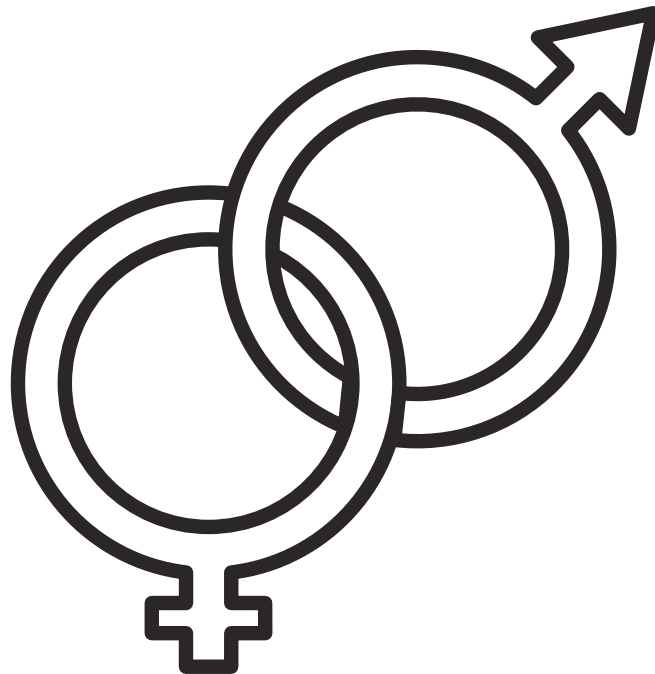




BIBLICAL MANHOOD & WOMANHOOD

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GENDER IDENTITY MAY BE ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS IN OUR NATION TODAY. BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERSTAND WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT IT. HERE ARE A FEW POINTS IT MAKES ON THE TOPIC OF BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD.



1. GOD CREATED OUR GENDERS

The Bible tells us in no uncertain terms that God created our genders which means that they were His idea. He came up with the concept of male and female. He could have created the human race any way that He chose but He chose to do it this way.

Genesis 5:2 says, *“He created them male and female, and He blessed them.”* This means that God chose to create the sexes. He chose to create our unique gender identities in order to bless us. As one author says: *“We came from God . . . We bear a resemblance to God . . . We are male and female.”* This was not a result of sin or the Fall. It was not brought about by man’s evil deeds. Our manhood and womanhood are as much a part of this world as the stars and the planets.

This is so important that the author of Genesis repeats it earlier in 1:27 to say: *“And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”* Notice that our genders are mentioned next to the image of God; they are spoken about in connection with one of the highest statements ever made about the human race to show that our sexuality is essential to who we are. God created it.

2. WHAT GOD CREATED IS GOOD

The Bible also tells us that what God created is good for us. Our sexuality is helpful and beneficial since it is part of what it means to be human. It is no accident. It is no mistake. We did not become male and female after a billion years of evolution. It started this way from the beginning and, therefore, the Bible has a lot to say about manhood and womanhood. It has very specific instructions for how we are to live out our unique roles in society.

For example, Ephesians 5:25 tells husbands to *“love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”* First Peter 3:7 says, *“You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way.”* The Bible says this because the Lord wants what is best for men. He wants them to live according to the way He created them.

Ephesians 5:22 also tells wives to *“be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”* Proverbs 31:10-12 says, *“An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her.”* The Bible says this because the Lord wants what is best for women too. He wants them to experience His goodness. Psalm 145:9 says, *“The Lord is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works.”* One way He demonstrates that is by giving us clearly defined roles to fulfill as men and women.

3. WE SHOULD UPHOLD GOD'S CREATION

All of this leads to our responsibility in the matter. If God created our genders and what God created is good, then it only makes sense that we should uphold His creation and not try to change it. We should acknowledge that our sexuality is not up for grabs. It is not a matter of choice. It is part of God's grand design for the universe.

Jesus Himself said in Matthew 19:4-6: "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and . . . “For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?” So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

Jesus said that no man should separate what God has joined together. No man should tamper with the institution of marriage because it has been ordained by God and the same could be said for our genders. From the beginning, God “made them male and female” and He intended us to stay that way.

It is significant that Jesus made this statement thousands of years after the Book of Genesis was written. He made it amidst a time of tremendous sexual confusion in the Roman Empire but His point is that God’s Word remains the same. God’s standards for us are unchanging no matter what is going on in the world around us.

CONCLUSION

While there is tremendous controversy on the subject of gender identity today, the Bible says that the debate has been settled. God wants us to uphold what He has created. He wants us to live according to His perfect plan. John Piper writes, *“Manhood and womanhood are the beautiful handiwork of a good and loving God. He designed our differences and they are profound . . . They go to the root of our personhood.”*

This is why biblical manhood and womanhood is a distinctive for our church. We want to obey God’s commands in this area. We want to follow His direction in upholding what He has created. If God created us this way, then we want to honor and cherish it.

If you would like to learn more about biblical manhood and womanhood or anything in this pamphlet, we would love to hear from you.

CONTACT US

Join us Sundays @ 9:30 AM

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[1] Edmund P. Clowney, *The Church* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1995) 202.