

The Design of the Creator: Man Created Male and Female

MAIN IDEA:

God designed man as male and female, and this is very good.

KEY VERSE:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.—GENESIS 1:27

GOALS:

- > To help the students appreciate that God created man as male and female
- > To help the student understand that gender differences are deeper than the obvious physical differences

SCRIPTURE:

- 1) Genesis 1:24-28, 31a



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...a growing body of research indicates that...very basic differences [between and female] are present from conception. These differences are innate. STU WEBER, *THE FOUR PILLARS OF A MAN'S HEART*

In Class

The Creation of Man

In what two ways is man set apart in Genesis 1:24-28?

- 1.
- 2.

The Creation of Man as Male and Female

Man was created by God as _____ and _____.

This is not the result of _____ or blind evolution, but is God's

_____.

The attempt to blend male-ness and female-ness into one is called

_____.

There are three *significant distinctions* from Genesis 1 that we must maintain in order to have a right understanding of thing. The distinction between:

1. C _____ and c _____
2. M _____ and other a _____
3. M _____ and f _____

The Differences between Men and Women

Biological difference between men and women are more than just the obvious differences. Men and women are wired differently.

The biological profiles of males and females...reveal [a] myriad [of] basic physiological differences, many of which shape behavior.

—GREGG JOHNSON¹

Male and Female Physical Differences

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Basal metabolic rate (number of calories burned per day when the body is at rest) | Heart size | Susceptibility to baldness |
| Ratio of body fat | Red-blood count | Susceptibility to color-blindness |
| Ratio of muscle mass | White-blood count | Hormonal differences |
| Bone, tendon and ligament density | Amount of blood-clotting agents in the blood | Ability to discriminate fine differences in color |
| Number of sweat glands | Antibody production | Acuteness of hearing, smell taste, and touch |
| Number of nerve endings | Speed of digestion | Overall nervous system sensitivity |
| Fat distribution | Susceptibility to ulcers | Neurological organization of the brain |
| Lung capacity | Susceptibility to heart-disease | Physical responses to stress |

Maleness and femaleness goes to the very _____ of who we are.

It is Very Good that God Created Man as Male and Female

Maleness and femaleness is not something to be overcome.

It is to be _____ and _____.

How God decided to make you is very good!

For thirty or forty years now loud voices in the media, loud voices in elementary school, high school, college, university, loud voices in society have been telling us that there are no real differences between men and women except for the obvious physical differences that no one can deny. Women can bear children and men cannot. Many books from Christian publishers, in fact, have been telling us that as well—the only differences between men and women are the physical ones.

Confusion robs us.

It robs us of something very important.

*It robs us of the joy of being
a man or being a woman,*

so men and women are confused.

—WAYNE GRUDEM³



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...researchers have confirmed what parents experience all the time: even without conditioning (indeed, even with counterconditioning), boys and girls show different preferences and gravitate toward different toys.

CHRISTINA HOFF SOMMERS, THE WAR AGAINST BOYS: HOW MISGUIDED FEMINISM IS HARMING OUR YOUNG MEN

In the 1960s and 1970s, popular opinion favored the theory that male and female characteristics were the result of “social conditioning.” This opinion states that maleness and femaleness are not inherent in mankind, but rather taught through association with culture. Though they recognized obvious biological differences between male and female, the notion prevailed that male and female characteristics and behavior were the result of being forced into either a masculine or a feminine mold and should be erased.

How does this compare to Genesis 1: 27 and 1:31a?

Though many nonChristians still hold to the idea that gender differences are culturally taught, others see the untruth in this. Consider the following quote by Christina Hoff Sommers:

if all gender differences were culturally determined, you would expect to find some societies where females are the risk takers and males play with dolls. There would be societies in which females, on the average, would do better in math and young males would be more verbally adept than females. But where are they?

—CHRISTINA HOFF SOMMERS⁴

The Bible gives us solid ground for determining truth in the face of the multitude of theories and philosophies in the world.

*The sum of your word is truth,
and every one of your righteous rules
endures forever.*

—PSALM 119:160

Paul says in Colossians 2:8:

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

The philosophy that Paul is referring to in Colossians 2 is regarding man-made religious regulations, however, the general principle we can learn from this passage is to hold fast to what Scripture teaches and not be taken in by the philosophies of the world.

