

Beautiful Design Class Schedule

1. God's Wonderful Gift of Gender - January 6
2. Manhood (pt 1) - January 13
3. Manhood (pt 2) - January 27
4. Womanhood (pt 1) - February 3
5. Womanhood (pt 2) - February 10
6. Men & Women in the Home - February 17
7. Men & Women in the Church (pt 1) - February 24
8. Men & Women in the Church (pt 2) - March 3
9. Men & Women in the World & Workplace - March 10
10. Sex, Marriage, Same-Sex Attraction & Gender Confusion - March 24
11. Objections to Complementarianism - March 31

Summaries:

Biblical masculinity is displayed in a sense of benevolent responsibility to work God's creation, to provide for and protect others, and to express loving, sacrificial leadership in particular contexts prescribed by God's Word.

Biblical femininity is displayed in a gracious disposition to cultivate life, to help others flourish, and to affirm, receive and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in particular contexts prescribed by God's Word.

For further study:

1. What's the Difference, by John Piper.
2. God's Design for Man and Womanhood, Andreas & Margaret Köstenberger
2. The Accidental Feminist, Courtney Reissig
3. Women & God: Hard Questions, Beautiful Truth, Kathleen Nielson

Questions and comments are welcome!

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Beautiful Design

Class 5: Womanhood (part 2)



I. Introduction: Cultural Construct or Created Reality?

II. Summary Statement

Biblical femininity is displayed in a gracious disposition to cultivate life, to help others flourish, and to affirm, receive and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in particular contexts prescribed by God's Word.

III. To Cultivate Life

- Gen 3:20 – “Eve” related to term for life
- Patterns at creation:

Man

Adam formed from the *ground*
“Work and keep the garden”
Parallels days 1-3: *forming*
Working disposition

Woman

Woman made from the *man*
“Mother of all living”
Parallels days 4-6: *filling*
Relational disposition

- A universal feminine trait, typical of women in various contexts and stages of life (Prov 31, Titus 2:4-5, 1 Tim 5:10)

IV. To Help Others Flourish

- Gen 2:18 – “A helper fit”
- Imaging God, the Helper (Ps 70:5)
- Prescriptive / Formal → “Helping with a capital H” (Marriage relationship)
- Descriptive / Informal → “Helping with a lowercase h” (Various relationships and contexts)

Examples:

- Rahab (Joshua 2)
 - Esther
 - Luke 8:3
 - Romans 16:1
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- Helping as an expression of feminine strength: “*The unique influence of a godly woman is in transforming things...*” (Abigail Dodds)

V. To Affirm, Receive and Nurture Strength and Leadership from Worthy Men in Particular Contexts Prescribed by God’s Word

- Eph 5:22-24, 33 – “Submit” = Place oneself under the authority of another
- Submission is an act of trust in God
- A wife complements her husband through her unique feminine influence
- What about imperfect men? (1 Pet 3:1-2)
- “Worthy men” – the Bible condemns all abuse (Acts 5:29)
- What about affirming and encouraging men informally, outside of contexts where submission is prescribed?

VI. Interview/Testimony