

Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: What Went Wrong (Selected Scriptures)

Week #1 of DDM (Disciple Development Month) – Pastor Jeff

- One of the most provocative and distorted issues of our day is understanding what it means to be a man and a woman. Not only is biblical masculinity and femininity being rewritten in our culture, but the church is struggling to stay committed to following God's creation design.
- There are four statements that can help us rise above the emotion, tension, and misunderstanding that seems to swirl around this lightning rod topic:
 1. The true and living God identifies Himself as "*the Maker of all things*" and this includes our sexual identity and functional roles as men and women.
 2. Unbiblical men (whether *passive, neglectful, abusive or misogynistic*) and unbiblical women (whether *feminists, disrespectful, unsupportive or supplanters*) have sadly and tragically distorted God's design & functional roles to the harm of marriages, church life & society.
 3. The power and influence of cultural beliefs and trends cannot be allowed to alter or redefine the priority commitment the church must have to follow the truth, authority and sufficiency of God's Word on any given subject (John 17:17)
 4. Every follower of Christ, whether male or female, must humbly assess their understanding, attitude and behavior toward God's will and joyfully align their hearts & lives to honor His desire and design for the flourishing of marriage, His church and society at large.
- Biblical manhood and womanhood matters because the glory of God matters. Altering or redefining or reassigning your sexuality or gender does not honor God as God and distorts His original design and intention for the good of His creation.
- There are three reasons why manhood and womanhood are disordered.

① There's a distortion problem cause by the fall (Genesis 3)

- Sin always messes up God's good and creative design. When God cursed humanity for their sin, we discover why relationships between men and women, and husbands and wives are difficult. God describes two aspects of the women's curse in Genesis 3:16.
 - "*I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children*" (There is a unique and intimate suffering in bearing and mothering children.)
 - "*yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you*" (There is a unique and intimate suffering with their husbands).
 - ≈ The word "*desire*" means to seek control and it is not a good desire in the context of a curse (see it used in Gen. 4:7).
 - ≈ The word "*rule*" means to dominate or reign in a repressive way. Again, the context for the word is a curse.
- Genesis 3:16 describes the battle of the sexes. The wife will tend to desire to take charge, be in control, and to pursue what she wants and the husband will tend to resist this control in a harsh and authoritarian manner. All of this provides a vivid illustration and reminder of the destructiveness of sin.

② There's a deception problem caused by Satan (John 8:44)

- The history of civilization has played out God's curse which is also exacerbated by Satan's devious and deceptive temptations.
- The Fall reversed the divinely established order of authority. The chain of command is God, Adam, Eve, and the serpent, but the order of the Fall was the servant, Eve, then Adam and God was left out.

- Satan motivated through temptation immorality, polygamy, divorce, abuse, insubordination, misogyny, feminism, passivity, exploitation and the like as “*the Father of lies*” (John 8:44). He confuses sexuality, identity, manhood, womanhood, marriage, family and disordered roles in the church and society.

③ **There’s a disobedience problem** (John 14:15; Luke 6:46)

- Loving and following Christ as our Lord and Savior involves a heart that willingly serves and obeys His will (John 14:15).
 - How committed are you to knowing and modeling God’s functional design for you as a male and female, husband and wife, father and mother and single adult?
 - How committed are we as a church to model God’s gender and functional designs in ministry?
- We can’t afford to ignore, minimize, or repudiate the creational design differences and responsibilities God has given men and women as the very foundation of society.