

**Equal Yet Different:  
Exploring Biblical Manhood and Womanhood  
Session 3 | Brian Chesemore  
March 29, 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 Home**

Week Four: Equal Yet Different in the Church

Review:

*“Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him’...And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.”*  
(Gen 2.18, 22)

“Adam, after surveying all and finding only interesting things and weird things and dangerous and useful things, is finally presented with the *wow* thing...‘Wow! This is what I have been looking for!’ Therefore, men ever since have been following this pattern. By God’s good design, rather than by sin’s effects, we leave home and labor to find our place and purpose in the world till we hit the *wow*. Then we marry that girl and take on the world together.”<sup>1</sup>

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” (Gen 2.24)

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<sup>1</sup> Ensor, John. *Doing Things Right in Matters of the Heart* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2007). Pg. 37.

“Love and marriage  
Love and marriage  
Go together like a horse and carriage...”

This truth did not out with the horse and carriage. Love tacks toward marriage....but without discretion, you conform to the practices around you.”<sup>2</sup>

## II. Marriage and Family:

### A. The Concerning Cultural Landscape

The Marriage Index: (<http://www.americanvalues.org/>)<sup>3</sup>

### B. Our Local Church

#### 1. Encouraging Trends

#### 2. Starting with the Conclusion: The Difference the Gospel of Grace Makes

- In the Gospel, we experience redemption.
- Through Teaching we learn God’s design which he intends to restore.
- We learn that in matters of the heart, matters of relationship, marriage and family, the one we need is Jesus.<sup>4</sup>
- In the church, we receive hands on training through observation and giving and receiving biblical care for our lives, which profoundly impacts the health of our marriages and families.
- Result: A Testimony to God’s Wisdom in Marriage. Against the backdrop of a culture and larger Western world that is abandoning marriage, a local church filled with joyful and humble (not perfect) marriages displays God’s wise and good design to a lost world. Godly marriages stabilize a society, but far more important than even that blessing, they testify to grace.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Ensor, John. *Doing Things Right in Matters of the Heart* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2007). Pg. 51

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.albertmohler.com/blog/>

<sup>4</sup> Ensor, John. *Doing Things Right in Matters of the Heart* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2007). Pg. 46-49.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, pg. 58.

## C. Marriage in the Old Testament: What do we learn?

### 1. Genesis 1-3

**The Man's Ultimate Responsibility for the Marriage :** In the Garden, we see God placing upon Adam (man) a responsibility of headship.

**The Wife's Role as His "Suitable Helper":** In the Garden, we see God gracing Eve (woman) with an orientation to Adam, as his helper in marriage and fulfilling his call.

### 2. The Wisdom Literature Upholds God's Good Design in Marriage

"While the Old Testament historical books bear witness to the increasing deterioration of the observance of God's plan for marriage, God's ideal is upheld in the Old Testament wisdom literature. The two primary examples are the poem praising the excellent wife in the final chapter of the book of Proverbs and the celebration of married love in the Song of Solomon. These passages provide a refreshing counterpoint to the overall pattern of compromise of God's ideal for marriage presented in the historical and prophetic Old Testament books."<sup>6</sup>

#### Proverbs 31

- Holding out the Ideal of A Godly Wife
- Undoing Misunderstanding of A Godly Wife

#### The Song of Solomon

- Don't Prematurely Awaken Love
- The Beauty of Intimacy in Marriage (see also Heb 13.4)
- A Right Portrayal of Roles in Marriage (Song 7.10)

"Contrary to the world's notion that truly exciting love must be outside of the confines of marriage, Scripture makes it clear that it is the very security provided by an exclusive, lifelong marriage

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<sup>6</sup> Kostenberger, Andreas. *God, Marriage, and Family* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books; 2004.) by page 51;

relationship that allows for the sexual satisfaction and fulfillment of both the man and the woman.”<sup>7</sup>

### **3. The Prophetic Literature Depicts Marriage as a Prophetic Witness**

#### **Hosea**

- The Theme of Covenant Love
- The Theme of Spiritual Adultery

### **D. Marriage in the New Testament: What do we learn?**

#### **1. The Writings of Paul**

##### **Ephesians 5:21-33: Complementary Roles Provide a Gospel Analogy**

- The Wife's Call: Submission that Reflects the Church (v.22-24, 33)

- The Husband's Call: Sacrificial Love that Reflects the Savior (v. 25-33)

- Conclusion: The Profound Mystery of Marriage

#### **2. The Writings of Peter**

##### **1 Peter 3:1-7: Complementary Roles Provide a Gospel Witness**

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, pg 54-55.

