

MAN AS MALE AND FEMALE

INTRODUCTION

- Perhaps no issue causes more controversy in our country today than the issue of gender as it relates to marriage, roles within families and the church, and the controversy surrounding homosexuality and transgenderism
- The last few years have seen this issue dominate our culture such that the moral fabric with which our country was built has begun to fray and disintegrate
- Our society continues to give indication after indication of increasing hostility toward a biblical understanding of gender:
 - The “transitioning” of Olympian Bruce Jenner
 - The belief that identity is only a “social construct” and the introduction of bills to allow those who identify as opposite gender to use bathrooms, showers, etc.
 - The June 26, 2015 Supreme Court decision that mandated that all 50 states fundamentally redefine marriage as one of the most foundational building blocks of civilized society (the effect of that decision has been significant: 1) Bible-believing chaplains should be kicked out of the military; 2) Churches should lose their tax exemptions; 3) Clergy should be forced to perform same sex “marriages” against their conscience)
 - The continuing controversy within the church on “complementarianism vs. egalitarianism”
 - Complementarian = God created men and women as equals but with different gender-defined roles
 - Egalitarian (or “evangelical feminism”) = God created men and women as equals in both value and roles...the Bible’s statements on headship and submission have been grossly misinterpreted by past generations of Christians...the concept of mutual submission and responsibility determines the relationship between men and women in both marriage and the church
- The attacks on male and female roles that we have witnessed recently constitute nothing short of an attack on God’s creation of man and woman and their original design
- Hence, this topic is not an insignificant one and we must go back to God’s Word

GOD’S ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR MALE AND FEMALE

- Part of being made in the image of God involves being made biologically male and female (i.e. an objective reality based on sex organs and chromosomes which is unambiguous at birth)

Genesis 1:26-27 ~ *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

Genesis 5:1-2 ~ *This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.*

- Although being made in the image of God is more than just being male and female, it is one of the primary ways it is seen
- Jesus even affirmed that people are made male or female biologically according to God’s design:

Matthew 19:4 ~ *And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE*

God Designed Men and Women to be Relational

- The fact that God created two distinct persons as male and female reflects the plurality of persons within the Trinity

Genesis 1:26-27 ~ Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His **own image**, in **the image of God** He created him; male and female He created them.

- God was personally and intimately involved in the creation of man
- The plural *Us* introduces the plurality of relationships in the Godhead
- The plural pronoun *Us* constitutes unmistakable evidence to the Trinity involved in the creation of male and female
- The relationships between men and women, particularly within marriage, parallel the relationships within the Trinity

Genesis 2:24 ~ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

God Designed Men and Women to be Equal in Value

- In the same way each member of the Trinity is equal in value, so too are men and women, created in God's image

Genesis 1:26-27 ~ Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His **own image**, in **the image of God** He created him; **male and female** He created them.

- Men and women are made equally in God's image
- Both are capable of reflecting God's character and image in their lives

1 Corinthians 11:11-12 ~ However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.

1 Corinthians 12:7, 11 ~ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

Galatians 3:27-28 ~ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- Thus, men and women are equally important and valuable to God...both are worthy of equal honor
- This should remove any sense of pride or inferiority based on gender
- This reality really sets Christianity apart from almost all other religions and cultures

God Designed Men and Women to be Different in Roles

- God designed the relationship between men and women to reflect the relationship within the Trinity
- Headship and submission within the Trinity form the pattern for different roles between men and women
- All 3 members of the Trinity are equal in value and deity, yet each possess a different function

1 Corinthians 11:3 ~ *But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.*

- The Trinity means that God consists of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who are ONE in essence and attributes, yet three in distinct work and purpose
- The Bible teaches us that even though each member of the Trinity is fully God, and totally equal, they function in different roles
- The Holy Spirit submits to Jesus and the Father and Jesus submits to the Father, yet all are Equal and One
- Since men and women are made in the image of God, it makes sense that differences in roles would be evident also
- These differences in roles are evident BEFORE the fall and entrance of sin into the world:

1. God created Adam first

Genesis 2:18-23 ~ *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."*

- God did not create the man and the woman at the same time, unlike the animals; God created the man before he created the woman
- Before Eve was formed:
 - God placed Adam in the garden to care for it – 2:15
 - God commanded Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – 2:16-17
 - God brought animals for Adam to name – 2:19
- The gap between the creation of Adam and Eve suggests that Adam had a leadership role

2. God created the woman out of man

Genesis 2:7 ~ *Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

Genesis 2:21-22 ~ *So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²²The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.*

1 Corinthians 11:8 ~ *For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man*

- God created men and women in very different ways...The woman's source of origin is the man

