

Bible Translation Comparison - New Testament Salvation Passages Assembled by the WELS Translation Evaluation Committee

The TEC thinks that passages like these are worthy of special notice as WELS considers what translation to use in its publications. The words dealing with gender are highlighted. Blue highlighting indicates a “gender exclusive” rendering. Yellow highlighting indicates a “gender inclusive” rendering.

Matthew 4:19 – δεῦτε ὀπίσω μου, καὶ ποιήσω ὑμᾶς ἀλιεῖς **ἀνθρώπων**.

NIV11 – “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”	NIV84 – “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”	AAT – “Come, follow Me,” Jesus told them, “and I will make you fishers of men.”	ESV – "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."	HCSB – "Follow Me," He told them, "and I will make you fish for people!"	NASB – “Follow Me,* and I will make you fishers of men.” (*Lit Come here after Me)	NKJV – “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
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Matthew 13:23 – ὁ δὲ ἐπὶ τὴν καλὴν γῆν σπαρείς, **οὗτός** ἐστὶν ὁ τὸν λόγον ἀκούων καὶ συνιείς, ὃς δὴ καρποφορεῖ καὶ ποιεῖ ὃ μὲν ἑκατὸν ὃ δὲ ἑξήκοντα ὃ δὲ τριάκοντα.

NIV11 – But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”	NIV84 – But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”	AAT – But in another the seed is sown on good ground. He’s one who continues to hear and understand the Word and so goes on producing good things, one a hundred, another sixty, and another thirty times as much as was sown.	ESV – As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”	HCSB – But the one sown on the good ground—this is one who hears and understands the word, who does bear fruit and yields: some 100, some 60, some 30 times what was sown.”	NASB – And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”	NKJV – But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
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Luke 2:14 – δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις θεῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη ἐν **ἀνθρώποις** εὐδοκίας.

NIV11 – Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.	NIV84 – Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.	AAT – Glory to God in the highest heavens, and on earth peace among people who have His good will!	ESV – Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!*	HCSB – Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!*	NASB – Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.*	NKJV – “ Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*
			(*Some manuscripts peace, good will among	(*Other mss read earth good will to people; Or	(*Lit of good pleasure; or of good will)	(*NU-Text reads toward men of goodwill.)

			men)	earth to men of good will)		
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John 1:4 – ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶς τῶν ἀνθρώπων.

NIV11 – In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind .	NIV84 – In him was life, and that life was the light of men .	AAT – In Him was life, and the Life was the Light of men .	ESV – In him was life,* and the life was the light of men . (*Or <i>was not any thing made. That which has been made was life in him</i>)	HCSB – Life was in Him,* and that life was the light of men . (*Other punctuation is possible: . . . <i>not one thing was created. What was created in Him was life</i>)	NASB – In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men .	NKJV – In Him was life, and the life was the light of men .
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John 1:7 – οὗτος ἦλθεν εἰς μαρτυρίαν ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός, ἵνα **πάντες** πιστεύσωσιν δι' αὐτοῦ.

NIV11 – He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.	NIV84 – He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.	AAT – He came to tell the truth about the Light so that through him everyone might believe.	ESV – He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.	HCSB – He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him.* (*Or <i>through it</i> [the light])	NASB – He*came as a witness,* to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. (*Lit <i>This one</i>) (*Lit <i>for testimony</i>)	NKJV – This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
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John 1:9 – ἦν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινὸν ὃ φωτίζει **πάντα ἄνθρωπον** ἐρχόμενον εἰς τὸν κόσμον.

NIV11 – The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.	NIV84 – The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.* (*Or <i>This was the true light that gives light to every man who comes into the world</i>)	AAT – The true Light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.	ESV – The true light, which enlightens everyone , was coming into the world.	HCSB – The true light, who gives light to everyone , was coming into the world.* (*Or <i>The true light who comes into the world gives light to everyone, or The true light enlightens everyone coming into the world.</i>)	NASB – There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man .* (*Or <i>which enlightens every person coming into the world</i>)	NKJV – That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.* (*Or <i>That was the true Light which, coming into the world, gives light to every man.</i>)
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John 12:32 – κάγω εὐάν ὑψωθῶ ἐκ τῆς γῆς, πάντα ἐλκύσω πρὸς ἑμαυτόν.

NIV11 – And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.	NIV84 – But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.	AAT – And once I have been lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to Me.	ESV – And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."	HCSB – As for Me, if I am lifted up* from the earth I will draw all people to Myself." (*Or exalted)	NASB – And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."	NKJV – And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."
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John 15:5 – ἐγὼ εἰμι ἡ ἄμπελος, ὑμεῖς τὰ κλήματα. ὁ μένων ἐν ἐμοὶ καὶ ἐν αὐτῷ φέρει καρπὸν πολὺν, ὅτι χωρὶς ἐμοῦ οὐ δύνασθε ποιεῖν οὐδέν.

