

D2: The Home—Biblical Womanhood

"Male and female He created them...And behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:27, 31

INTRODUCTION:

History and influences of feminism in our culture:

"The tendency today is to stress the equality of men and women by minimizing the unique significance of our maleness or femaleness. But this depreciation of male and female personhood is a great loss. It is taking a tremendous toll on generations of young men and women who do not know what it means to be a man or a woman. Confusion over the meaning of sexual personhood today is epidemic. The consequence of this confusion is not a free and happy harmony among gender-free persons relating on the basis of abstract competencies. The consequence rather, is more divorce, more homosexuality, more sexual abuse, more promiscuity, more emotional distress and suicide that come with the loss of God-given identity."

John Piper and Wayne Grudem

"Today's feminism in its essence is sinister and about as far removed from God as you can get. Its agenda is harmful to not only women, but families, marriages, society and the church. That may not be a politically correct thing to say, but I can assure you it is Biblically Correct!" John MacArthur

Complementarian:

1. Spiritual equality before God and each other.
2. Role differentiation in our families and in the church.

1. The Old Testament

Spiritual Equality:

Man and woman are equally created in the image of God.

- Genesis 1:26-27
- Col 1:15 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation."
- Phil. 2:5-8 "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."
- Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- 2 Cor. 4:4 "...in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."
- Heb. 1:3 "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Men and women have been equally impacted and corrupted by sin.

Role Differentiation:

- Gen. 2:18-25
- Gen. 2:15-17; 3:9

Sin distorted their God-given differentiation. Sin did not introduce it.

- Gen. 3:1-6, 16-19

2. Jesus

Spiritual Equality:

1. Matthew 13:33; 24:41; Luke 15:8-10
2. John 4:25-26
3. Luke 10:38
4. Luke 8:43-48; Luke 13:10ff
5. Luke 8:1-3
6. John 20:1-18

Role Differentiation:

3. The Rest of the New Testament

Spiritual Equality:

- Gal. 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
- Acts 18:26 (Priscilla and Aquila)
- Phil. 4:2-3 (Euodia and Syntyche)
- 1 Peter 3:1-7

Role differentiation:

• **Church:**

- 1 Cor. 11:1-16
- 1 Cor. 14:34-36
- 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 2:3-5; 2:12

• **Marriage:**

- Eph. 5:22-33
- Col 3:18-21
- 1 Pt. 3:1-7

Grace Bible Church, Biblical Conviction 7: Biblical Manhood and Womanhood in our Church

<http://www.gbcaz.org/about/biblical-convictions/>

As we survey the Bible from beginning to end, we see God establishing two realities for men and women: spiritual equality before God AND role differentiation (for men and women) in the church and Christian families. This biblical view of manhood and womanhood is called a “complementarian” view of manhood and womanhood. Let’s examine the two realities God has established for men and women according to His word:

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Spiritual Equality:

Man and woman are equally created in the image of God (neither one has more or less of God’s image than the other). Man and woman are equally totaled by sin (neither one is more sinful than the other). Gn 1:26-27; Gn 3:16-19.

Role Differentiation:

God created man first, then woman (God had an order in mind when He created; an order that is linked to their different roles). Gn 2:18ff (1 Cor 11; 1 Tm 2). God both instructs AND confronts the first human pair through the man (prior to and after the fall – so sin distorted our God-given differentiation, but certainly did not introduce it), Gn 2:15-17; 3:9. This order is linked to our roles, NOT to our spiritual equality (the order doesn’t diminish our spiritual equality, it enhances and promotes our roles).

Jesus

Spiritual equality:

Jesus dramatically emphasized a woman’s spiritual equality with man in the midst of a woman-demeaning Greek, Roman, and even Jewish culture. Jesus used illustrations and images familiar to and useful for women, Mt 13:33; 24:41; Lk 13:20-21; 15:8-10. Jesus revealed Himself as Messiah to women, Jn 4:25-26. Jesus taught women directly, Lk 10:38-42. Jesus touched women and allowed them to touch Him, Lk 8:43-48; 13:10-17. Jesus allowed women to travel with Him and His disciples, Lk 8:1-3. After His resurrection Jesus revealed Himself first to a woman, Jn 20:1-18. All of this is culturally unprecedented!

Role differentiation:

Jesus did nothing to exalt women to a place of spiritual leadership over men. If ever there was a time to correct the prior teaching and practice in regards to role differentiation – it was at this time through this Man! But Jesus didn’t. Rather, Jesus affirms what revelation has already taught – that women are spiritually equal with men before God (in fact He elevated this out of the culturally sinful view of His day). Jesus also affirmed the God-given role differentiation from the older Testament as well.

The rest of the New Testament

Spiritual equality:

Women are spiritual equals with men in redemption. Gender was not taken into account when God designed and carried out redemption through Jesus’ atoning work (Gal 3:28). Women shared in the struggle of advancing the gospel with Paul (Phil 4:2-3). Wives were to be viewed by their Christian husbands as “fellow heirs of the grace of life” (1 Pt 3:7).

Role differentiation:

Paul, under no less inspiration of the Holy Spirit than in the preceding verses, defines different roles for men and women both in the church and in the Christian home, 1 Cor 11:1-16; 14:34-36; 1 Tim 2:8-15; Eph 5:22-33; Col 3:18-21; 1 Pt 3:1-7.

As sinful genders who have come to taste God’s glory and life transforming work through the cross of Jesus, we see something beautiful and exalted in our biblical manhood and womanhood. We do not tolerate a “patriarchal”, out-dated view of the genders because that is what our tradition dictates. We embrace the spiritual equality AND the role differentiation given us from our sovereign God. Why? God has something to reveal about Himself through BOTH our spiritual equality AND our role differentiation. For instance, man and woman (2) gives to us a simpler picture of who our Triune (3 in 1) God is. There is spiritual equality within the Godhead but role differentiation between Members as well (1 Cor. 11:3).

We are eager that God be seen within our church family and our nuclear families as we rejoice in our spiritual equality at the cross as well as obediently embrace these distinct roles He has given us.