

Equal Yet Different: Exploring Biblical Manhood and Womanhood Session 2 | Steve Whitacre March 22, 2015

I. Introduction

A. Our Recommended Text

Doing Things Right in Matters of the Heart by John Ensor (Crossway)

B. Our Study of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

Week One: The Beginning of Manhood and Womanhood

Week Two: Defining Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

Week Three: Equal Yet Different in the Church

Week Four: Equal Yet Different in the Home

C. Additional Recommended Reading:

Books:

- *What's the Difference?* By John Piper (Crossway)
- *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* by Piper & Grudem (Crossway)
- *God, Marriage, and Family* by Andreas Köstenberger (Crossway)
- *The Masculine Mandate* by Richard D. Phillips (P & R)
- *Feminine Appeal* by Carolyn Mahaney (Crossway)
- *Equal Yet Different* by Alexander Strauch (Lewis and Roth)
- *Freedom and Boundaries* by Kevin DeYoung (Pleasant Word)

Blogs:

- Girltalk (<http://www.girltalkhome.com/blog>)
- Council of Biblical Manhood & Womanhood (<https://www.cbmw.org/>)
- 9Marks Journal: www.9marks.org/journal/complementarianism-the-local-church/
- <http://9marks.org/article/complementarianism-the-single-woman/>

REVIEW:

Complementarian:

"We were created not identically but symmetrically. At the heart of mature manhood and womanhood is a clear appreciation of our complementarity."¹

Egalitarian:

"Being created equally in the image of God means at least this: that when the so-called weakness and strength columns for manhood and womanhood are added up, the value at the bottom is going to be the same for each. And when you put these two columns and put them on top of each other, God intends them to be the perfect complement to each other."²

Intuitive vs. Informed

"The key questions we should be asking openly and confidently are 'What does it mean to be a man and not a woman?' and 'What does it mean to be a woman and not a man?'"³

II. Defining Biblical Manhood

"At the heart of mature masculinity is a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for and protect women in ways appropriate to a man's differing relationships."⁴

Phrases in both definitions:

At the heart

is a sense

mature

in ways appropriate to a differing relationships

¹ John Ensor, *Doing Things Right in Matters of the Heart*, 71.

² John Piper and Wayne Grudem, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, 73. Note that this book is available as a free PDF! <http://cbmw.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/RBMW.pdf>

³ Ensor, 67.

⁴ Piper, *What's the Difference*, 19.

Distinct features of manhood:

benevolent

responsibility

to lead, provide for and protect women

“The call to leadership is a call to humble oneself and take the responsibility to be a servant-leader in ways that are appropriate to every differing relationship to women.”⁵

III. Defining Biblical Womanhood

“At the heart of mature femininity is a freeing disposition to affirm, receive and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in ways appropriate to a woman’s differing relationships.”⁶

Distinct features of womanhood:

a freeing disposition

to affirm, receive, and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men

⁵ Piper, 28.

⁶ Piper, 35.

“I do not mean to imply by my definition that women are merely recipients in relation to men. Mature women bring nurturing strengths and insights that make men stronger and that make the relationship richer.”⁷

IV. Conclusion

“Why these differences should be so threatening is hard to grasp. The issue is not about equality—equality is a given. Nor is it about superiority and inferiority. It is about men being stronger than women and women being stronger than men in different and complementary ways. Our complementarity is rooted in nature.”⁸

⁷ Piper, 40

⁸ Ensor, 74