

Session Two: Defining Manhood and Womanhood

A. Introduction:

1. Reminder of Last Week's Foundational Teaching

"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." (Gen 1.27)

- a. God created mankind equal, yet different. Men and women are both image bearers of God, and therefore equal in personhood, worth, and dignity. While equal in personhood, God has assigned distinct and complimentary roles to men and women. (Gen 2.15-23)
- b. God's curse for sin didn't introduce a distinction in roles. Sin brought a distortion of God-ordained roles and hardship in fulfilling them. (Gen 3.16-18)

2. The Dangerous Effects of Wrong Understanding

- a. Marriages failing to portray Christ and the Church.
- b. Parents who do not train their boys to be masculine or girls to be feminine.
- c. Homosexual tendencies and increasing attempts to justify homosexual alliances.
- d. Patterns of unbiblical female leadership in the church that reflect and promote the confusion over the true meaning of manhood and womanhood.

3. Today's Goal: Bringing Biblical Definition to Manhood and Womanhood

B. Manhood or Masculinity, Biblically Defined:

1. Exercise Dominion as a Godly Man

"And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion...'" (Gen 1.28)

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it." (Gen 2.15)

2. A Working Definition:

"At the heart of mature masculinity is a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for and protect women in ways appropriate to a man's differing relationships." (Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, John Piper, Crossway, pg 35)

- a. *"At the heart of"*
- b. *"mature masculinity"*
- c. *"A sense of"*
- d. *"benevolent responsibility"*
- e. *"to lead"*
- f. *"provide for"*
- g. *"and protect"*
- h. *"women"*
- i. *"in ways appropriate to a man's differing relationships"*
 - i. As a Single –
 - ii. In marriage –

iii. In the workforce—

iv. In church--

“Jesus Christ models biblical masculinity. The gospel is all about his masculine initiation. First, he initiated our salvation at the cost of his life. He came and sought us out. Then he returned to heaven and sent his Holy Spirit to lead us to the Father. Second, he was a servant-leader of the first order. He leads the church by serving us, and he serves us by leading. Third, he provides for our daily material needs. Fourth, he protects his church at the cost of his life. “While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled” (John 17.12). The deeper a man’s relationship with God’s Son, the more potent his masculinity will gradually become.” (Gospel-Powered Parenting, William Farley, pg. 138)

C. Womanhood or Femininity, Biblically Defined:

1. Exercise Dominion as a Godly Woman

“And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion...’” (Gen 1.28)

“Both Adam (manhood) and Eve (womanhood) are equally assigned and commissioned in this creation mandate.” (Mark Chanski, Womanly Dominion, pg. 27)

“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’” (Gen 2.18)

2. A Working Definition:

“At the heart of mature femininity is a freeing disposition to affirm, receive and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in ways appropriate to a woman’s differing relationships.” (Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, John Piper, Crossway, pg 36)

a. *“At the heart of...”*

b. *“mature femininity”*

- c. *“is a freeing disposition”*

“There are sensations of unbounded independence that are not true freedom because they deny truth and are destined for calamity. For example, two women may jump from an airplane and experience the thrilling freedom of free-falling. But there is a difference: one is encumbered by a parachute on her back and the other is free from this burden. Which person is most free? The one without the parachute feels free—even freer, since she does not feel the constraints of the parachute straps. But she is not truly free. She is in bondage to the force of gravity and to the deception that all is well because she feels unencumbered. This false sense of freedom is in fact bondage to calamity which is sure to happen after a fleeting moment of pleasure. That is the way many women (and men) today think of freedom. They judge it on the basis of immediate sensations of unrestrained license or independence. But true freedom takes God’s reality and God’s purpose for creation into account and seeks to fit smoothly into God’s good design.” (Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, John Piper, pg. 47)

- d. *“to affirm, receive, and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men...”*

The Example of Phoebe (From Womanly Dominion pages 89-92)

- e. *“in ways appropriate to a woman’s differing relationships...”*

- i. As a Single
- ii. In marriage
- iii. In the workforce
- iv. In church

D. The Danvers Statement

(<https://www.cbmw.org/Resources/Articles/The-Danvers-Statement>)

E. Helpful Resources

1. Council of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: <https://www.cbmw.org/>
2. *What’s the Difference*, John Piper, Crossway (now available in DVD set and small group study guide)
3. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, Piper & Grudem ; Crossway
4. *Doing Things Right in Matters of the Heart*, John Ensor; Crossway
5. *Womanly Dominion*, Mark Chanski; Calvary Press