

Gender: God's Beautiful Design and Modern Confusion

Week 5 April 14, 2021

What are mature femininity and mature masculinity?

Opening Devotion: [Ephesians 1:15-19](#)

Introduction

So what is femininity and what is masculinity?

Foundation

A. Theology of gender in 4 parts

Week 1 review: *What God has designed, we have distorted. What Christ has reclaimed, he is restoring.*

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Redemption
4. Restoration

B. Revisiting definitions: sex and gender

Biological sex: male or female according to chromosomes

As currently used:

Gender: psychological, social, cultural expressions of maleness and femaleness

The Bible presents a fuller meaning of gender.

In addition to cultural expressions there are internal dispositions designed by God and complementary roles assigned corresponding to our biological sex.

disposition: design, inherent quality, inclination, tendency, arrangement

Many descriptions and several prescriptions.

Prescriptions: God assigns particular roles and responsibilities for men and women in certain relationships and contexts....obey

Descriptions: The Scriptures describe men and women, how God created us, positive and negative interactions etc etc without a command...wisdom...clear and less so

law~always...wisdom~ordinarily

Postures, patterns, principles derived from both

What is bound to time and culture and spans time and is transcultural?

Align our lives with God's design...expect to be challenged.

Imaging God together. One creation mandate, two primary roles.

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "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."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 2:7-8

...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. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Genesis 2:15-24

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Observable differences (*for each other not just from*)

1. Man created first and then placed in the garden after it's made, all before Eve is created.
2. God gave the man the authority to name the animals.
3. God created the women after the man and literally from the man's rib.
4. The man names the woman.
5. God charged the man to "work" and "keep" the garden. "Adam" refers to the "Adamah" (ground) from which he's formed.
6. God made the woman as a "helper fit" for the man. Her name, "woman," ("ishah") refers to the "man" ("ish") from which she is made.
7. Corresponding bodies that form a "one flesh" unity.

Female: "Be fruitful and multiply", "fill the earth" ~ Male: "subdue it", "have dominion"

Gen 1:2 The earth was without form and void...

Days of "forming" (1-3) correspond to days of "filling" (4-6)

Very different bodies designed with very different primary purposes in mind

Family building and creation tending... "A man builds a dwelling; a woman is a dwelling."

(Budziszewski)

Maturity

mature masculinity=manhood vs boyhood=immature masculinity
mature femininity=woman vs girl=immature femininity

Masculinity

Mature masculinity is a sense of gracious authority to steward God's creation, providing and protecting others and sacrificially leading in particular contexts prescribed by God's Word.

- A. A sense of gracious authority to steward God's creation, Adam, "adamah" and dominion

[Gen 2:5, 7](#) When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground...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.

no "adam" to work the "adamah", "adam" formed from the dust of the "adamah"

[Gen 2:19](#) Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

man names the other creatures formed from the ground and so exercises dominion

"It seems that the man, by virtue of being created first and being created from the ground like these other beings, has a *distinctive tendency* to bring order and dominion to God's creation."
(Capitol Hill Baptist Church)

[Gen 3:17-19](#) And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

God pronounces to Adam the curse on the ground: he will have painful work until he returns to the ground in death

Pattern of responsibility

- God created the man first, then the woman (1 Tim 2:13)
- the woman is Adam's helper (Gen 2:18)
- he is the one who names her (Gen 2:23)
- the serpent tempts Eve in order to undermine Adam's authority (Gen 3:1, 1 Tim 2:14)
- God holds Adam responsible first for their sin (Gen 3:8-9 "where are you")
- Adam is the representative head of humanity (Gen 3:17-19, Rom 5)

- B. ...providing and protecting others
Working and Keeping (watching over, guarding)

[Gen 2:15](#) The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

[Gen 3:23-24](#) ...therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

-exercising dominion by "work"ing whatever ground he finds himself in...making, building, developing...**provision**

[1 Tim 5:8](#) But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

-"keeping" used of soldiers, shepherds, priests, God...**protection**

- C. ...sacrificially leading in particular contexts prescribed by God's Word.

Home

[Ephesians 5:25-27](#) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Church

Qualified men as elders (1 Tim 3, Titus 2)

[Luke 22:24-27](#) A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

[A crowning quality of strength. \(1 Pet 1:3-7, 1 Cor 16:13-14\)](#)

Femininity

Mature femininity is an eagerness to help steward God's creation, cultivating, nurturing and enhancing life and submitting to worthy men in particular contexts prescribed by God's Word.

