

Male and Female. He made them.

What now? Four Areas of Application.

Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Intro – Review

Men and women find their value and dignity in their creation in God's image and their sonship in Christ by faith. Thus, women and men are equal in value, dignity, and worth irrespective of any other criteria culture might try and magnify as important or essential.

Since, women and men find their dignity, value, and worth in their creation in the image of God and in their sonship in Christ by faith, then their roles can be different without jeopardizing their essential identity as equal before God. And in fact, the Bible makes it clear that though women and men are equal in dignity, value, and worth, they are different in their God-intentioned roles in the family and in the church.

In the family, their roles can be defined as head and helper. The man is called to lead his family and, in particular, serve his wife through sacrificial love. The woman is called to helpfully partner with her husband, submitting to him as her head. This relationship portrays the gospel to the world.

In the church, the role of elder/pastor/overseer is explicitly reserved for men and the function of that office, teaching the gathered church, is also therefore reserved for men. The Bible insists women learn and study God's Word in order that they too might be teachers in roles not reserved for men.

Finally, we also see in the Bible that our genders as man or woman are a good gift from God that we ought not to try and alter.

As we conclude our series on Biblical manhood and womanhood, there may be many of us asking the question, "What now?" In an endeavour to at least partially answer that question, I'd like for us to look at four areas of application.

Cherish God's Word

Psalm 119:103 (ESV) How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

- Our response to this doctrine should be begrudging acknowledgement but joyful cherishing; not cold-hearted rule following but a reverent and heartfelt obedience

1 John 5:3 (ESV) For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

- We are called not just dutiful compliance but loving obedience

How do we delight in difficult doctrines?

- **John Piper in *How to Delight in God's Word*:** pray for new tastebuds – “The same psalmist who said, “How sweet are your words to my taste” (Psalm 119:103), said earlier, “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law” (Psalm 119:18). He prayed, because to have holy tastebuds on the tongue of the heart is a gift of God. No man naturally hungers for and delights in God’s wisdom.”
- Apart from God’s work in our inner selves by God’s Spirit, we cannot love his word or obedience to it. We need his help!
- If we do not love God’s Word and the instructions therein, I fear we will not win the battle for obedience.

Main temptation for men? If you do not love God’s commands for you to lovingly lead in your homes and in the church, I do not believe you will be obedient to this calling. Rather, we will abdicate: the Garden of Eden.

Main temptation for women? If you do not embrace your call to submit in the home and ^{gladly} refrain from roles prohibited by the Bible, I’m afraid you will fail in your obedience. Instead of obeying God, you will usurp authority: Garden of Eden.

Let us pray for a relishing and revering of God’s Word as it pertains to our manhood and womanhood in the home and in the church.

Convinced of Our Stance

or article
Kevin DeYoung in 9 Marks of Healthy Biblical Complementarianism: "There's ... a difference between a thoughtful complementarianism based on the exegesis and application of Scripture and a clumsy complementarianism that is little more than the default position of an overly prescriptive cultural traditionalism."

- We do not want to practice this because we are traditional but because we are biblical. This is not a preference based on what we have always done. It is a conviction based on the very design of God in Scripture.

Albert Mohler in The Conviction to Lead: "Put simply, a conviction is a belief of which we are thoroughly convinced. I don't mean that we are merely persuaded that something is true, but rather that we are convinced this truth is essential and life changing. We live out of this truth ..."

If our views on biblical manhood and womanhood are convictions and not merely preferences, we will:

** "What if biblical faithfulness doesn't result in visible fruitfulness?"*

Study this topic:

Acts 17:11 (ESV) Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

2 Timothy 2:7 (ESV) Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

Teach this topic:

Deuteronomy 11:18-20 (ESV) "You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,

Acts 20:26-28 (ESV) Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Paul's instructions to the elders in Ephesus

You are also called



Confronting Our Culture

Kevin DeYoung in *9 Marks of Healthy Biblical Complementarianism*: “The core convictions of complementarianism will not magically seep into our children or into our churches.* The cultural breeze is blowing too stiffly against us. Biblical manhood and womanhood must be taught as well as caught. When it comes to the goodness of God’s divine design for men and women, unless we are pushing forward against the forces of sports and media and politics and business and entertainment, we will end up drifting in wrong direction.”

- **Romans 12:2**, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”
- **Ephesians 4:17**, “You must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.”
- **James 4:4**, “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
- **1 Peter 1:18**, “You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers.”
- **1 John 2:15**, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

John Piper in *How to Engage Culture and Swim Against It*: “My plea is that you be more like a dolphin and less like a jellyfish ...

“... I love the dolphin, jelly fish analogy. The assumption is that oceans of culture have very powerful tides and these cultural tides almost always pull us away from deep allegiance to Jesus.

So if you are going to swim in the cultural oceans and be a Christian, you better be a dolphin, not a jelly fish, because a jelly fish just goes with the flow and dolphins can cut through the tidal currents and swim toward the truth and swim toward holiness and heaven in spite of cultural tides. And, of course, there is no if about it, like, “if we are going to live in these cultural tides . . .” No, there is no if about it. We don’t have any choice. We do swim in the cultural oceans of this planet. To be alive is to be a culture shaped by the world.”

* teach

NT commands
do resist the
influence of the
world

Let's fight culture on this one. Let's not bow our knee to the prevailing thoughts and ideas of the world. Let's commit to be faithful to God.

DANGER! DANGER!

Gavin Ortlund in *4 Dangers for Complementarians*: "There is a real danger at hand when the (difficult) goal of defending complementarianism becomes so prominent in our vision that it sidelines the (even more difficult) goal of living it out in a beautiful, life-giving way. Theological integrity is hard and important; godliness and love equally important, and probably harder. But to affirm the truth without also applying it to ourselves is not just incomplete: it is actually a step backward.

We should labor to show that complementarianism is not merely biblical, but beautiful. Our target is not merely "faithful" or "right"; it is also "wise" and "winsome." Insofar as depends on us, our church cultures should be places where people genuinely feel welcomed, valued, safe. Doubtless some will see any expression of complementarianism as a threat. But others may say, upon experiencing church cultures following the example of Christ (including his respect for women), "This is beautiful. This makes sense. I see how this can work."

One of the ways we can do that in the church is ...

Celebrating and Empowering

Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to **equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,**

Trillia Newbell in *Don't Be Sidelined by the Gender Debate*: "No matter your interpretation of this much-debated passage, Scripture also teaches us that if God has put you in a church, he wants you to serve. It is no small thing that God has gifted you for the benefit of the whole church! Paul's description of the body and its various parts shows you are a valuable, and dare I say, needed part of the church (1 Corinthians 12).

The debate over gender roles can distract women from serving with all their might in the church. It's tempting to focus on one aspect of church involvement closed to women rather than rejoice over the hundreds of ways we can and should be serving. If I am not a pastor, does that mean my service means less? Not so, according to Paul, who teaches us to take joy in working hard for God in every way he has gifted us, for the benefit of the body and to God's glory."

1 Corinthians 12:14 (ESV) For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

ESL

Coporis Conference

We will endeavour to support, encourage, promote, and celebrate women and their service in the church.

Consider, when called upon, the intentionality behind the request

- ① Pray for God's help to cherish His Word
- ② Study + teach this conviction
- ③ Steel yourself to fight culture on this issue
- ④ Demonstrate the beauty of complementarianism in our church by celebrating the ministry of women and encouraging them and empowering them to walk in all the fulness of God's design for them in the church