- How can this passage help you as you think about gender issues?
- What do the words “see to it” suggest?
- What does Paul teach as our standard of truth?

To think about:

Where am I exposed to the thinking of this world? Do I evaluate what I see and hear, or do I compare all thought to the truth of the Bible? Am I trying to remove gender differences from my life, or am I seeking to understand my God-given gender and embrace my God-given gender differences?

There are some great websites that promote biblical manhood and womanhood. See the Appendix for suggestions, and do some poking around on these sites.

Check out the recommended websites in the Appendix.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

—ROMANS 12:2

Article: Read and discuss the lesson article with your parents.

Book: Read the appropriate book with your parent or mentor.

Junior High: *Boyhood and Beyond* or *Beautiful Girlhood*.

Senior High: *The Mark of a Man* or *Stepping Heavenward*.

End Notes

1. Gregg Johnson, as quoted in: Piper, John, and Wayne Grudem. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism*. (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2006), 282-293.
2. Paley, Vivian Gussin. *Boys and Girls: Superheroes in the Doll Corner*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986), page number?
3. Grudem, Wayne. "Equal in Value, Different in Roles." Interview with Nancy Leigh DeMoss. Revive Our Hearts Radio Program, May 16, 2005. Transcript available online at: <http://www.reviveourhearts.com/radio/roth/today.php?pid=966> (accessed 4/22/11).
4. Hoff Sommers, Christina. *The War Against Boys: How Misguided Feminism is Harming Our Young Men*. (New York, Simon & Schuster, 2000).

Embracing Masculinity and Femininity

MAIN IDEA:

Masculinity and femininity are cultivated by embracing God's design.

KEY VERSES:

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.—1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

...[but] let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.—1 PETER 3:4

GOALS:

- > To teach students that men should strive to be masculine, and women should strive to be feminine
- > To teach students that masculinity and femininity are nurtured by embracing God's design
- > To sketch out a vision of masculinity and femininity
- > To encourage boys to pursue masculinity, and to encourage girls to pursue femininity

SCRIPTURE:

- 1) 1 Samuel 4:9 2) 1 Corinthians 16:13 3) 1 Peter 3:1-6

God intends to project his image differently through men and women, who are created equally in his image.

—ANDREW NICHOLS¹

In Class

Gender Recovery

The first step in recovering God's good design for your life is to _____ yourself _____ and without reservation to Jesus Christ.

Young Men: Embracing Masculinity

Masculinity—The traits and qualities that grow out of how men are created and designed to live

These traits are cultivated by embracing God's unique calling upon men of headship and responsibility—to take _____ and focus on the _____ that God has put before man in the world today.

In relation to others, there is the work of I _____, p _____ and _____.

At the heart of mature masculinity is a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for and protect...

—JOHN PIPER²

To lead: _____

To provide for: _____

To protect: _____

Men must be willing to cultivate t _ _ _ _ _

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Spiritual Strength | Emotional Strength | Physical Strength | Intellectual Strength |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|

“Take courage and BE MEN!”
“ACT LIKE MEN”—be strong, be courageous (*andrizoma*)
 1 Samuel 4:9; 1 Corinthians 16:13

Young Women: Embracing Femininity

Femininity—The traits and qualities that grow out of how women are created and designed to live.

Femininity is cultivated when women embrace their unique calling to _____ and _____ others in accomplishing the tasks that God has put before mankind today.

God created women to be oriented toward relationships of _____ and _____.

At the heart of mature femininity is a freeing disposition to affirm, receive and nurture strength and leadership...

—JOHN PIPER³

To affirm (leadership): _____

To receive (leadership): _____

Nurture strength and leadership: _____

Qualities of femininity in 1 Peter 3:1-6:

Sin affected our ability to fulfill the cultural mandate; it did not alter our obligation to fulfill it. And a central part of the reason Christ came was to restore mankind and the vocation of mankind.

