

“Biblical Foundations of Manhood and Womanhood”

Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-33

Among evangelicals there are two main views when it comes to gender roles:

Egalitarian view: God made men and women equal—and they have the *same* roles regardless of gender.

Complementarian view: God made men and women equal—but they have *different* roles based on gender

→ The Bible teaches a complementarian view: Men and women have different roles.

GENDER DIFFERENCES WERE INHERENT IN CREATION—BEFORE THE FALL. Genesis 2:18-25

1. **God (not Adam) announced the reality that man needed a helpmate. v.18**

- A helper “fit” for him.

2. **God showed Adam his need for a helpmate by having him name the animals. v.19-20**

- I.e., No creature among the animals were *like* him. None shared *his* nature.

3. **God (not Adam) made a woman and brought her to Adam. v.21-22**

- “made” = built, fashioned, molded. Idea is God made a woman to “fit together” with Adam.

4. **Adam recognized that the woman shared his nature. v.23a** **un-like the animals**

- ESV: “This at last...” NAS: “This is now...”

5. **Adam gave her a name. v.23b “She shall be called Woman”**

6. **God (not Adam) called both to marriage. v.24-25**

- The primary & clearest example of how man and woman fit together: marriage. “Leave, cleave, and weave”

→ Why? Because marriage is a picture of the Gospel. Paul quotes this same text in **Ephesians 5:31-32**

GOD’S DESIGN OF AN AUTHORITY STRUCTURE AMONG MEN AND WOMEN

1. **The Bible makes a distinction between male and female roles in the context of authority.**

- In marriage and the family, the man is the head of a Christian household. 1 Corinthians 11:3; Eph. 5:23
- In the church. 1 Timothy 2:11-14. → NOTE: This is not an issue of giftedness or value—but of authority.
- Men specifically and exclusively are called to be elders (1 Tim 3:2) and deacons (1 Tim 3:11-12)

2. **A similar reality exists in the Trinity. Ref. John 10:30; 6:38.**

- Christ is equal to the Father in His Person, Essence and Glory (“I and the Father are one.”)
- But Christ is also subordinate in position (“I have not come to do my will, but the will of Him who sent me.”)

BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD: DEFINED AND DISTORTED

1. **What is BIBLICAL MANHOOD?** (these definitions are borrowed from Rev. Dr. John Piper)

- The essence of Biblical manhood is to lead, protect, and provide for others (especially women and children) in a way that resembles Christ’s love for the church. (→ Intentional, committed, loving, sacrificial)

- How does sin distort our calling to manhood?

MANHOOD

Biblical role: Servant-Leader (Provide & Protect)

Sinful response: Abdicate/Avoid-----Abuse

- As a result of the Fall, work (providing for and protecting his family) is now his struggle. (Gen 3:17-19)

2. **What is BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD?**

- The essence of Biblical womanhood is to affirm, receive, and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in a way that resembles the church’s submission to Christ. (→ Intentional, joyful, willing, trusting)

- How does sin distort our calling to womanhood?

WOMANHOOD

Biblical role: Helpmate (Advise & Submit)

Sinful response: Surrender-----Scorn

- As a result of the Fall, relationships and control are now her struggles. (Gen. 3:16)

Applications...