- **The Wife's Call: Fearless Submission (v.1-6)**

Exclusiveness of Submission (v.1)

Motivation of Submission (v.1)

“Peter sees the ‘impossible position of the Christian [wife] as a remarkable opportunity to bear witness to Christ.”<sup>8</sup>

Strategy of Submission (v.1)

“Christian wives can have an important part in the Church's witness. That witness may not be easy...So strong may be their hostility that it is no longer possible for their wives to speak of the Lord to them. Even then the wife must not despair. She still possesses a mighty weapon for winning her husband to the faith; it is the testimony of her life. Her husband has refused to heed the word; very well, let him be won without words. The silent eloquence of his wife's pure and reverent behavior can preach daily the transforming power of Jesus Christ.”<sup>9</sup>

Peter's Definition of Submission (v.2)

Pursuit of Inward Adornment (v. 3-4)

Example of Generations of Holy Women (v. 5-6)

“Submission is the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband's leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts. It's the disposition to follow a husband's authority and an inclination to yield to his leadership. It is an attitude

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<sup>8</sup> The Message of 1 Peter, by Edmund Clowney, IVP, pgs. 129.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, pg. 130

that says, “I delight for you to take the initiative in our family. I am glad when you take responsibility for things and lead with love. I don’t flourish in the relationship when you are passive and I have to make sure the family works.”<sup>10</sup>

- **The Husband’s Call: Understanding and Honor (v.7)**

How Husbands are to Live with their Wives

Recognizing Their Weakness and Equality

The Spiritual Significance of a Husband’s Conduct

*“So concerned is God that Christian husbands live in an understanding and loving way with their wives, that he ‘interrupts’ his relationship with them when they are not doing so. No Christian husband should presume to think that any spiritual good will be accomplished by his life without an effective ministry of prayer. And no husband may expect an effective prayer life unless he lies with his wife ‘in an understanding way, bestowing honor’ on her. To take the time to develop and maintain a good marriage is God’s will; it is serving God; it is a spiritual activity pleasing in his sight.”<sup>11</sup>*

- **What Submission is NOT:<sup>12</sup>**

- Submission does not mean agreeing with everything your husband says.
- Submission does not mean leaving your brain or your will at the wedding alter.
- Submission does not mean avoiding every effort to change a husband.

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<sup>10</sup> “The Beautiful Faith of Fearless Submission” by John Piper, JBMW Vol. XIII, Issue 1

<sup>11</sup> 1 Peter, Wayne Grudem, The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, No. 17, 146

<sup>12</sup> “The Beautiful Faith of Fearless Submission” by John Piper, JBMW Vol. XIII, Issue 1

- Submission does not mean putting the will of the husband before the will of Christ.
- Submission does not mean that a wife gets her personal, spiritual strength primarily through her husband.
- Submission does not mean that a wife is to act out of fear.

### 3. The Gospels

In Heaven, we are “neither married nor given in marriage.” (Lk 20.35) Why?

### 4. Revelation 19.6-9: The Long Awaited Wedding Feast

“Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude crying out...Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure.” (Rev 19.6-9)

## E. Concluding Definition

1. **Husband:** “Biblical headship for the husband is the divine calling to take primary responsibility for Christ-like, servant-leadership, protection and provision in the home.”<sup>13</sup>
2. **Wife:** “Biblical submission for the wife is the divine calling to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts.”<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, John Piper, Ch. 1, pg 52-53

<sup>14</sup> Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, John Piper, Ch. 1, pg 53