

Sermon Mini Series: Everything You Need to Know About Our Humanity

Sermon Title: What the Bible Says About being Created Male and Female

April 15, 2018

Theme verse: *Genesis 1:26–27 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (ESV)*

Introduction: The gender confusions in our society today. At one point they want gender equality and at other times preferential treatment. What gives? Fox news article.

Understanding male/female equality and male headship as designed by God in Creation.

Definitions:

For male/female equality:

- Because men and women are both made in the image of God, they hold equal value in their worth to the Father.

For male headship:

- In a Christian marriage, man has the God assigned responsibility to lead the marriage of two equally valued persons in a God-directed and God-glorifying way.
 - This is the opposite of male domination wherein a man disregards his wife’s equality, gifts and worth and exercises control over her will without regard to her wishes and needs.
 - This headship is to be in the same manner as Christ’s headship over the church whereby he cherishes and nourishes the church and loves the church as described in Ephesians 5.
 - This headship is seen on day 6 of creation when before Eve was created, God instructed Adam to provide spiritual leadership. *Genesis 2:15–17 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (ESV)*

God’s intention at Creation

Genesis 1:26–28 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (ESV)

1. God made man as male and female to display the beauty of and intimacy of **personal relationships**. Marriage is a reflection of the Triune God and the intimacy they have enjoyed for eternity. "Let us make man in our image".
 - Imagine all that would be lost if man was asexual? In other words if there was no need for sexual reproduction. No distinctions between the sexes in fact no male or female but some kind of independent non-social being?
 - The highest form of interpersonal relationships and intimacy outside of the Trinity is marriage. *1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. (ESV)* Whose body? The man's body? How about the one body of the one flesh union of husband and wife?

2. God made man as male and female to reflect the **equality of worth** in the Godhead. Just as all three members of the Godhead are equal in every way, so God created man as male and female to be equal in every way.
 - In contrast to other religions, Christianity values the dignity and worth of women (elevating them to places of honor).
 - *Proverbs 31:28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: (ESV)*
 - *Acts 2:17–18 "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. (ESV)*
 - *1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing **honor** to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. (ESV)*
 - *Equal in the distribution of spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (ESV)*
 - *Equal members of the family of God and his church. Galatians 3:27–29 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. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)*

3. God made man as male and female because there needed to be a **differentiation in roles** as reflected in the Trinity itself.
 - There is an equality in the members of the Trinity in power, knowledge, holiness and all virtues but in the area of authority, God the Father is over God the Son and God the

Holy Spirit. So, in marriage,

- *1 Corinthians 11:3 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. (ESV)*
 - This is why God wants men and women to wear different kinds of clothing and different kinds of haircuts to keep the distinctions and role differentiations front and center for all to see. 1 Corinthians 11:2ff
 - The headship of Adam (and all husbands after him) is implicit in Adam's being created first. None of the animals had the male created before the female but in the human race it was a significant fact. It is called "The right of primogeniture" which is the idea that the firstborn in any generation has the leadership in the family for that generation. *1 Timothy 2:13–14 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. (ESV)*
 - The headship of Adam was also seen in the reason why Eve was created. She was to be his helper. *1 Corinthians 11:9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. (ESV)*
 - The headship of Adam is also seen in that he named Eve. Only those in authority over others can name them. Adam named the animals because he was in authority over them to give them names that characterized them and he gave Eve the overarching name woman to characterize all women from that day forward and her specific name Eve to characterize her as the mother of all living.
4. The cherished and appreciated roles were no longer cherished after the fall. Look at the curse of the woman: *Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." (ESV) and Genesis 4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." (ESV)*
5. The uncherished role distinctions became cherished once again as a result of Christ's redemptive power. *Ephesians 5:25–33 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "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. (ESV)*

Application

Men, if you have abdicated the spiritual leadership of your home to your wife it is now time to

re-instate it by having spousal devotions and family devotions and family worship.