

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Creation:

The Heights Church June 12, 2016

Creation of Humans; male and female he created them

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

In this section we will seek to briefly explore:

- 1. Why the animals are male and female but not said to be created male and female.**
 - 2. The question of differing roles of men and women and male headship within the church and marriage.**
 - 3. Understand what is desired biblical manhood and womanhood.**
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Creation of Humans; male and female he created them

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

- **As a result of being created in the image of God and despite the fact that we are obviously mammals physically, it is necessary to say we are created male and female.**
 - **In a sense male and female shows we are something like the Trinity in that we are Man (*ādām*) in two persons (male and female) and capable of:**
 - 1. Harmonious interpersonal relationships**
 - 2. Equality in personhood and importance**
 - 3. Differences in roles and authority**
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Creation of Humans; male and female he created them

Harmonious interpersonal relationships:

- **Interpersonal relationships have their fullest expression in marriage**

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:31-33)

So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Matthew 19:6)

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Harmonious interpersonal relationships:

- **Sexual union except with one's spouse is an especially grievous sin against ones own body.**

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

Creation of Humans; male and female he created them

Harmonious interpersonal relationships:

- **If marriage is so important why were Jesus and Paul unmarried?
Jesus is both God and man and has taken the entire church as his bride. Jesus has a spiritual and emotional unity with every believer that will last for eternity.**
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Creation of Humans; male and female he created them

Harmonious interpersonal relationships:

- **If marriage is so important why were Jesus and Paul unmarried?**

Paul does not say it is wrong to marry but says giving up the right or privilege to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of God is another way to express the relational aspects of marriage and bear “spiritual children” through evangelism and discipleship.

I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. (1 Corinthians 4:14-17)

Creation of Humans; male and female he created them

Egalitarianism versus Complementarianism

- **Egalitarianism is the popular view in society and in some churches/denominations that aside from some obvious physical differences, men and women are identical and in the church should be able to serve as elders and all church leadership positions.**
- **Complementarianism is the biblical view that men and women are equal before God but have complementary roles and gifts.**

Creation of Humans; male and female he created them

Equality in Personhood and Importance:

- In saying “male and female he created them” it is obvious that men and women are equally made in God’s image and hence are equally important and valuable to God.

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. (Acts 2:17-18)

- So it is pointless to ask who can pray better or who can praise God better or who can be more spiritually sensitive or have a deeper relationship with God?

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Equality in Personhood and Importance:

- **Notice that in the new covenant church the sign of membership as a believer is baptism given equally to men and women.**

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41)

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:27-28)

- **There are no second class Christians.**
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Creation of Humans; male and female he created them

Differences in Roles

- In the Trinity there has always been equality in importance, personhood, and deity.
 - BUT there has always been differences in roles. The Father has greater authority and a leadership role.
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Creation of Humans; male and female he created them

Differences in Roles

In creation the Father speaks and initiates, the Son does the work of creation and the Spirit preserves/sustains/governs.

The Creation of the World: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Genesis 1:1-2 ESV)

The Word Became Flesh: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

Creation of Humans; male and female he created them

Differences in Roles

In creation the Father speaks and initiates, the Son does the work of creation and the Spirit preserves/sustains/governs.

yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (1 Corinthians 8:6)

but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (Hebrews 1:2-3)

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In redemption The Father sends the Son. The Son is obedient and comes to die for the all the sins of every believer. After the Son ascends into Heaven the Holy Spirit comes to equip and empower the Church.

who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:7 ESV)

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Differences in Roles

NOTE: While there are many false ideas today about male headship, we will not study these ideas but study the historic Protestant understanding of male headship.

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. (1 Corinthians 11:3)

- **Equality and differences in the Trinity are reflected in marriage.**

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Differences in Roles

To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. **Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.**” (Genesis 3:16)

- **Does this mean male headship is a consequence of the Fall?**

Before there was sin in the world there were significant differences between Adam and Eve.

- **Adam was created first and then Eve:** In the OT the first born in any generation initially is assumed to be the leader of that generation. Also in the creation of animals there is not first creation of males and then females.