

Women In The Image of God

“Women are not inferior to men; they simply have a different role. Many people believe the only place of power and influence in society is in a leadership position, assuming it is more fulfilling to lead than to follow. But people in nonleadership roles can be very influential...The notion that the greatest experience in life is to be on top of the pile and control everything is an illusion”

John MacArthur, *Different By Design*, p. 143

As His image bearers,
God holds women in
high regard and has
assigned them an
indispensable role in
His program

Rebecca McLoughlin, www.crossway.org
article “Is Christianity Misogynistic?”

“Throughout history, the vast majority of babies who have died by abortion (before birth) or infanticide (after birth) have been girls. This is still true globally today”

“Christianity isn’t *against* women: it’s the greatest movement of women in all of history!”

How Scripture holds women in high regard

- I. Women are created in God's image (Gen 1:26-27)
- II. Scripture holds women in high regard (OT and NT)
- III. God has assigned women an irreplaceable role in His program

“Image” and “Likeness”



Image - “to carve” or “to cut”

Likeness - “to be like”

Gen 1:26-27

“Everything we are images God”

This includes “our reasoning power, creativity, ability to use language, ability to sense moral distinctions and to make moral choices, and above all our religious capacity”

John Frame, in *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood*, p. 226

Anthony Hoekema, *Created In God's Image*, p. 14

“The human person is a social being, that woman complements man and that man complements woman. In this way human beings reflect God, who exists not as a solitary being but as a being in fellowship”

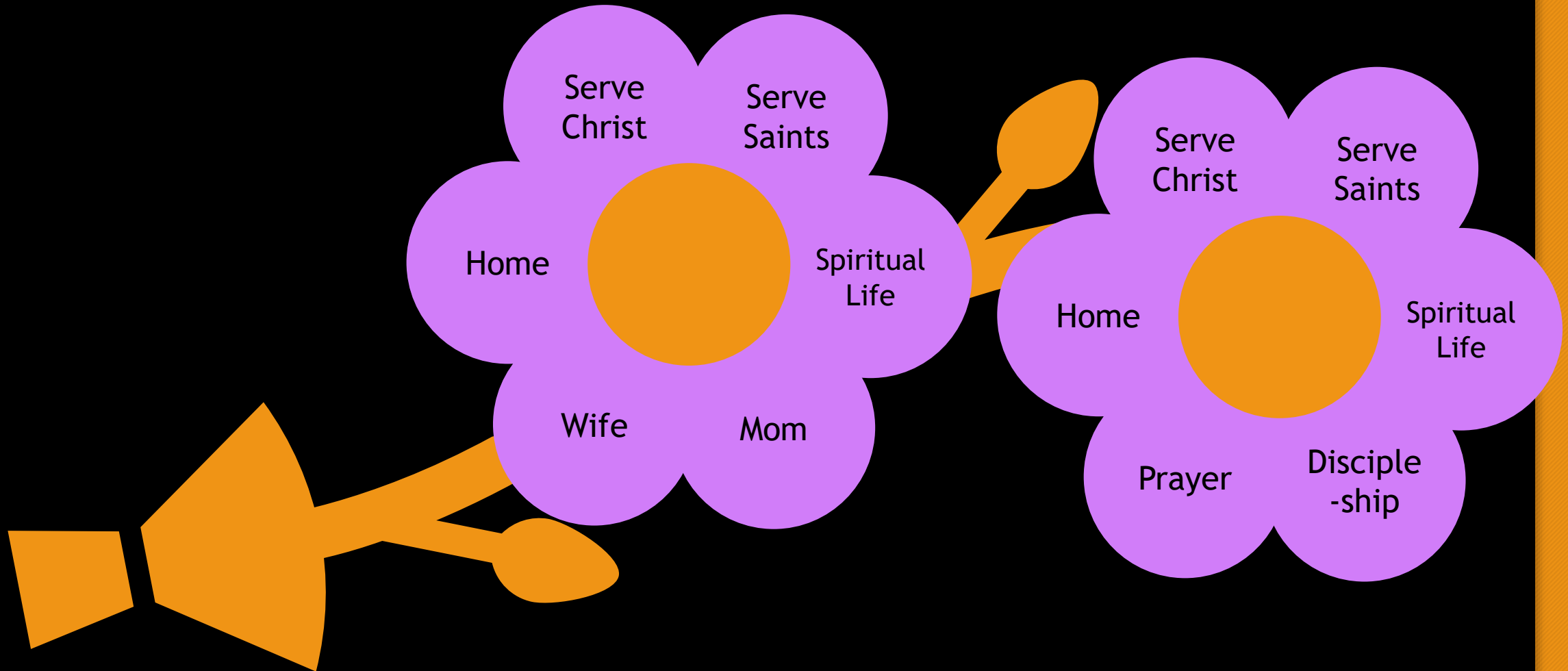
Women manifest important aspects of God's image

- Compassion - from Hebrew word for “womb”. Compassion is like the tender care a mom has for her baby.
- Helper - woman as man's helper. All 3 members of the Trinity are called our Helper (Ps 54:4; 1 Jn 2:1; Jn 14:16)
- Unfailing love - God's unfailing love is expressed as a nursing mother (Isa 49:15)
- Protection - God protects as a mother bird protects her chicks (Ruth 2:12; Ps 17:8; Mt 23:37)

God is not feminine, but feminine traits reflect parts of His character

All women are to pursue a rich and faithful ministry in the home life she creates and manages to provide a context for spiritual life and ministry

Example of differing ministry categories for women in different life circumstances



Elizabeth Elliot, *“The Essence of Femininity,”* in
RBMW, p. 398

“Femininity receives. It says, “May it be to me as you have said.” It takes what God gives—a special place, a special honor, a special function and glory, different from that of masculinity, meant to be a help. In other words, it is for us women to receive the given as Mary did, not to insist on the not-given, as Eve did”