

D2: THE HOME: Bearing God's Image as Biblical Women

The Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines:

Introduction - Biblical Womanhood:

"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 (which is what they are after)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

Complementarian:

- Spiritual equality - Men and women have spiritual equality before God and each other.
- Role differentiation - The distinctions and differences between the roles of men and women, especially in the church and in the family.

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

1. The Old Testament

- Spiritual Equality
 - Man and woman are equally created in the image of God, Ge 1:26-27.
 - God's image is seen in Jesus.
 - Col 1:15a "He is the image of the invisible God..."
 - Phil 2:6-8.
 - See also Jn 1:18; 2 Co 4:4; Heb 1:3.
 - Men and women have been equally impacted and corrupted by sin, Ge 3:1-6.

- Role Differentiation
 - Reflects the role differentiation in the Trinity.

 - God designed different roles before the fall.
 - Eve created as a helper suitable to Adam, Ge 2:18-25.

 - Adam was entrusted with instructing Eve, Ge 2:15-17; 3:9.

 - In the New Testament, Paul appeals to the order of creation (Adam first, then Eve) to explain the different roles of men and women, 1 Co 11:3, 8-9; 1 Ti 2:12-13.

 - There is a pattern of role distinctions throughout the Old Testament.
 - Consistent pattern of men in leadership - priests, heads of tribes, kings.

- An excellent woman - Pr 31:10-31.
 - She is bearing God's image of self-giving love by pouring herself out in creative, industrious, fruitful, joyful service to those around her, beginning in her household, and in particular, her husband and children. She understands that her household is to be a center of productivity, wise instruction, and blessing to others.
 - Just as we saw in Titus 2:3-5, a woman's faithfulness in her home is part of God's design for her. It protects God's Word from dishonor (Titus 2:3-5) and puts God's image of self-giving love on display.
- Sin distorted their God-given differentiation. Sin did not introduce it, Ge 3:1-6, 16-19.

2. Gospels - Jesus' Ministry

- Spiritual Equality
 - Used illustrations relevant to women, e.g. Mt 13:33; 24:41; Lk 15:8-10.
 - Revealed Himself as Messiah to women, e.g. Jn 4:25-26.
 - Taught women, e.g. Lk 10:38-42.
 - Healed women, touched women, and allowed them to touch Him, e.g., Lk 8:43-48; 13:10ff.
 - Sent a woman as a witness to His resurrection, Jn 20:1-18.
- Role Differentiation
 - Did nothing to exalt women to a place of spiritual leadership over men.
 - Affirmed the God-given role differentiation from the Old Testament.
 - Examples of women who served and helped in Jesus' ministry:
 - Anna, Lk 2:36-38.
 - Martha, Lk 10:38; Jn 12:2.
 - Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and others, Lk 8:1-3.

3. The Rest of the New Testament

- Spiritual Equality
 - “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,” Ga 3:28.
 - Priscilla and Aquila served together, Ac 18:26.
 - Euodia and Syntyche shared Paul’s struggle in the cause of the gospel, Phil 4:2-3.
 - All believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, Ro 8:9.
 - All believers receive spiritual gifts, 1 Co 12:4-7; 1 Pe 4:10-11.
 - Wives are fellow heirs of the grace of life, 1 Pe 3:1-7.

- Role differentiation
 - Church
 - Roles and Responsibilities of Men, Elders, and Deacons:
 - Ac 20:28; 1 Co 11:3; 14:34; 1 Ti 2:8-15; 1 Ti 3:1-13; Ti 1:5-9; He 13:17; 1 Pe 5:1-3.
 - Roles and Responsibilities of Women:
 - Ro 16:1-15; 1 Co 11:3; 1 Co 14:34-35; 1 Ti 2:8-15; 5:9-10, 16; Ti 2:3-5.
 - Singleness
 - A unique opportunity for undistracted devotion to the Lord, 1 Co 7:32-35.
 - Tabitha (Dorcas), Ac 9:36-41.
 - Lydia, Ac 16:13-15, 40.
 - Phoebe, Ro 16:1-2.

- Marriage
 - A picture of Christ and the church, Eph 5:22-33.
 - See also Col 3:18-21; 1 Pt 3:1-7.

Conclusion