

Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

“Transgenderism is an umbrella term for the state or condition of identifying or expressing a gender identity that does not match a person’s physical/genetic sex.” [Joe Carter of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention]

In the Bible, gender is God-given and not dependent on how a person feels about himself or herself. It is a matter of biology, not emotions.

Dr. McHugh, the former Psychiatrist in Chief at Johns Hopkins said, *“‘Sex change’ is biologically impossible ... People who undergo sex-reassignment surgery do not change from men to women or vice versa. Rather, they become feminized men or masculinized women.”*

I. The Origin of Manhood and Womanhood (Genesis 1-3)

There is nothing that God created that was created with as much “hands on care” than that of the creation of man.

***Psalms 33:6-9** “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.”*

***Psalms 8:3-4** “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”*

The Bible tells us that our God who spoke the universe into being and spoke the animals into being, when He created man, He created man with His own hands. **Genesis 2:7** *“then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”* The word “formed” is the same root word that is used of a potter forming a vessel out of clay.

A. Male and Female Were Created Equal in God’s Image (Genesis 1)

***Genesis 1:26-27** “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”* Both sexes bore the divine image then and now.

The Hebrew word translated “image” has the meaning of shadow or carving – that is, not the real thing but similar. The Hebrew word translated “likeness” means pattern, or model, or example. In other words, God himself was the model in the creation of man and woman.

John 4:24 tells us God is spirit. We are spiritual beings that possess a soul, and that soul is housed in a body. Like God, man has a personality and a moral consciousness, we have intellect (rational mind), the ability to think abstractly, emotion, and will. Again, the Hebrew word for image (shadow) and the word for likeness (model) do not mean man was the essence of God.

Being created in God’s image has one more very important aspect. When man was created he was perfect and sinless, God gave the first perfect man and women His righteousness. The first created humans were most like God’s image because they had God’s perfect righteousness. We lost that innocence and righteousness when mankind sinned. But God in His glory, mercy, and righteousness made a way to restore God’s righteousness in us through Christ Jesus. **1 Corinthians 5:21** says, *“He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to become sin for us that we might obtain the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus.”* **Ephesians 1:4** clearly teaches the same doctrine, *“Just as he chose us in Him before the foundations of the world, that we should be blameless before Him.”* God’s righteousness in us was His image in us.

Adam and Eve before their sin and fall would never have seen themselves as being the opposite sex from which they were created because they had God’s righteousness. Similar, what that says to us today is a person who is truly born again has the Holy Spirit in them who would convict them of any false identity should they choose to believe they are of the opposite sex. Choose to believe is the operative word here.

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B. Male and Female Were Created with Differences (Genesis 2)

Equality of status does not mean interchangeability of function. In other words, being equal does not mean that there are not distinct differences. Males and females are different physically way beyond the obvious differences. The individual cells are different. The brain functions differently and is even formed differently. We respond to stress differently.

Genesis 2:21-22 the woman was made from the man, not from the dust. Genetic research has shown that one pair of human chromosomes labeled X and Y determines the gender of a child. All males have both X and Y chromosomes; all females have a pair of X chromosomes. The father's seed is the determining factor in the gender of the child. Genetically therefore it is possible to create a female from a male. However, it is not possible to extract a male's genetic code from a female because a female has no Y chromosome. This is perfectly harmonious with the Biblical account of Eve being taken from Adam.

C. Male and Female Were Cursed by the Fall (Genesis 3)

By "fall" we are speaking of their disobedience and the resulting consequences. God said in **Genesis 2:17**, There also was the entrance of a power called sin that dwells in our members (**Romans 7:23**) that gives Satan inroad to our life to tempt, entice and enslave those who have not been born of God. Every sin, every perversion of God's plan for maleness and femaleness comes as a result of sin coming into the world, as recorded in Genesis chapter 3.

II. The Functioning of Manhood and Womanhood in a Fallen World

One of the stated goals of the National Organization of Women is to "*work toward, an end to all distinctions based on sex.*" This goal is the opposite of God's design from men and women; it is inherently the wrong and inappropriate goal for humans.

Popular Christian author, Stu Weber, speaking to men described the problem like this: "*Our culture is in deep trouble, and at the heart of its trouble is its loss of a vision for manhood. If it is difficult for you and me as adult males, to maintain our masculine balance in this gender-neutral culture, imagine what it must be like for our sons, who are growing up in an increasingly feminized world. Femininity is being as vigorously attacked as is masculinity.*"

Elizabeth Elliot said: "*I find myself in the sometimes quite uncomfortable position of having to belabor the obvious, and hold up examples of femininity to women who almost feel apologetic for being feminine or being womanly. I would remind you that femininity is not a curse. It is not even a triviality. It is a gift, a divine gift, to be accepted with both hands, and to thank God for. Because remember, it was His idea.*" The sad thing is that so many in the church have bought into this gender neutral mindset.

A. Developing Biblical Masculinity

1. Point Him to Biblical Examples – David, Joshua, Jesus
2. Teach Him to Submit to Authority
3. Teach Him to Take Responsibility and Reject Passivity
4. Teach Him Manners, especially manners that relate to his treatment of females
5. Teach Him How to do Manly Things

Randy Stinson's book, *A Biblical Guide to Manhood*, lists twenty-five things that a dad should teach his son. In **Titus 2: 2, 6 -8** are biblical examples of godly "manly" characteristics.

B. Developing Biblical Femininity

1. Hold up Biblical Examples before Her **Proverbs 31:10-31** Doug Wilson – "*This passage denies that a woman's place is in the home. It affirms that her priority is the home.*"
2. Teach Her Modesty
3. Teach Her That Inner Beauty Is the Best Kind of Beauty- **1 Peter 3:4** "*a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.*" **Titus 2:3-5, 7-8** teaches these characteristics of inner beauty.
4. Teach and Model for Her the Biblical Roles in Marriage
5. Teach Her What It Means to Be Feminine **Proverbs 31:10-31**