

We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. James 3:2 (NIV)

1. What is Biblical manhood and womanhood?

Genesis 1 — Male headship was introduced.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, Ephesians 5:25 (ESV)

Genesis 2 — Gender roles are described.

The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Genesis 2:20–22 (ESV)

Genesis 3 — Sin twisted gender roles.

...Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” Genesis 3:16 (ESV)

2. Where do gender roles apply?

The Family

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 1 Peter 3:1–2 (ESV)

For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 1 Peter 3:5 (ESV)

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. 1 Peter 3:7 (ESV)

The Church

I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control. 1 Timothy 2:12–15 (ESV)

3. What are some misunderstood passages on gender roles?

1 Corinthians 11 — Should women wear a head covering?

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. 1 Corinthians 11:3–5 (ESV)

That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. 1 Corinthians 11:10 (ESV)

Galatians 3:28 — Did Jesus eliminate gender roles?

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:27–28 (ESV)

4. Questions and Answers

What can women do in the church?

Are you saying women can't have a job or work outside the home?

Should I break fellowship with a church that ordains women or has a woman pastor?

If my core role is to be a wife and mother, what if I can't have children?

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Biblical Manhood and Womanhood - Part 2

Finding My Place