NIV11 – I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.	NIV84 – I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.	AAT – I am the Vine; you are the branches. If you stay in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit, for without Me you can do nothing.	ESV – I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.	HCSB – I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me.	NASB – I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.	NKJV – I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
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Acts 4:12 – οὐδὲ γὰρ ὄνομα ἐστὶν ἕτερον ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανὸν τὸ δεδομένον ἐν ἀνθρώποις ἐν ᾧ δεῖ σωθῆναι ἡμᾶς.

NIV11 – for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."	NIV84 – for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."	AAT – because in all the world there is only one name given us by which we must be saved.	ESV – for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."	HCSB – for there is no other name under heaven given to people, and we must be saved by it.	NASB – for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.	NKJV – for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
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Romans 3:28 – λογιζόμεθα γὰρ δικαιοῦσθαι πίστει ἄνθρωπον χωρὶς ἔργων νόμου.

NIV11 – For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.	NIV84 – For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.	AAT – We are convinced that anyone is declared righteous through faith without the works of the Law.	ESV – For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.	HCSB – For we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.	NASB – For* we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.* (*One early ms reads Therefore) (*Or of law)	NKJV – Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.
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Romans 4:5 – τῷ δὲ μὴ ἐργαζομένῳ, πιστεύοντι δὲ ἐπὶ τὸν δικαιοῦντα τὸν ἀσεβῆ, λογίζεται ἡ πίστις αὐτοῦ εἰς δικαιοσύνην,

NIV11 – However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.	NIV84 – However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.	AAT – But if instead of working you believe in Him Who declares the ungodly righteous, your faith is counted as righteousness.	ESV – And to the one who does not work but believes in* him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, (*Or <i>but trusts</i> ; compare verse 24)	HCSB – But to the one who does not work, but believes on Him who declares the ungodly to be righteous,* his faith is credited for righteousness. (*Or <i>who acquits</i> , or <i>who justifies</i>)	NASB – But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,	NKJV – But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,
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Romans 5:18 – Ἄρα οὖν ὡς δι' ἑνὸς παραπτώματος εἰς **πάντας ἀνθρώπους** εἰς κατάκριμα, οὕτως καὶ δι' ἑνὸς δικαίωματος εἰς **πάντας ἀνθρώπους** εἰς δικαίωσιν ζωῆς:

NIV11 – Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people , so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people .	NIV84 – Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men , so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men .	AAT – Now then, as by one sin all people were condemned, so also through one righteous act, justification which brings life came to all people .	ESV – Therefore, as one trespass* led to condemnation for all men , so one act of righteousness* leads to justification and life for all men . (*Or <i>the trespass of one</i>) (*Or <i>the act of righteousness of one</i>)	HCSB – So then, as through one trespass there is condemnation for everyone , so also through one righteous act there is life-giving justification* for everyone . (*Lit <i>is justification of life</i>)	NASB – So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation* to all men , even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification* of life to all men . (*Lit <i>to condemnation</i>) (*Lit <i>to justification</i>)	NKJV – Therefore, as through one man's offense <i>judgment came to all men</i> , resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act <i>the free gift came to all men</i> , resulting in justification of life.
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Galatians 2:16 – οὐ δικαιοῦται **ἄνθρωπος** ἐξ ἔργων νόμου ἐὰν μὴ διὰ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,

NIV11 – a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in* Jesus Christ. (*Or <i>but through the faithfulness of</i>)	NIV84 – a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.	AAT – a person cannot be declared righteous by doing what the Law says but only through believing in Jesus Christ.	ESV – a person is not justified* by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, (*Or <i>counted righteous</i>)	HCSB – no one is justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ. (*Or <i>by the faithfulness of Jesus Christ</i>)	NASB – a man is not justified by the works of the Law* but through faith in Christ Jesus, (*Or <i>law</i>)	NKJV – a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ,
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2 Corinthians 5:19 – θεὸς ἦν ἐν Χριστῷ κόσμον καταλλάσσων ἑαυτῷ, μὴ λογιζόμενος αὐτοῖς τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν

NIV11 – God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.	NIV84 – God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.	AAT – In Christ God restored the relationship of the world to Himself by not counting their sins against them.	ESV – in Christ God was reconciling* the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, (*Or <i>God was in Christ, reconciling</i>)	HCSB – in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them,	NASB – God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them,	NKJV – God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them,
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1 Timothy 2:4 – ὃς **πάντας ἀνθρώπους** θέλει σωθῆναι καὶ εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν ἀληθείας ἐλθεῖν.

NIV11 – who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.	NIV84 – who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.	AAT – Who wants all people to be saved and to come to know the truth.	ESV – who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.	HCSB – who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.	NASB – who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge* of the truth. (*Or <i>recognition</i>)	NKJV – who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
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1 Timothy 2:5-6 – Εἷς γὰρ θεός, εἷς καὶ μεσίτης θεοῦ καὶ **ἀνθρώπων**, ἄνθρωπος Χριστὸς Ἰησοῦς, **ὁ** δὸς ἑαυτὸν ἀντίλυτρον ὑπὲρ **πάντων**.

