

HARD QUESTIONS

BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD

JULY 26, 2023

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INTRODUCTION:

In 1992, Dr. John Gray published his book, “Men are from Mars, Women are From Venus.” Listen to a description of the book on Amazon:

In this classic guide to understanding the opposite sex, Dr. John Gray provides a practical and proven way for men and women to improve their communication by acknowledging the differences between their needs, desires, and behaviors.

Once upon a time Martians and Venusians met, fell in love, and had happy relationships together because they respected and accepted their differences. Then they came to Earth and amnesia set in: they forgot they were from different planets... this timeless book has helped men and women realize how different they can be in their communication styles, their emotional needs, and their modes of behavior—and offers the secrets of communicating without conflicts, allowing couples to give intimacy every chance to grow.

The title of Gray’s book became a common phrase to emphasize the differences between men and women. Though the winds of cultural change were already blowing very hard, who would have ever thought we would be facing the current social upheaval in our culture. Well, Faith Popcorn did.

Faith Popcorn is a futurist, author, and founder and CEO of marketing consulting firm BrainReserve. She has written three best selling books: The Popcorn Report, Clicking, and EVEolution. In 1996, she used the phrase, we “Braille the culture.” In other words, “we run our fingertips along trend-bumps as they speed past.”

A few years ago, Dr. Danny Akin spoke about the roles of men and women in the church. In his introduction he made the following statement:

We live in a culture that is drowning in gender confusion. The lines have become blurred and we are groping about trying to understand what it means for a man to be a man and a woman a woman, what it means for a man to be masculine and a woman feminine...It is transparently clear that the cultural engineers that dominate the media, our educational system (from the preschools to the universities) and other strategic places of influence want to neutralize, if not eliminate, the gender distinctions and differences that God has hardwired into human beings (Genesis 1:26-27). This is the consistent drumbeat heard again and again and unfortunately, the church has not been immune to the sound.

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MAN'S CORRUPTION OF GOD'S DESIGN

Genesis 1:27; 2:18-23

- A culture of confusion – 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12
- A culture in conflict (conflict with God's creative order and purposes)
- A culture with consequences – Romans 3:23

GOD'S DESIGN

There is no way I can answer every question someone may have in the one session I have left in our "Hard Questions" series. However, we can forge forward by first asking ourselves the question: ***Will I follow a biblically faithful understanding of gender and sexuality?***

At the core of the Bible's message is that we humans have both bodies and souls and that our bodies and souls interact with one another in a nuanced and beautiful way. Among the implications of a biblical worldview are the following:

- Humans are made in the image of God. We have each been given a conscience, mind, soul, and the power to create and relate in our domain of influence.
- "Male" and "female" name basic physical and spiritual categories created by God. Our gender is not a "position on the dial" we choose. Masculinity and femininity are present in our genetic makeup and in our souls.
- When we depart from God's design, our understanding of gender and sexuality is warped in a way that breaks down individuals and societies.
- Within the created order, humans display great diversity. This diversity is good and should not be repressed or ignored. We must live out our maleness or femaleness with wisdom based on aspects of gender found in Scripture, not based on cultural stereotypes.
- Scripture gives wise guidance about how God's categories of male and female give us confidence in the beauty and practical living-out of our design as image-bearers of God. (Exposing the Gender Lie, p. 53)

1. Biblical manhood

"Manhood is the distinguishing character of a man as defined by the Bible."

Biblical manhood (pursuing godliness while retaining masculinity) is missing in the church, and the need for more godly men is necessary for the transformation of churches and families. We need men to lead, protect, and provide both physically and spiritually. (Tony Merida) [1]

[1] [https://research.lifeway.com/2014/11/06/six-qualities-of-biblical-manhood/#:~:text=Biblical%20manhood%20\(pursuing%20godliness%20while,provide%20both%20physically%20and%20spiritually.](https://research.lifeway.com/2014/11/06/six-qualities-of-biblical-manhood/#:~:text=Biblical%20manhood%20(pursuing%20godliness%20while,provide%20both%20physically%20and%20spiritually.)

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man•hood

/ˈman, hood/noun

the state or period of being a man rather than a child. “boys in the process of growing to manhood”

Titus 2:1–8, 1 Corinthians 16:13

“Where there is a lack of men—mature, godly men—the church will invariably suffer. The church in want of biblical, masculine service and leadership is an anemic church.” [2]

2. Biblical womanhood

“Womanhood is the distinguishing character of a woman as defined by the Bible.”

The quest for biblical womanhood begins in the same place that biblical manhood begins. Galatians 3:28 states that “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” In Christ, we have equal value and equal responsibility to obey and serve the Lord. All scriptural commands about surrender (Romans 12:1–2), service (Romans 12:1), and dedication (1 Corinthians 7:33–35) apply equally to men and women.

So the Bible’s instruction for any woman who strives for biblical womanhood begins with her being born again (John 3:3). She must have become a “new creature” in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) and take seriously Jesus’ words about the need to abide in Him (John 15:1–5). The Word of God must be her final authority in life because, if its authority is not clear to her, then she will become a judge of Scripture rather than letting Scripture judge her. This leads to compromise and eventual moral collapse (see Romans 1:22–25). [3]

3. Biblical headship

1 Corinthians 11:3–16; Ephesians 5:21–24; Colossians 3:18–19; 1 Timothy 2:8–15; 1 Peter 3:1–7

- In the home – Ephesians 5:22–33
- In the church – Titus 2:8–15; 2 Timothy 2:8–15

[2] <https://cbmw.org/2016/04/21/5-key-ways-to-cultivating-biblical-manhood-in-your-church/>

[3] <https://www.gotquestions.org/biblical-womanhood.html>