

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

Grace Gatherings

THEOLOGY NIGHTS | JANUARY 31, 2024

GRACE CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG

Question 11

Describe the biblical understanding of manhood and womanhood from both an **egalitarian** and **complementarian** perspective. Explain which view you embrace and outline why you believe it to be the most biblical.

“We should glory in manhood and womanhood. We should see them as the Scripture sees them: the successful enfleshment of the **Creator’s super intelligent plan for humanity**. God made these forms, and God made these persons. God clearly loves diversity. He desires to see the distinct beauty displayed in the unique frames and make-ups of the sexes.” (Owen Strachan & Gavin Peacock)

Question 11

What does God **design** and **assign** for men and women as His image bearers?

- Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 15, 18-20, 21-25
 - What does this foundation suggest about the **value** and **equality** of men and women?
 - God made us spiritual equals with equal value to fulfill differing **roles** as **co-rulers** of creation.

Question 11

What does God **design** and **assign** for men and women as His image bearers?

- What **designations** can we discern?
 - Cultivator/keeper
 - Adam as authority and leader as he names the animals and takes the initiative to leave his family of origin and find a wife for himself to cleave to her
 - Eve as helper and wife
 - Friendship; marital **companions** rather than competitors; one flesh or **soulmates**
 - *“bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh...this one was taken out of man”* (Gen. 2:25) = complementarity; designed to **fit together**

Question 11

What does God **design** and **assign** for men and women as His image bearers?

- According to these verses, are men and women **both** similar **and** different? And are we similar and different in **meaningful** ways?
 - *Naked and not ashamed* (Genesis 2:25) helps us view the couple in the bliss, blessing, and innocence of God's design for their roles and relationship.
 - Basic biological/chemical difference:
 - Men have over 1,000% more testosterone than women
 - Men = 5,140 - 6,460 range
 - Women = 285 - 440 range

Question 11

What are some **biblical effects** of Genesis' foundations for manhood and womanhood?

Matthew 19:3-6

Jesus upholds His design for marriage, and He affirms the companionship marriage brings.

1 Corinthians 11:3, 8-9

Who is the head (authority) of whom? Who was made for whom? Paul depends on what Genesis says, and the point he stresses is that **man leads in authority** and that **woman was made for man**.

Question 11

What are some **biblical effects** of Genesis' foundations for manhood and womanhood?

Ephesians 5:22-33 -- There's a **comparison** being made throughout this passage.

- Who are the **three main characters** in Paul's comparison?
- What are the **main themes** shared between these characters?
- According to verses 25, 28, and 33, what is a husband expressing toward his wife when he follows Christ in headship authority?
 - **LOVE**
- According to verse 33, what is a wife expressing toward her husband when she follows Christ in submitting to her husband?
 - **RESPECT**

Question 11

What are some **biblical effects** of Genesis' foundations for manhood and womanhood?

Ephesians 5:22-33

- The headship authority of the husband toward his wife is established by and **mirrors** the headship authority of Christ towards His bride, the church.
- The wife's humble submission toward her husband in everything is established by and **mirrors** the church's humble submission to her Husband, Christ.
- Christian marriage mirrors the sacrificial love and deferential submission between God's people and their Savior, Jesus Christ.
- According to verse 31, what passage of the Bible does Paul base his teaching on?
 - **Genesis 2:24**

Question 11

What are some **biblical effects** of Genesis' foundations for manhood and womanhood?

1 Timothy 2:9-15 (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

- What does Paul **prescribe** for godliness in the ways Christian women conduct themselves in life and in the church?
- Are there any clear restrictions or prohibitions mentioned?

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What are some **biblical effects** of Genesis' foundations for manhood and womanhood?

1 Timothy 2:9-15 (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

- God calls men to serve the church as elders and teachers, and when the church family is gathered for worship and learning doctrine (teaching/preaching), women are to show their love and humility towards the Lord and towards their brothers and sisters in Christ by being teachable (quiet and reverent).
- The **men** of the church are responsible to uphold this pattern of family life in their homes and in the gatherings of the church.
- What passage of Scripture does Paul base his teaching on?

