: It's not what goes into the mouth that defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.  
ESV: It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.
- John 17:6  
HCSB: I have revealed Your name to the men You gave Me from the world.  
ESV: I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world.
- Romans 3:28  
HCSB: For we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.  
ESV: For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.
- Romans 4:6  
HCSB: David also speaks of the blessing of the man God credits righteousness to apart from works.  
ESV: David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works.
- 1 Corinthians 11:28  
HCSB: So a man should examine himself; in this way he should eat the bread  
ESV: Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread
- Ephesians 3:16  
HCSB: to be strengthened with power in the inner man through His Spirit  
ESV: he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.
- James 2:24  
HCSB: You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.  
ESV: You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.
- James 3:8  
HCSB: No man can tame the tongue.  
ESV: No human being can tame the tongue.