DOUGLAS WILSON⁴

Quotes from Men of Initiative and Courage

...the effect that a thoroughly manly, thoroughly straight and upright boy can have upon the companions of his own age, and upon those who are younger, is incalculable. If he is not thoroughly manly, then they will not respect him, and his good qualities will count for but little; while, of course, if he is mean, cruel, or wicked, then his physical strength and force of mind merely make him so much the more objectionable a member of society. He cannot do good work if he is not strong and does not try with his whole heart and soul to count in any contest; and his strength will be a curse to himself and to every one else if he does not have thorough command over himself and over his own evil passions, and if he does not use his strength on the side of decency, justice, and fair dealing. In short, in life, as in a football game, the principle to follow is: Hit the line hard; don't foul and don't shirk, but hit the line hard!

TEDDY ROOSEVELT⁵

If you travel the earth, you will find it is largely divided into two classes of people—people who say "I wonder why such and such is not done" and people who say "Now who is going to prevent me from doing that thing?"

—WINSTON CHURCHILL⁶

A man does what he must

—in spite of personal consequences,

in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures

—and that is the basis of all human morality.

—WINSTON CHURCHILL⁷

For fun!
Learn to be a leader by looking at a great leader. Look up more quotes by Winston Churchill.

Guys: Every man is called to be a leader in some form or another. Leaders are not born overnight. Leadership grows as one places confidence in God's enabling power and steps out with courage. This week resolve, God helping you, to lead, provide for, and protect. Write what you did this week in each of these spheres below.

LEAD:

PROVIDE FOR:

PROTECT:

Femininity

Femininity flows out of how God designed women and created women to support and nurture those around her in relationships of helpfulness and companionship. Femininity involves *affirming, receiving, and nurturing strength and leadership in others*. Femininity is nurtured through the cultivation of a *gentle, submissive, and supportive attitude and demeanor*, which encourages one to work hard at supporting the good work and the appropriate authorities in her life.

Definitions please.

Support:

Nurture:

Read Esther 2:5-11, 19-23 and chapters 4-8. How was Esther an example of femininity?

Being feminine does not mean that you let people walk all over you, or that you don't think for yourself. How does Esther show that, though she was submissive, she was also courageous, determined, wise, and took initiative? How were all those actions under the gentle leadership of Mordecai?

Write what you learned about femininity from Esther below:

Find women who exemplify godliness and womanliness. Imitate them.

A Model of Femininity

Girls: The best way to learn to be a godly woman is to submit your heart to God, immerse yourself in His Word, obey His commands, and then find a godly, mature woman from whom you can learn. Look for such a model, and then ask if you can spend time with her and learn from her.

Recommended
Blog for Girls:
girltalk.com

God's Good Design for Males and Females

Guys and girls, God's design is good. And His design in making you either a male or female is good. Below list at least 10 things that are good about your gender. You may want to think about it this way: It is good to be a man/woman because... Then thank God for His good design.

Recommended
blog for guys
and girls:
therebelution.
com

Read: "A Real Woman...Does Hard Things and A Real Man... Does Hard Things" from The Rebelution website—in the Appendix.

Article: Read and discuss with your parents this lesson's article in the appendix.

Book: Read the appropriate book with your parent or mentor.

Junior High: *Boyhood and Beyond* or *Beautiful Girlhood*

Senior High: *The Mark of a Man* or *Stepping Heavenward*

End Notes

1. Nichols, Andrew. Embedded Portraits: A Theological Vision for Families. (???: ???, ???), 3.
2. Piper, John and Grudem, Wayne. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1991), 35.
3. Ibid, 46.
4. Wilson, Douglas. *Future Men*. (Moscow, Idaho: Canon Press, 2001).
5. Phillips, Doug, editor. *The Letters and Lessons of Theodore Roosevelt for His Sons*. (San Antonio, Texas: Vision Forum, 2003), 279.
6. Humes, James C. *Wit and Wisdom of Winston Churchill*. Available online at: exodusbooks.com/Samples/Harper/5434Sample.pdf (Accessed 4/28/11)
7. Winston Churchill quote from the following webpage: searchquotes.com/quotation/A_man_does_what_he_must_-_in_spite_of_personal_consequences_-_in_spite_of_obstacles_and_dangers_and_p60488/ (Accessed 4/28/11)



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Only through Jesus can our calling to masculinity and femininity be fulfilled.