

God's Design in Identity, Sexuality and Gender
Intensive #1 - January 12, 2020
Student Copy

Why These Intensive Classes?

Ask You

Let's start by asking a question. Write your answer on the 3x5 card on your seat or your phone. Let's take two minutes for everyone to respond.

1. What is gender?
2. If a person is naturally attracted to someone, can there be any reason that is bad?

What is Gender?

Where Does Gender Begin? "Creation Mandate."

God says, *"Let us make man in our image according to our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over the cattle and over all the earth... God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it."* (Genesis 1:26-28)

The mandate (or order) God placed on Adam and Eve completes creation by displaying His "image and likeness" through a male and a female who are to **fill, subdue and rule the earth**. Since one man and woman couldn't fill, rule and subdue creation, this mandate was really being placed on all humankind through Adam and Eve as representative of us all.

This creation mandate establishes with clarity and simplicity the fact that God's design was for His image and likeness to be displayed on earth vis-à-vis a man and a woman in physical and emotional, permanent marital unity ("become one") who would have children who would have children. Over time, families would fill and put to order (i.e., subdue and rule) the earth as two sexes.

Question for you – Again, please write your answers on 3x5 cards or your phone.

1. What gender differences do you think there are between men and women?
2. What similarities are there between men and women?

Please share with those sitting next to you what you came up with.

What is Alike for the Two Genders?

1 Corinthians 11

1. Do not crave things or be idolaters (loving something else more than God) (10:6-7)
2. Do not act immorally (any sexual immorality) (10:8)
3. Do not try the Lord or grumble (complain and gripe) (10:9-10)
4. Do not seek your own good but rather that of your neighbor (servant-heart) (10:24)
5. Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (10:31)
6. Give no offense to Jews, Greeks or the church of God (10:32-33)
7. Imitate me as I imitate Christ (11:1)

Ephesians 5:22-33

1. Speak truth each one of you with the other (Eph. 4:25)
2. Do not let the sun go down on your anger (Eph. 4:27)
3. Speak only words good for edification, that it might give grace to the hearer (Eph. 4:29)
4. Imitate God (Eph. 5:1)
5. Walk in love as Christ did (Eph. 5:2)
6. Do not let immorality, impurity, greed, filthiness, coarse jesting be named among you but rather let the giving of thanks characterize you (Eph. 5:3-5)
7. Do not be deceived by empty words (Eph. 5:6)
8. Do not walk among those who pursue deeds done in darkness (Eph. 5:7-13)
9. Do not get drunk (Eph. 5:18)
10. Yield yourselves to one another in the fear of Christ (Eph. 5:21)

Colossians 3:18-19

1. Keep seeking things above since you are seated above with Christ (Col. 3:1-2)
2. Remember that your life is hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3)
3. Consider your body dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and greed (Col. 3:5-7)
4. Lay aside anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, deceit (Col. 3:8-9)
5. Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience (Col. 3:12)
6. Continue bearing with and forgiving one another as Christ forgave you (Col. 3:13)
7. Put on love (Col. 3:14)
8. Let the peace of Christ rule in you (Col. 3:15)
9. Let the word of Christ dwell in you with all wisdom (Col. 3:16)
10. Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father (Col. 3:17)

1 Peter 3:1-7

1. Submit yourself to the Lord and every human institution (1 Peter 2:13-15)
2. Act free but do not let your freedom be a covering for evil (1 Peter 2:16)
3. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king (1 Peter 2:17)
4. Servants, submit to your masters (1 Peter 2:18)
5. Be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, humble in spirit, not returning insult for insult, turn away from evil and do good (1 Peter 3:9-11 = right *after* the gender specific passage)

As a Christian man or woman, I must seek things above where Christ is seated because my life is hidden with Christ in God. In imitating Christ, I must follow the example of godly men and women who walked before me. To do so, I consider my body dead to immorality, impurity, anger, drunkenness, abusive speech, deceit and greed. I refuse to keep company with people who pursue unrighteous deeds in the darkness. Similarly, I will not hold onto anger, but rather, will forgive as God forgave me. I put on a heart of compassion, humility, kindness, patience and gratitude towards all others. I will find my peace in the Lord Jesus. I will live so that His word dwells richly in me. These attitudes will show in my speech because I will avoid grumbling and will speak only such things as are true and good for the edification of others since instead of seeking my good, I seek the good of others. In other words, I will walk in love.

