

Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: Back to God's Original Design (Genesis 1-2)

Week #2 of DDM (Disciple Development Month) – Sept 25, 2022 - Pastor Jeff

- In many areas of life, we discover how important it is to follow the manufacturer's instructions for the best use and enjoyment of a product or service. How many times have we experienced the undesirable consequences of wrongly assembling something we desired to have and use yet failed to follow the specific manufacturer's directions? This is especially true when it comes to living according to God's creative and specific design for being a man or a woman.
- The neglect or abandonment of God's original design for manhood and womanhood directly and negatively impacts our marriages, families, churches and society.
- What is God's original plan? It is foundationally described in Genesis 1 and 2 and other related passages in Scripture. We will look at two things about God's original design.

1. Be alert to the general disagreement about God's design for men and women

- There are two viewpoints about what God says about manhood and womanhood:
 - **The egalitarian view** teaches that men and women are created equal before God in their being, personhood, dignity, and worth and there are no gender-based limitations on what functions or roles each can fulfill in the home, the church, or society. (Christians for Biblical Equality – Its position paper is *Men, Women & Biblical Equality* – www.cbeinternational.org)
 - **The complementarian view** teaches that men and women were created equal before God in their being, personhood, dignity and worth and they are designed to complement each other through God-assigned roles and functions associated with each gender (Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood –CBMW founded in 1987: wrote a position paper called *The Danvers Statement* – www.cbmw.org)

2. Be aware of the good design God created for men and women (Gen. 1-2; 1 Cor. 11:3)

- Men and women are equal in four ways (Gen. 1-2)
 - 1) God says both sexes ("*male*" and "*female*") are created equally as image-bearers of Himself ("*God created man in His image*" - Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6; Col. 3:10) and Peter calls wives "*co-heirs of the grace of life*" (1 Pet 3:7)
 - 2) God says both sexes shared a joint ability to procreate and reproduce themselves ("*be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth*"- Gen. 1:28)
 - 3) God says both sexes shared a joint responsibility to "*rule over*" God's creation & "*subdue it*" in the creation mandate (Gen. 1:26, 28)
 - 4) God says both sexes have access to & share in the blessing and fulness of saving grace (Rom. 10:13; Matt 28:18; Gal. 3:28)
- Men and women are distinct in three ways:
 - 1) God said He only created two sexually distinct genders: male and female (Gen. 1:27).
 - 2) God reveals that only females can conceive and birth a child
 - 3) God reveals that even with all this equality, there would be complementary roles & functions.
- What are the patterns that we see in Scripture?

- 1) We see men given official leadership roles to exercise (1 Cor. 11:3: Adam, patriarchs, Moses, Joshua, priests, Levites, judges, kings, national prophets, apostles, husbands, elders with very few exceptions along the way)
- 2) We see women displaying a wide range of heroic characteristics (Hebrew midwives Pharaoh's daughter who raised Moses; the daughters of Zelophehad who stood up for their family's land inheritance; Jael who drove a spike through Army Commander Sisera's head; the Shunamite woman who appealed to the king for her house and land; the godly woman in Proverbs 31)
- 3) We see godly women helping men (Sarah & Rebekah, Rachel & Leah, Rahab & Ruth, Deborah and Abigail, Eve and Esther)
- 4) We see ungodly women influencing men for evil and ungodly men mistreating women (Women like Jezebel who led Ahab into greater sin, Delilah who tricked Samson, Michal who disrespectfully rebuked David's exuberant worship) and Men (Lot offered his daughters to some men of Sodom, Shechem raped Jacob's daughter, David committed adultery with Bathsheba, Judah committed incest with his daughter Tamar who was disguised as a temple prostitute, Jephthah made a stupid vow and it cost him his only child, his daughter).
- 5) We see women finding pain & purpose associated with bearing and caring for children. The primary focus of a woman in the Old Testament was that of a wife and mother (Prov. 31:10) and they had a godly, heroic influence in the home and society (Hannah, Rebekah, Rachel, Sarah, Esther). Eve was a helper for Adam in being fruitful and multiplying. The pain is often bound up in children. Almost every turning point in redemptive history we encounter a barren woman (Sarah with Isaac; Rebekah with Esau & Jacob; Rachel with Joseph, Manaoh's wife with Sampson, Hannah with Samuel; Elizabeth with John the Baptist; Mary with Jesus in a virgin birth)

***The ABC's of How Men and Women are Different** (Kevin DeYoung)

<https://www.9marks.org/article/how-are-men-and-women-different/>