

THE BEAUTY OF GENDER EQUALITY & DISTINCTION

God made men and women equal in _____.

Both men and women are created in the _____ of God. (Gen 1:26-28)

Both men and women have equal access to _____ through faith in Christ. (Gal 3:27-29)

Both men and women have been _____ and _____ to build the church. (1 Cor 12:4-6)

God designed men and women to have _____ roles.

God calls husbands to _____, and wives to _____ their husbands. (1 Pet 3:1-2, Eph 5:22-24)

God calls qualified men to lead, in the _____ and exercising of _____ in the local church. (Titus 1:5-9, 1 Tim 2:8-15)

Role distinction is meant to be _____, not be _____.

Jesus was _____ to the Father. (John 6:38-40)

God's design was meant to provide a _____ relationship. (Gen 1:26-28, 2:21-25, Prov 31)

The husband is meant to be a _____ leader. (Eph 5:22-33)

Genesis 1:26–28

[26] 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." (ESV)

Galatians 3:27–29

[27] For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [28] There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (ESV)

1 Corinthians 12:4–6

[4] Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. (ESV)

1 Peter 3:1–2

[1] 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. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:22–24

[22] 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. (ESV)

Titus 1:5–9

[5] This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—[6] if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. [7] For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, [8] but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. [9] He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. (ESV)

1 Timothy 2:8–15

[8] I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; [9] likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, [10] but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. [11] Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. [12] I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. [13] For Adam was formed first, then Eve; [14] and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. [15] Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control. (ESV)

John 6:38–40

[38] For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. [39] And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. [40] For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." (ESV)

Ephesians 5:22–33

[22] 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.

[25] 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. [28] In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. [29] For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, [30] because we are members of his body. [31] "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." [32] This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. [33] However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (ESV)

The Beauty of Gender Equality and Distinction

October 31, 2021

Open: What are some ways you helped someone else this past week? How should we feel when we're helping someone?

Read & Discuss: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25

1. In these two passages, where do you see evidence of the equal worth of men and women? Where do you see evidence of God's intentions for them to have different roles in life?
2. How do you think Adam might have felt through his experience of Genesis 2:19-20? In what ways do you think God expected Eve to serve as a "helper" for Adam (2:18)?
3. Why might the role of a "helper" have come to be seen by some as a negative thing? Is the role of women in Genesis 2:18-25 presented as something negative or positive? Explain.
4. From what is said in these two passages from Genesis 1 and 2, what could we conclude about how God expected Adam to value and treat his wife? Why?

Read & Discuss: Ephesians 5:22-27

5. From this passage, how would you define the nature and goal of biblical submission? Why do so many in our culture view submission as something negative?
6. What are some ways Christ demonstrates submission? (*For example, see 1 Corinthians 11:3, 15:28; Matthew 26:39.*) In light of Christ's example, how should we view submission? Why?
7. What is lost when a wife fails to demonstrate a submissive spirit to her husband? What is gained? (If you're a wife, how have you been blessed by submission?)
8. From this passage, how would you define the nature and goal of biblical headship? Why do so many in our culture view headship as something we should all desire or insist is our right?
9. How should the biblical view of headship be something that anyone should be glad to put themselves under? (If you're a husband, what do you find challenging about fulfilling this role?) For any in a headship role, what can help them fulfill that role in a way that honors Christ?
10. If you were discipling a new believer, how would you explain the beauty in God's design of giving men and women equal worth, with sometimes different roles?

Apply: Is there an aspect of God's design for gender equality and distinction you've struggled to celebrate? What should you do about that?

Pray: Pray that we would be people who celebrate all of God's design for both genders.

Genesis 1:26-28

[26] 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.

[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." (ESV)

Genesis 2:18-25

[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. (ESV)

Ephesians 5:22-27

[22] 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.

[25] 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. (ESV)