

# BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD

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There is equality among men and women and yet there is a unique significance to each. The Bible teaches us that men and women are different beyond just our physical characteristics; we are created for different roles in relation to each other. This is seen in passages such as 1 Corinthians 11:3–16; Ephesians 5:21–33; and 1 Timothy 2:11–14. The foundation for the differing roles between men and women go back to the creation of Adam and Eve. Even before sin entered the world unique roles for both male and female were designed and created by God. What is shown below is that men and women are equal in a lot of ways and are called to do many of the same things in the service of Christ (1 Pet 3:8). However, there is a distinction between men and women's roles that do not overlap.

A person's dignity and worth are not based on their unique roles; our dignity comes from our humanity—being created in the image of God. Wives are called to submit to their husbands, but this doesn't mean they are less valuable. Women are commanded not to teach men, but this doesn't mean that they are less significant. Being submissive is not demeaning; the tri-unity of God is a perfect example. Christ, our Lord, was submissive in every way to the will of the Father; and the Spirit is submissive to both the Father and the Son. Yet, Father, Son, and Spirit are co-equal, and co-eternal; they are only distinguishable as persons within the Godhead because of their differing roles. It does not mean that the Son has any less dignity or is of lesser worth than the Father; they operate in perfect harmony together, as should husband and wife.

## I. The Equality of Man and Woman

- We are equal in personhood, both created in the image of God (Gen 1:27).
- We are fellow heirs with Christ, sharing in the same salvation (Rom 8:17; 1 Pet 3:7; Gal 3:28).
- When a man and woman are joined in marriage, they become one flesh (Mark 10:2–12).
- Men and women are both called to be transformed into the image of Christ (Rom 12:1–12), they are both called to a life devoted to God, to prayer, to the study of God's word, to ministering to others, and to seek the wisdom to live through devotion to God's word and its doctrines.

## II. The Unique Role of Men

- Men are to lead their home (Eph 5:23), but do so with love and a servant's heart (Eph 5:25; Luke 22:26) and have Christ as their head (1 Cor 11:3). What a great responsibility that men must take seriously. As such, men are accountable for their family (Gen 3:9).
- The qualifications for elder/pastor in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9 are speaking to men only, as such, only men are called by God to be leaders in the church as well as the home. A man must be a capable leader at home to qualify as a leader of the church.

## III. The Unique Role of Women

- Women are to be subject to their own husband (Eph 5:22; Titus 2:5; 1 Pet 3:1, 5; Col 3:18–19). It is important to note that wives are to be subject to their *own husband*, not to men in general.
- Women are to be a helper, completing their husband (Gen 2:18–24).
- Women are to fear the Lord, exhibiting Christ-likeness (Prov 31:10–31).
- Women are not called to lead or teach men (1 Tim 2:11–12). This would exclude women from the role of elder/pastor within the church. This does not mean the women are not to teach at all, rather, they are commanded to teach the young women what is good (Titus 2:3–5).

#### IV. Suggested Resources

- Piper, John, and Wayne A. Grudem. *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books, 2006.

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