3. God created the woman for man

Genesis 2:18 ~ *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."*

1 Corinthians 11:9 ~ *for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake*

- "Suitable" means "a counterpart...one who completes what is missing in man...one who is both opposite and proper for him"

- Eve was created for the distinct purpose of helping Adam, not vice versa
- This does not imply inferiority, but simply a difference in roles

4. Adam named Eve

Genesis 2:23 ~ *The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."*

- Adam's authority over the animal kingdom is seen in his naming the animals
- In the Old Testament, the right to name someone implied authority over that person
- Shows that Adam had a leadership role in his relationship with Eve

5. The Serpent tempted Eve, not Adam

Genesis 3:1 ~ *Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"*

- Satan usurped Adam's leadership over Eve and circumvented his authority by going to Eve first

6. God spoke to Adam first after the Fall

Genesis 3:9 ~ *Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"*

- Even though Eve sinned first, God came to Adam first because he was the leader in the family
- As such, he was held accountable for what happened

7. Adam Represented the Human Race, not Eve

Romans 5:12 ~ *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—*

Romans 5:15 ~ *But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.*

1 Corinthians 15:22 ~ *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*

- Even though Eve sinned first, it was Adam's sin that plunged the human race into sin
- God had given Adam headship, not Eve; therefore, he is held accountable

THE EFFECT OF THE FALL

- Some today assert that the different roles between men and women are a result of the Fall and not God's original design

There is not a hint, not even a whisper about anything like a hierarchical order existing between man and woman in the creation account of Genesis, chapters 1 and 2. In fact, the exact opposite is clearly taught in these two chapters. Both man and woman were made in God's image (1:26-27) and they both participated in God-assigned ministries without any role distinctions (1:28). The creation order established oneness, not hierarchy (2:24). The first indication of a hierarchical order between man and woman resulted from the entrance of sin into the world (3:16). The subordination of women to men was not part of God's original design. It resulted from the violation of God's creation order.

Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian, <http://godstowomen.org/bilezikian.htm>

- But notice that the curse affected the relationships between men and women not by introducing a hierarchical order but by reversing the roles:

Genesis 3:16 ~ *To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."*

1. Women will Usurp the Headship of the Man

- "desire" = to compel, seek control over"
- This is the same word in Genesis 4:7 – "Sin desires to control you, but you must master it"
- "desire" in 4:7 means "excessive control over"
- Thus, the curse in Gen 3:16 refers to a new desire on the part of the woman to exercise control over her husband
- Genesis 3:16 could be translated – "Your desire will be to control your husband but he will rule over you"
- The wife will have a desire to dominate and lead the relationship
- Thus the curse is a woman desiring to usurp man's headship

2. Men will Abuse their Headship

- "he shall rule over you" where "rule" = reign
- The husband will oppressively rule over his wife
- Thus the curse is a man exercising harsh authority over a woman
- The fall causes man to oppressively rule and exert authority over women
- The fall distorted the role of men and women
- The result of the Fall on marriage and relationships throughout history has been an ongoing struggle between the sexes, with women seeking control and men seeking dominance
- Women have a sinful inclination to usurp man's authority and men have a sinful inclination to put women under their feet
- This was God's curse on humanity: the man will rule over the woman and the woman will seek to rule over the man
- But in Christ, the curse can be reversed and the original design for men and women can be restored to harmonious relationship

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MARRIAGE?

Ephesians 5:22-33 ~ *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body. ³¹ FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. ³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.*

Colossians 3:18-19 ~ *Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.*

Titus 2:3-5 ~ Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,⁴ so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,⁵ to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, **being subject to their own husbands**, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

1 Peter 3:1-7 ~ In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,² as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.³ Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;⁴ but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.⁵ For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;⁶ just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.⁷ You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE HOME?

Proverbs 31:10-31

1 Timothy 5:8 ~ But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:14 ~ Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, **keep house**, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach;

Titus 2:3-5 ~ Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,⁴ so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,⁵ to be sensible, pure, **workers at home**, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

- God has designed the husband to be the provider and has designed the woman to have a heart for home
- Is it a sin for a woman to work outside the home? → No but it is sin not to have a heart for home
- For those with young children, God's desire is that wives will be the primary shapers of their children

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CHURCH?

1 Corinthians 14:34-35 ~ The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.³⁵ If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

1 Timothy 2:9-15 ~⁹ Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,¹⁰ but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.¹¹ A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.¹² But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.¹³ For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.¹⁴ And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.¹⁵ But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

1 Timothy 3:2, 5 ~ An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

Titus 2:3-5 ~ Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, **teaching what is good**,⁴ so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,⁵ to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR TRANSGENDERISM AND HOMOSEXUALITY?

- Can someone be a “transgender Christian” or “homosexual Christian?”
- What about reparative therapy for helping homosexuals?
- How can we show love to those caught in this sin and yet remain true to the Word?