

ANTHROPOLOGY

A Biblical Study on
Manhood & Womanhood

Overview:

Our culture is quickly blurring the lines between womanhood and manhood. But what does the Bible say?

Lessons:

1. What's the Difference?
2. Five Marks of a Proverbs 31 Woman
3. Five Marks of Mature Masculinity



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

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Our culture has a lot to say about masculinity and femininity – but what does the Bible say about it?

- Our identity is rooted in the fact that we are created in _____ image. Women and men are of _____ value and dignity in the eyes of God. Genesis 1:26, Galatians 3:26,28
- Women and men were created _____ on purpose. Womanhood and manhood are to _____ rather than duplicate each other. Genesis 1:6,14,17-18
- God gets to decide how we should think about femininity and masculinity. _____ ourselves with God's design leads to _____ and joy. Psalm 139:13-14, John 10:9-10

DISCUSSION:

1. *Identify the messages you and even your kids are hearing about gender identity today.*
2. *Read Genesis 1:26. What do you think it means that we were created in the image of God?*
3. *Read Galatians 3:26-28. What is Paul saying in this passage? Why was this a radical teaching at this time in history? How is it radical even today?*
4. *What do you think it means to complement rather than to duplicate? How have you seen our culture try to blur or redefine masculinity and femininity?*
5. *Read Genesis 1:6,14,17-18, 27,31. God has a pattern of differentiating between things in his creation. Why is that significant to think about in terms of humanity?*
6. *Read Psalm 139:13-14. God didn't make a mistake when he created us. With that in mind, how should that impact the way we view ourselves or the way we parent our kids?*
7. *Read John 10:9-10. How do you see these verses playing out in our culture today? Why is there freedom and joy in living the life God intended for us?*

FIVE MARKS OF A PROVERBS 31 WOMAN

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The biblical picture of a godly woman combines strength and servanthood, and Proverbs 31 provides the classic example.

- Mark #1: _____. Being a woman doesn't mean you're weak or timid. Godly women give over their fears to God. Proverbs 31:17,25
- Mark #2: _____. It's easy for women to get internally focused. A woman of virtue is other-focused enough to see the needs around her. Proverbs 31:20
- Mark #3: _____. Knowledge plus experience equals wisdom. Godly women share the truth without condescension or judgment. Proverbs 31:26
- Mark #4: _____. Godly women are tuned in to their surroundings, in the world and at home. This doesn't mean that all women have to be homemakers – but those who choose to be should not feel “less than”. Proverbs 31:27
- Mark #5: _____. God's Word affirms the difference in roles between women and men. Submission to godly leadership in a woman's life does not diminish her strength or personhood. Proverbs 31:11-12

DISCUSSION:

1. *What are some of the misconceptions about women in our society, especially from the Christian community?*
2. *Read Proverbs 31:17,25. Share about a strong, wise woman in your life. What impact has she had on your life and those around her?*
3. *Read Proverbs 31:20. Define compassion in your own words. Why do you think compassion makes the list?*
4. *How have you seen self-esteem issues enslave you or another woman in your life?*
5. *Read Proverbs 31:26 and Proverbs 16:24. How have you seen wisdom tainted by harshness? How can you improve in the way you use your words to lead others?*
6. *Read Proverbs 31:27. In what areas of your life are you working hard? How have you seen laziness cause trouble?*
7. *Read Proverbs 31:11-12 and Mark 10:45. How would you define submission? How does submission relate to servanthood? Why does it require strength to be a servant?*
8. *Read Ephesians 5:33. What kind of love is a husband to have for his wife? How do love and respect tie together?*

FIVE MARKS OF MATURE MASCULINITY

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Biblical manhood is the divine calling to take primary responsibility for protection, provision and servant-leadership.

- Mature masculinity doesn't _____ every action, but feels the responsibility to provide a general _____ of initiative. John 6:5-6
- Mature masculinity does not _____ the authority of Christ over others, but _____ for it. Ephesians 1:21-22
- Mature masculinity grows out of _____, not out of _____.
Philippians 2:3-4
- Mature masculinity expresses itself not in the _____ to be served, but in the _____ to serve others.
Philippians 2:5-7
- Mature masculinity recognizes that the call to leadership is a call to _____.
Philippians 2:7-8

DISCUSSION:

1. Share about a man you greatly respect. Describe the characteristics and actions that have set him apart?
2. Read John 6:5-13. Define initiative. How did Jesus show initiative in this passage? How did involving the disciples make a greater impact?
3. Read Ephesians 1:21-22. What does it look like for a man to usurp Christ's authority in the church? What does it look like when men lead others to Christ?
4. Read Philippians 2:3-4. Identify all that these verses tell us to do or not to do. What does it look like to lead from a place of humility versus insecurity?
5. Read Philippians 2:5-7. How do you think people would've responded to Jesus had he acted more like a king ruling over his followers? How have you seen Christian men misunderstand what servant leadership looks like?
6. Read Philippians 2:7-8. Jesus gave it all for us. What should that type of leadership look like in men today?

