



Lesson 6: Ladies and Gentlemen!

God's Plan for Men and Women

Whatever God creates is beautiful, and God very intentionally created two different genders. Studying the roles God gave men and women should inspire us to joyfully embrace His plan for us.

Biblical Manhood

Defining “masculine” can be a challenge. What does the Bible have to say about what it means to be a true man?

God Calls Men to _____ by _____

The New Testament teaches that in the church (1 Tim 2:12-14) and home (Eph 5:25-33) men have a position of leadership. This doesn't mean women's opinions don't matter, or that men get whatever they want. Leadership means taking the role of a servant (Mat 20:25-28); it means protecting others, facing and solving problems, and influencing others to follow Christ.

God Calls Men to _____ by _____

Too often the picture of a manly man is someone who is emotionless, but this isn't the picture we get of Christ, the God man. Jesus loved His own and He loved them until the end (John 13:1). The biblical picture of a man is someone who *loves*: God first, family second, and the his fellow man third. In particular, as a husband he is called to love his wife, and he does this by sacrificing himself for her spiritual well-being (Eph 5:25-33).



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God Calls Men to _____ by _____

Adam and Eve were called to work in the garden, yet when God addressed their sin Adam's punishment was a curse on work (Genesis 2:17). Although it is not always wrong for women to work, men should feel a burden of responsibility to make sure that their family is being provided for (1 Timothy 5:8). This will often be hard, at times exhausting work, it is the duty to which God has called men, and it is a duty to which they must respond.

Biblical Womanhood

Many virtues should characterize men and women, but certain characteristics should especially characterize women. Scripture shows us that women are called to support and to submit.

God Calls Women to _____

In Gen 2:18 God sees Adam is alone and decides that is not good, so He makes a "help meet" [a fitting helper] for him. The Hebrew word here translated "helper" is 'ezer, and is a word used of God as our Helper, as the Helper who saves us when no one else can (Psalm 70:5; 121:1-2; 146:5). When the Bible shows us what a woman who is a helper looks like, we see the hard-working, competent, industrious, and smart woman of Proverbs 31.

God Calls Women to _____

This submission is limited specifically to husbands (Ephesians 5:22-24) and church leadership (1 Timothy 2:11-15). Since women were designed to help, God desires that in church and home men take the leadership and women support, encourage, and benefit from that leadership as they joyfully submit to it. Submission does not mean inferior, as 1 Corinthians 11:3 shows us, for even within the Trinity there is submission in function but equality of value.

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