NIV11 – For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind , the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people .	NIV84 – For there is one God and one mediator between God and men , the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all men .	AAT – There is one God, and One Who brings God and men together, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ Who gave Himself as a ransom to free all people .	ESV – For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men , the man* Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all , (* <i>men and man</i> render the same Greek word that is translated <i>people</i> in verses 1 and 4)	HCSB – For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity , Christ Jesus, Himself human, ⁶ who gave Himself—a ransom for all ,	NASB – For there is one God, <i>and</i> one mediator also between God and men , <i>the</i> man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all ,	NKJV – For <i>there is</i> one God and one Mediator between God and men , <i>the</i> Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all ,
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1 Timothy 4:10 – ἠλπίκαμεν ἐπὶ θεῷ ζῶντι, ὃς ἐστὶν σωτὴρ πάντων ἀνθρώπων μάλιστα πιστῶν.

NIV11 – we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people , and especially of those who believe.	NIV84 – we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men , and especially of those who believe.	AAT – our hope is in the living God, Who is the Savior of all people , especially of those who believe.	ESV – we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people , especially of those who believe.	HCSB – we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of everyone , especially of those who believe.	NASB – we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men , especially of believers.	NKJV – we trust in the living God, who is <i>the</i> Savior of all men , especially of those who believe.
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Titus 2:11 – Ἐπεφάνη γὰρ ἡ χάρις τοῦ θεοῦ σωτήριος πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις

NIV11 – For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people .	NIV84 – For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men .	AAT – God has shown his grace. It brings salvation to all people .	ESV – For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people .	HCSB – For the grace of God has appeared, with salvation* for all people , (*Or <i>appeared, bringing salvation; or appeared with saving power</i>)	NASB – For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation* to all men , (*Or <i>to all men, bringing</i>)	NKJV – For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men ,
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James 5:16 – πολλὴ ἰσχύει δέησις **δικαίου** ἐνεργουμένη.

NIV11 – The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.	NIV84 – The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.	AAT – The earnest prayer of a righteous person accomplishes much.	ESV – The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.* (*Or <i>The effective prayer of a righteous person has great power</i>)	HCSB – The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.	NASB – The effective prayer* of a righteous man can accomplish much. (*Lit <i>supplication</i>)	NKJV – The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
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1 John 2:17 – **ὁ δὲ ποιῶν** τὸ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

NIV11 – whoever does the will of God lives forever.	NIV84 – the man who does the will of God lives forever.	AAT – if you do what God wants, you live forever.	ESV – whoever does the will of God abides forever.	HCSB – the one who does God's will remains forever.	NASB – the one who does the will of God lives forever.	NKJV – he who does the will of God abides forever.
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Revelation 5:9 – ὅτι ἐσφάγης καὶ ἠγόρασας τῷ θεῷ ἐν τῷ αἵματι σου **ἐκ πάσης φυλῆς** καὶ γλώσσης καὶ λαοῦ καὶ ἔθνους

NIV11 – you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.	NIV84 – you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.	AAT – You were sacrificed with Your blood You bought them from every tribe, language, people and nation to be God’s own	ESV – for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,	HCSB – You were slaughtered, and You redeemed* people * for God by Your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. (*Or <i>purchased</i>) (*Other mss read <i>us</i>)	NASB – You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.	NKJV – You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
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Revelation 21:3 – Ἴδού ἡ σκηνὴ τοῦ θεοῦ μετὰ **τῶν ἀνθρώπων**, καὶ σκηνώσει μετ’ αὐτῶν,

NIV11 – Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people , and he will dwell with them.	NIV84 – Now the dwelling of God is with men , and he will live with them.	AAT – Look! God’s home is among the people , and He will live with them.	ESV – Behold, the dwelling place* of God is with man . He will dwell with them, (*Or <i>tabernacle</i>)	HCSB – Look! God’s dwelling* is with humanity , and He will live with them. (*Or <i>tent</i> , or <i>tabernacle</i>)	NASB – Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men , and He will dwell* among them, (*Or <i>tabernacle</i>)	NKJV – Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men , and He will dwell with them,
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Observations of the WELS Translation Evaluation Committee

Some WELS members have told the Translation Evaluation Committee that the NIV84 was fine—that there was no need for a revision. The NIV84, however, used the word “man” or “men” in many New Testament salvation passages. Since the understanding of “man” and “men” has shifted for many people in the past 30 years, gender inclusive language in these passages is something that we all can welcome as an improvement in NIV11. Similar gender inclusive language is also used in the ESV and the HCSB in most passages. The Greek words and constructions are recognized by everyone as words and constructions that include both men and women.

It is hard for the TEC to think that it is prudent on the part of WELS in the year 2011 to move to a translation like the NKJV or the NASB that still has “man” or “men” in these passages. Thirty years ago a move to NKJV or the NASB would have been understandable, as a modest shift from the KJV. Today these translations have an additional weakness inasmuch as their gender language has not been updated in keeping with how the words “man” and “men” are commonly heard and understood today.