

COUNTER CULTURAL

Equality and Distinction in Harmony

Genesis 1:26–28; 2:18–25

November 26, 2017

MAIN PROPOSITION: God has created mankind as male and female, both with equal worth, value and dignity, while at the same time integrating into our design as male and female a wonderfully glorious distinction.

I. God has created mankind as male and female, both with equal worth, value, and dignity.

- a. Mankind was created uniquely and distinguishably male and female (Gen. 1:27; 2:23; Matt. 19:4).
- b. Men and women have equal worth, value, and dignity because they have been equally created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26–27; 9:6; Jas. 3:9).
- c. Men and women are equally called to participate in the creation mandate (Gen. 1:28).

II. God has integrated into our design as male and female a wonderfully glorious distinction, and this is seen with particular clarity within marriage.

- a. Adam is called to provide headship over Eve as she seeks to fulfill her divinely appointed role as helper (Gen. 2:20–22; 1 Cor. 11:8–9).
- b. Adam displays his leadership in providing a name for Eve (Gen. 2:23; 3:20).
- c. Adam is given the responsibility to protect Eve from the Serpent by communicating to her God's divine commands (Gen. 2:16–17; 3:8–11).
- d. The truths of leadership and submission found in Genesis 2 are unique to the marriage relationship and should not be applied generally. Implications will follow, but again they are specific and not general.

III. Sin has marred God's good design, but Christ is recovering what sin has ruined!

- a. Because of sin there will be a twisted desire of wives for husbands and an unloving authoritarian disposition of husbands for wives (Gen. 3:16).

- i. There is hope promised in the serpent crusher, King Jesus! (Gen. 3:15; 1 John 3:8).
 - ii. Although equally sinners and standing condemned, in Christ husbands and wives are equally adopted into the family of God (1 Pet. 3:7).
 - iii. In Christ, the effects of Genesis 3:16 are becoming undone (Col. 3:18–19).
- b. In Christ's church there should be a display of God's good design of equality and distinction between men and women.
 - i. In Christ we are one, having equal access to God by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:28).
 - ii. The office of elder and the role of preaching in the gathered body are to be filled by godly, qualified men (1 Tim. 2:8–3:7).
 - iii. The ministry of women in the church is absolutely vital to the health of the church and can be accomplished in many different ways.

Suggested Reading:

Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, (ed. Piper and Grudem)
Men and Women: Equal Yet Different, Alexander Strauch

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. When you think about the reality of mankind being created in the image of God, what thoughts come to mind? How should we understand this likeness?
2. When we look around in the world, do we see the reality of equality between men and women practiced? In what ways do you see it displayed? In what ways do you see it distorted?
3. Do you find it difficult to affirm both the equality between men and women and their unique distinctions? Why or why not? In what ways has our culture distorted this beautiful reality?
4. As it specifically relates to marriage, talk through Gen. 2:18–25 and discuss the unique roles given to and displayed by Adam and Eve.
5. God's creational design for marriage is being restored in Christ (cf. Col. 3:18–19). In what ways have you seen this poorly displayed? In what ways have you seen this wonderfully displayed?
6. As it specifically relates to the church, talk through Gal. 3:28 and 1 Tim. 2:8–3:7 and discuss the union we have together in Christ and the unique aspect of male eldership within the church. Is this equality and distinction a difficult truth for you?