

Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: What is a Woman?

(Prov. 31:30-31 & other selected texts)

Week #4 of DDM (Disciple Development Month) – Pastor Jeff

- Women today are being told that they can be whatever they want to be, but is that true? Is that God's design? Women can be caught between unrealistic lofty expectations or being treated as second class citizens, and both are wrong and reflections of the Fall. God has a better plan.
- What is a woman? A woman (whether single or married) is a female image-bearer of God who humbly uses her God-given design, strength, & influence to bless, support, nurture and serve others selflessly and sacrificially like JC to the glory and praise of God.
- God reveals five primary callings for women to pursue and model that are reflections of His beautiful design. These callings can be spelled out using the word **W.O.M.A.N.**. A woman is:

Wholehearted as a biological woman (Genesis 1:27)

- A wholehearted woman is devoted to being who God designed her to be; a female. God has called every woman to be wholehearted to doing two things:
 - Be devoted to living out her biological sex as a female.
 - Being devoted to resisting any inordinate lusts of the flesh (Mark 7:21-23; Rom. 1:18-21; Jer. 17:10; 1 Peter 2:11) and this is done by:
 - 1: Accepting God's one and only deliverance from sin by turning from it and trusting in Christ's sacrificial and saving death (1 Pet. 3:18)
 - 2: Applying God's empowering resources that can successfully resist sin and Satan's evil schemes (Rom. 6:12; James 4:7)

Obligated as a spiritual woman (Proverbs 31:30-31)

- Whether single or married, God calls every woman to first be obligated to honor, obey, and fear her Lord and Savior (Matt. 22:37-39; Prov. 31:30-31)
- The Proverbs 31 woman is called praiseworthy because she fears the Lord. Sarah (Abraham's wife) who spent much of her life childless was enabled to conceive and God recognized her as a woman who "*hoped in God*" (1 Pet. 3:5). Jesus praised Mary for sitting at his feet and listening to His word (Luke 10:38-41)

Ministry-minded as a serving woman (1 Cor. 17:7, 11)

- God has committed ministry to both men and women, yet He assigns some different and distinctive roles and responsibilities. Both are equally called to reflect God as image-bearers, rule over God's creation and to replenish the earth (Gen. 1:28). Both are equally called to "serve one another" (Gal. 5:13), "baptized into one body" and "made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13), "one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28), and equally gifted by the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7, 11).
- So women are gifted to lead, teach, and serve the Lord and His church and that giftedness is designed to be applied in certain God-ordained environments (to women and children, not over men who have been given the primary authority and leadership of the church – Titus 2:3-5; 1 Tim. 2:12-14; 1 Tim. 3:3, 4; 1 Cor. 14:34-36)
- The functional roles differences have nothing to do with intelligence, value or ability, but God's will and design. This is revealed through God's pattern of leadership (patriarchs, priests, kings, prophets, judges, apostles were men), the prohibition of Scripture (1 Tim. 2:12-14; 1 Cor. 14:33-36), honoring the

personal pronouns in masculine form (“*he*” & “*his*” in 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9), recognizing that it doesn’t fit the qualification of being “*a husband of one wife*” (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6), the God-given reason of Eve being deceived first (1 Tim. 2:14), nor does it follow the practice “*in all the churches of the saints*”, so it's not a local or cultural issue (1 Cor. 14:33b), it needs to follow the particular order of creation that God notes (Adam was created first-1 Tim. 2:13), and it is the pronouncement of Jesus Christ Himself (1 Cor. 14:37-38 – “*the things which I write to you are the Lord’s command*”)

Admirable as a married woman (Prov. 31:10; Eph. 5:22-24, 33)

- Not all women will get married as recognized in Scripture (1 Cor. 7:7-9), but most women will and God has given some functional responsibilities in marriage.
 - She is called to be a willing servant (Eph. 5:22, 24, 33; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:4-5; 1 Peter 3:1). The word “*submission*” is not about a woman's personal worth or a blind obligation or about decision-making rights. It is a humble recognition in attitude and response to the husband’s God-given responsibility to lead (“*head*”) in a selfless, God-honoring way in providing and protecting his wife. It is a design order (Col 3:18: “*as is fitting in the Lord*”); a testimony (Titus 3:5: “*that the word of God may not be dishonored*”); and a witnessing tool to disobedient husbands (1 Pet. 3:1-2)
 - She is called to love her husband (Titus 2:4 – a *phileo* love that is a best friend, partner and companion). It involves a precaution against disloyalty (Titus 2:5: “*to be sensible, pure*” – Prov. 2:16-17; 31:10-11); a passion that desires her husband (Song of Sol. 2:15; 5:10-16); a priority of time and attention (Titus 2:4 – first love their husbands) and a posture of respect (Eph. 5:33)
 - She is called to be an encouraging helper (Gen. 2:18, 20). Dependent (1 Cor. 11:11-12) and devoted (Prov. 31:12; Ps. 128:3)

Nurturing as a maternal woman (1 Thess. 2:7)

- Women are nurturers and life-givers. Whether single or married, all women should be spiritual mothers whether it be your own biological children or spiritual children and other women. Some women will not be able to bear children, but she can adopt or focus on helping other mothers and discipling other women and children.
- God has called women to make the home the priority of their life (Titus 2:5b: “*workers at home*”; 1 Tim. 5:14: “*keep house*”). A woman can work outside the home as long as it does not take away from the priority of her children and home (the age of the children is an important factor). The Proverbs 31 woman was a worker (31:13-21).