Question 11

What are some **biblical effects** of Genesis' foundations for manhood and womanhood?

1 Peter 3:1-7 (5:1-2)

- According to verses 1-2 and 4, Peter puts a **high priority** on what kind of behavior in wives toward their husbands?
 - Submission, deference, patience, gentleness, humility, and a reverent, quiet spirit
- What does this conduct in wives **encourage** in their husbands?
 - Holy reverence toward the Lord and His will for marriage

Question 11

What are some **biblical effects** of Genesis' foundations for manhood and womanhood?

1 Peter 3:1-7 (5:1-2)

- What does Peter **command** of husbands toward their wives in this marital interchange?
- What spiritual and practical **considerations** are husbands to afford their wives as their wives submit to follow them reverently?
- What book of the Bible does Peter base his teaching on?

Question 11

What are some **biblical effects** of Genesis' foundations for manhood and womanhood?

Galatians 3:27-28 -- The **spurious** (illegitimate) use of this passage to teach that the gospel dispels any differences between men and women in life/church

- What is the “**oneness**” described and shared among these pairs or groups? Is it based on doing away with their religious, cultural, and physical distinctions? Can and should those be erased?
- What is the **distinction** between male and female which is **overcome** in Christ? Is it something **spiritual**?
 - Yes
- Jews, masters, and men are **not** more spiritually valuable nor are they more worthy of salvation and spiritual blessings than Greeks, slaves, or women.

Question 11

Egalitarianism (evangelical feminism) teaches that:

1. God created men and women to bear His image on equal terms **apart from** any need for distinctions.
2. Traditional differences regarding roles and responsibilities unique to men and women are **not** taught or emphasized in Scripture.
3. Men and women are equal partners in life and marriage with **no biblical prescriptions** for their roles in church life or in marriage.
4. Mutual submission, spiritual giftedness, and ability (not gender) free either sex to offer leadership, to exercise authority, to teach and preach, or to practice his/her giftedness without restrictions from either God or man. The reasons for this freedom are based on Christ's work on the cross whereby Jesus restored the sexes to their pre-fall condition of original equality (Gal. 3:28).

Question 11

Complementarianism teaches that:

1. God created men and women to image Him as spiritual equals with differing roles and responsibilities based on their gender distinctives (Gen. 1:26-27).
2. Men and women are equally valuable to God as they serve the Lord as imitators of God and as His beloved children (Eph. 5:1)
3. In line with God's order of creation (man first and woman formed from the man), the man is to act as leader, provider, and protector in his role as husband and/or church leader.
4. The woman's primary function is that of helper and nurturer expressed in her roles as wife and mother.

Question 11

Complementarianism proffers the critical components of men and women sharing in a mutual submission to God, in being equally valued as God's image bearers, and in cooperatively living as God's co-regents to rule over creation, while also upholding that men and women honor God's clear mandates for male headship (authority) and female submission (Gen. 2:15-23).

Question 11

From the Grace Church Williamsburg Statement of Faith:

IX. Marriage and the Family

Scripture teaches that the husband is the head of the family as Christ is the Head of the church (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:23; Ps. 128:1-4). The wife is to submit to her husband (Eph. 5:24; Col. 3:18; 1 Pet. 3:1) and the husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church by giving Himself up for her (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19). While these God-given roles include functional submission, both male and female are equal before God.

Question 11

From the Grace Church Williamsburg Statement of Faith:

XII. Statement on Gender

Therefore, we affirm the distinctiveness of the sexes, and we see these distinctions as blessings for our compatibility -- that while different, men and women were created for each other, and they are suited for one another according to God's good design. Hence, these biological and emotional differences are not wrong in themselves, and we are not to deny, malign, or manipulate them, but we are to celebrate these differences within the context of God's design for marriage, family, and church life. (Ecc. 2:24-25; 3:11-14; 5:18-20; 9:1-9; SS. 1-8)

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