- A. Mature femininity is an eagerness to help steward God's creation...

[Gen 1:28](#) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

[Gen 2:18](#) Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

God as helper (see week 2 notes)

B. ...cultivating, nurturing and enhancing life...

Distinct realm to carry out the creation mandate

Gen 3:20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was **the mother of all living**.

-a man gives a seed and her body nurtures life!!! (physically and relationally)

Gen 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Gen 3:16 To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you."

Titus 2:3-5 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

1 Thess 2:7-8 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸ So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

Proverbs 31

"In this transformative role, whether single or married, a woman mimics her Savior. Like him, she submits to another's will and, also like him, God uses her to take what was useless on its own and shape it into glory. Dirty things clean; chaos turned to order; an empty kitchen overflowing with life and food; children in want of knowledge and truth and a mother eager to teach; a man in need of help and counsel and a woman fit to give it; friends and neighbors with a thirst for the truth and a woman opening her home and heart to share it with them." (Abigail Dodds)

C. ...and submitting to worthy men in particular contexts prescribed by God's Word.

Home

Ephesians 5:22-24 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

1 Peter 3:1-2 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, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

Church

Qualified men as elders (1 Tim 3, Titus 2)

A crowning quality of beauty. (1 Peter 3:1-7)

Other definitions

John Piper

masculinity: "a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for, and protect women in ways appropriate to a man's differing relationships."

femininity: "a freeing disposition to affirm, receive, and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in ways appropriate to a woman's differing relationships."

Capitol Hill Baptist Church (pastored by Mark Dever)

masculinity: "Biblical masculinity is displayed in a sense of benevolent responsibility to work God's creation, provide for and protect others, and express loving, sacrificial leadership in particular contexts prescribed by God's Word."

femininity: "Biblical femininity is displayed in a gracious disposition to cultivate life; to help others flourish; and to affirm, receive, and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in particular contexts prescribed by God's Word."

J. Budziszewski

Woman: "We can say that a woman is a human being of that sex whose members are potentially mothers"

Man: "He is a human being of the sex whose members have a different potentiality than women do: the potentiality for fatherhood."

"A potentiality is something like a calling. It wants, so to speak, to develop; it demands, so to speak, a response. Of course this is figurative language, because a potentiality has no will of its own. Yet it really is directed to fruition. The potentiality for motherhood is like an arrow, cocked in the string and aimed at the target, even if it never takes flight. It intimates an inbuilt meaning, and expresses an inbuilt purpose, which cannot help but influence the mind and will of every person imbued with them." (Budziszewski)

"To father is not only to procreate but to provide, protect, and lead. To mother is not only to nurture life physically but to nurture every facet of life, to care comprehensively and intimately." (Jamieson)

See also Kevin DeYoung, Alistair Roberts, Abigail Dodds

Bodily realities

[Gen 2:24](#) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

-physical fittedness of male and female

-sex as act of uniting and procreating

"Union, then, characterizes the distinctly human mode of procreation. A parent of each sex is necessary to make the child, to raise the child, and to teach the child. Both are needed to make him, because the female provides the egg, the male fertilizes it, and the female incubates the resulting zygote. Both are needed to raise him, because the male is better suited to protection, the female to nurture. Both are needed to teach him, because he needs a model of his own sex, a model of the other, and a model of the relationship between them. Mom and dad are jointly irreplaceable. Their partnership in procreation continues even after the kids are grown, because the kids need the help and counsel of their parents to establish their own new families." (Budziszewski)

[Romans 1:26-27](#) For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

[1 Corinthians 6:19](#) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Cultural displays

[1 Corinthians 11:6](#) For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head.

[1 Corinthians 11:13-15](#) Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴ Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, ¹⁵ but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering.

"Paul's argument in 1 Corinthians 11 is complicated, but at its core he is asserting that confusing the appearance of our genders is contrary to nature. When Paul says that nature itself teaches long hair is a disgrace to man, he's not making a universal statement about hair length. He is asserting a universal statement that confusion of the sexes is contrary to nature." (DeYoung)

Rooted in culture or in Scripture

[FDR, blue and pink, pickup trucks and lipstick](#)

Understand the difference between the two and be discerning