

RUINED BUT REDEEMABLE: MALE & FEMALE

Genesis 2-3

God established a special relationship between one man and one woman as His desired means for bringing new life into the world.

Males and females complement one another

All that God made was “good”. It is striking then when God says that it is “not good” that the male is alone (Genesis 2.18).

The man and the woman are the same insofar as they are both made in the image of God, they share in the cultural mandate, and they are both required for conception (Genesis 1.26-28).

They are different in the asymmetrical responsibilities based on their natures. Only one of the genders can become pregnant.

In this sense, the word “helper” refers not to a domestic servant, but to a partner, a companion, to accomplish that which could not be accomplished or experienced alone (Genesis 2.18-25).

In God’s design, lifetime monogamous marriage leads to the prosperity of all those in the family unit. There is wide-spread acknowledgment of the two-parent privilege (Cf. Wilcox).

Satan wants males and females to become opponents

After the Fall, the man blames the woman for their problems (Genesis 3.12). The complementary relationship becomes an adversarial one.

In the consequences of the Fall, God explains to Eve that “your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you” (Genesis 3.16). She will seek to master her husband and the man will respond with “exploitative subjugation” (DeYoung, 33).

God’s good design became corrupted. This is manifested in many painful realities:

Fornication – sexual intimacy with a person who is not your spouse.

Adultery – infidelity, betrayal, unfaithfulness (Cf. Genesis 4.19).

Pornography – the commodification of sex.

Patriarchal Abuse – the male using the disparities in his nature to dominate the female (the troubling rise of the “Manosphere”).

Male Passivity – the male failing to live-out his calling to provide and protect (Genesis 3.6).

The Feminist Agenda – teaching that men are unnecessary and female fertility is a problem to be solved.

The Trans Movement - males and females are interchangeable and there is nothing essential about the body. This de-couples gender and sexuality. The rise of terms like “non-binary gender” and “gender fluidity” with a celebration of reassignment surgeries.

Homosexuality and “pansexuality”

It is not that Christ followers enjoy going around pointing out these behaviors. Rather, it is the certainty that living outside God’s sexual boundaries leads to brokenness.

Christian relationships model Gospel love

Christians should model God’s design of complementarity. We not only talk about God’s design for men and women, but we live it out. The differences in roles are not about competency, but about our natures.

This means that the men in the congregation should lead through hard work and sacrifice. The men create a safe environment for our families to grow. In return, women experience freedom to serve the Lord in a rightly ordered church.

The nuclear family also acts as an illustration of the Gospel.

If you have a daughter and she wants to get married, what do you tell her to look for in a man? Or, if you have a son, what are you telling him to look for in a wife? A desirable profile comes from a biblical worldview.

Key Idea: Those in Christ can model healthy relationships between the sexes.

Application Questions:

What factors have led to the cultural resistance to clearly defined roles for men and women?

If you have a daughter, how would you describe womanhood? If you have a son, how would you describe manhood?

How do Christians model healthy gender roles?

Resources:

- Pure Desires: <https://www.puredesire.org/> - healing from pornography and resources for those who have been betrayed
- Reclamation Ministry: <https://www.reclamationministry.org/> - for women who have been abused
- Providence Care Team: Dan Foldesy dfoldesy@providencechurch.us

Bibliography:

Kevin DeYoung, *Men and Women in the Church*

Carl Trueman, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*

Brad Wilcox & The National Marriage Project @ Univ. of Virginia

<https://nationalmarriageproject.org/>