Which Gender Differences Are Biblical and Assigned?

The man was directly called to

- Tend and keep the garden (Genesis 2:15, 3:17-19) (the realm of his work and management)
- Provide for his own family (1 Tim. 5:8)
- Love the Lord personally, and teach the word to his children diligently as well as talk of it casually early in the day, late in the day, when at home, when out and about (Deut. 6:4-9)
- Be the head of one woman (1 Cor. 11:3, Eph. 5:23)
- Love his wife like Christ loved the church and give himself sacrificially for her (Ephesians 5:25)
- Have a sanctifying effect on his wife (Eph. 5:25-33)
- Live with her according to understanding, regard her as weaker (for protection), and yet treat her as (an equal) co-heir of Christ (1 Pet. 3:7).
- Teach his children the praises and strength and works the Lord has done... that they may tell their children... to put their confidence in God and not be like their fathers, a stubborn, rebellious generation..." (Psalm 78:1-9)
- "Not exasperate his children," but rather "bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4), and "keep them under control with all dignity" (1 Timothy 3:4)

The woman was directly called to

- Help the man in his aloneness (Gen. 2:18).
- Bear children (Gen. 1:26-28, 3:16) (*Some women do not marry and some women cannot bear. Women are generally called to bear children because God commanded humankind to fill the earth and subdue it, which requires children, and only women can bear.*)
- Submit herself to her husband (Eph. 5:22, 1 Pet. 3:1-6, Col. 3:17) and respect him (Eph. 5:33).
- Love her husband and children and sensible, pure worker at home (Titus 2:4-5).
- Not to teach or exercise authority over men (1 Timothy 2:11-15).

Instruction by Example – Prescription by Description

Men as Leaders

What about Deborah?

Women managing the home

Common Culturally Determined Differences

Summary

SO WHAT?

Egalitarian

- 1) God has made male and female as equals in His sight who are meant to work together in relationships of mutual respect, and we are largely to determine roles based on strengths, weaknesses, interest and experience rather than cultural norms.
- 2) Conventional roles where men work are better educated and work outside the home, providing the necessary resources and where women stay at home taking care of children and the house and follow their husband's leadership, are social constructs from years of non-democratic, autocratic, paternalistic culture.
- 3) In Christ, there is neither male nor female. While that does not mean there literally are no such things as the sexes, it means that birth-assigned gender need not be determinative of how we live and what we decide to do and be. One important implication of that is that women can be as effective as men as pastors, elders or teachers in the church.
- 4) Among the more progressive egalitarians, the implication of gender as social construct also extends to homosexual and transgender "rights" – we are who we determine we are, because we are free to recognize who God has made us to be. And since love is the determining factor in all relationships, loving and accepting people trumps having some archaic rules about right and wrong that were from a rigid, much less enlightened culture.

Complementarian

- 1) God has made two sexes as equals in His sight, owing one another honor, but with different, complementary roles in the family and church.
- 2) God commanded men who are married to lead and sacrificially love their wife and spiritually train, lead and discipline children. They are to be the primary breadwinner and protector.
- 3) God commanded men to exercise authority and teaching roles in the church, so elders are to be only men and pastor-teachers over mixed groups are to be men only. Some believe only men can be deacons, and others believe the scriptures provide for female deacons, too. Many believe that women can be pastors, provided that her role is over children or women.
- 4) He has commanded women to submit themselves to their own husband. This is not uniform submission of all women to all men, and it does not necessarily carry any authority in business, education or government. It refers to women submitting to their husband's leadership. Notice that it is not the man's job to see to it that this happens. It is a command to the women.
- 5) He has commanded women not to teach or exercise authority over men in the local church.

Implications for Homosexuality and Transgender