

WHAT IS A HUMAN?



WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM?



Creation Mandate: *What is mankind to do?*

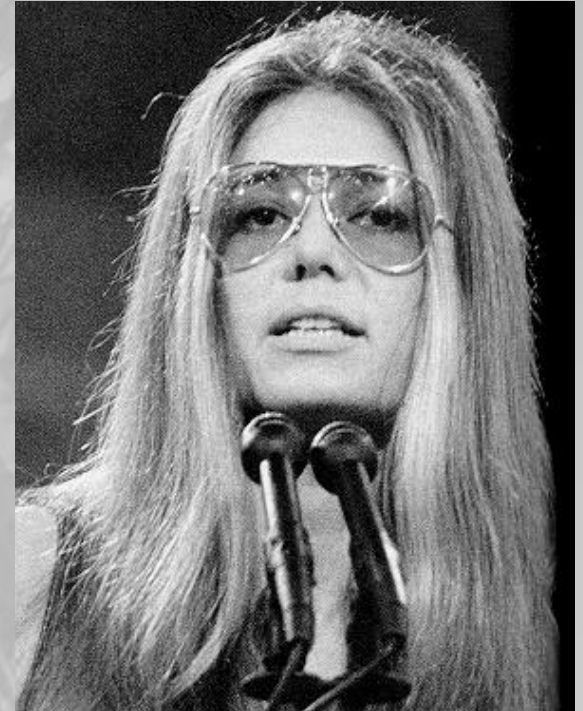
We are to reflect God's glory by ruling the earth through relationships that can fruitfully expand creation for the provision of mankind within the limits that God has established. By doing this, we fulfill our purpose.

Are there Biblical Guidelines for Gender?

1. Why is this an issue?
 - Contemporary Challenge
 - Fall of Man and the Curse
2. How do the Scriptures provide guidance?
 - Gospel, Grace, and Glory
 - Jesus Christ, the Perfect Man
3. How do we help people?

The Contemporary Problem Defined

- Feminism: The rejection of gender distinctions and roles.
- Egalitarianism: The inclusion of women in all church leadership roles.



The Contemporary Problem Defined

- Chauvinism: The belief that men are superior to women in every way.
- Patriarchalism: The absolute rule of the father/males in a home over all females.



The Priority of Man at Creation

1. Man was created first (Gen 2:7).
2. Man was given moral leadership (Gen 2:15-17).
3. Man was given responsibility to manage all of God's creation (Gen 2:15).
4. Woman was created as a helper for man (Gen 2:18-23).
5. Man names the animals and the woman (Gen 2:23).

The Restoration of the Gospel

- Spiritual Identity: The gospel restores man to a grace-empowered son of God.
- Responsible Worker: The gospel restores man's purpose as a steward of God's glory.
- Headship: The gospel restores man's ability to protect and provide as a servant-leader.

The Creation of Woman

1. Woman fully embody the image of God.
 - Equivalent in every way to a man relationally, spiritually, emotionally, morally, and mentally.
2. Woman are fully responsible for the creation mandate.
 - She has the responsibility to steward her gifts and work for the extension of the glory of God.
3. Woman are provided with independent authority other than within their marital relationship.
 - A woman is created a “helper” to her husband (OT), and “submits” to only him (NT).

Complementarianism

The intention with the word “complementarian” is to locate our way of life between two kinds error: on the one side would be the abuses of women under male domination, and on the other side would be the negation of gender differences where they have beautiful significance. This means that, on the one hand, complementarians acknowledge and lament the history of abuses of women personally and systemically, and the present evils globally and locally in the exploitation and diminishing of women and girls. And, on the other hand, complementarians lament the feminist and egalitarian impulses that minimize God-given differences between men and women and dismantle the order God has designed for the flourishing of our life together.

Biblical Femininity

The expression of godliness within the embracement of God's unique and special gift of being distinct from men physically, emotionally, and in roles within relationships. These created distinctions allow women to complement men so that humanity functions according to God's intent and for His glory.

The “Helper”

In every use of “ezer” in the Old Testament, there is military language involved. God is his people’s helper, sword and shield, and deliverer. The ever-present rescuer from trouble. He is better than chariots and horses. He keeps watch like a guard over his people and with His strong arm he overthrows their enemies. That’s the kind of help Genesis describes. So based on the consistent use of this term in the Hebrew Bible, it only makes sense to conclude that God created the woman to be a strong ally—a warrior. The description of Lady Wisdom personified as a woman in Proverbs 31 is full of battle words—like valor, strength, and prey.

Woman are not:

1. Weaker than men in character or spiritual potential. (1 Peter 3 – physical weakness)
2. Restricted to positions of subservience in life or vocation. They have the capacity for leadership.
3. Limited to being “homemakers.”
 - The question of a “working” woman is restricted to a post-19th century, western, industrial world.

Submission is not:

1. Replacing the Lordship of Christ in one's life.
2. Giving up independent thought.
3. Giving up efforts to influence.
4. Conceding every decision to a husband.
5. Based upon lesser competence.
6. Being fearful or timid.
7. Lacking spiritual discernment or insight.

Biblical Submission

The joyful acknowledgement that God created woman equal with men in essence/identity, yet has placed men in a position of authority/priority within the marriage relationship.

Proverbs 31

- Instead of what she does, the description says what she did and what she used to do.
- We are not talking about a prospective spouse for a young bachelor or even a young wife. Rather, this passage is about a mature women whose character and labors have benefited her husband and children.

Proverbs 31

- The behaviors are typical, not constant and simultaneous:
 - She did not necessarily stay up late and rise early every day, but she did what was necessary for the benefit of the family.
 - She did not necessarily have ongoing concurrent business in real estate, farming, tanning, and textiles, but over the years she has done such things.
- This is a lifetime achievement recognition, not her daily planner.

Proverbs 31

- The shift away from present-tense translation removes possible overtones of workaholicism and adds the quality of persevering faithfulness.
- She is still ideal. She has demonstrated that beauty is vain by having lived out what is important. She fears God, speaks with wisdom, is industrious, valuable, valiant.
- But she is perhaps a bit more human, a bit more possible to imitate. When the verbs are translated as past, the perfect woman is a bit more possible to find in the present.

WHAT IS A HUMAN?



WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM?