

“Called as Men & Women”

Introduction

- The culture in which we live and into which we have been called as Jesus’ witnesses is facing a major crisis in terms of its understanding of sex and gender. As strange as it may seem, this arises somewhat naturally because we in the West have come to understand our identity subjectively, defining ourselves by our ‘sense’ of ourselves.
- Much of modern gender theory seeks to disassociate biological sex from gender expression. As Christians, we reject this because God’s Word describes our embodiment (body and soul) as good and it is therefore a vital part of our identity.

Key Point: God has called us to live as believing _____ and _____, serving Him and others uniquely as such throughout all the days of our lives.

Insight From General Revelation

- Men and women are *distinct* from one another and yet also *complimentary*.

Men and women are defined as such on a genetic level (he has XY chromosomes she has XX chromosomes). As a result, men and women develop both common and unique bodily characteristics.

Men’s Bodies

- Men possess the bodily organs that allow them to impregnate. Men on average are taller, weigh more, and have more muscle mass than women (women are on average 1/2 as strong in terms of upper body strength and 2/3 as strong in terms of lower body strength). Psychologically, men tend more towards risk-taking and aggression and are generally more interested in things than people.

Men are fundamentally designed to _____ and _____.

Women’s Bodies

- Women possess the bodily organs that allow them to become pregnant, give birth to, and nurse children. They carry less muscle mass and their metabolisms tend to function in such a way that allows for fat to be more easily stored. Psychologically, women tend to be more empathetic and more interested in people than things.

Women are fundamentally designed to _____ and _____.

Key Point: Men and women have complimentary bodies that function to produce, protect, and nurture children in order that human _____ might flourish in the world.

Insight From Special Revelation

1. Men and women have a shared *commission*.

Gen. 1:27-28a—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...

⇒ Men and women have the shared task of multiplying the number of _____.

⇒ Men and women have the shared task of seeking the _____ of creation.

“The creation account tells us that God created man and woman with equal dignity. Both were created to be made in ‘the image’ of God (Gen. 1:27). The invisible God would be represented on earth in visible form. Man and woman and their descendants would manage the earth, on His behalf, and for His glory.” — *Gender Ideology*, Sharon James

2. Men and women have unique *roles* in carrying out this commission.

⇒ The man is given the role of _____.

Gen. 2:15-17—¹⁵ 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.”

⇒ The woman is given the role of _____.

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.”

3. Men and women face both common and unique *challenges* in carrying out this commission in a fallen world.

⇒ Women will experience the general suffering of life in a fallen world, but that pain and frustration will be felt most acutely in the work of birthing and rearing of children as well as in marriage (or lack thereof).

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.”

⇒ Men will experience the general suffering of life in a fallen world, but that pain and frustration will be felt most acutely in the work of cultivating and providing as well as in marriage (or the lack thereof).

Gen. 3:17-19—¹⁷ 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.”

Key Point: Men and women have complimentary roles to which they have been called by God and for which they have been uniquely _____ by Him in order that His creation may flourish for His glory.

Concluding Thoughts

- Christian men and women are called to _____ the Lord Jesus.

Col. 1:15-20—¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- Christian men and women are called to look away from themselves and unto the needs of _____.

Phil. 2:1-4—¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- Christian men and women are called to serve God and others _____ their embodiment.

Rom. 12:3-5—³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

“Not only are we in the infinite Christ; the infinite Christ is in us (Col. 1:27). We carry in us the hope of glory so that eternity is the drumbeat of the new heart that we have been given. We carry in us the hope of glory, and all the while, that hope *carries* us through the dark nights and the unique circumstances we find ourselves in. It’s a hope that simply cannot be quenched.”

— Abigail Dodds, (A)Typical Woman: Free, Whole, & Called in Christ