

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 10-25-15 PM NOTES
"HERE WE STAND ON MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD"
VARIOUS SCRIPTURES
#8 in the Series, "Here We Stand"

Review: Here We Stand on Christians and Government; Here We Stand on the Reality of Hell; Here We Stand on Abortion; Here We Stand on the Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man; Here We Stand on Homosexuality; Here We Stand on the Baptism by the Holy Spirit; Here We Stand on Speaking in Tongues; Here We Stand on Missions

"Transgenderism is an umbrella term for the state or condition of identifying or expressing a gender identity that does not match a person's physical/genetic sex."
—Joe Carter (ERLC)

I. The Origin of Manhood and Womanhood (Genesis 1-3)

Psalms 33:6-9 (ESV) "6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm."

Psalms 8:3-4 (ESV) "3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

Genesis 2:7 (ESV) "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."

A. Male and Female Were Created Equal In God's Image (Genesis 1)

Genesis 1:26-27 (ESV) "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."

B. Male and Female Were Created With Differences (Genesis 2)

Genesis 2:21-22 (ESV) "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."

C. Male and Female Were Cursed by the Fall (Genesis 3)

Genesis 2:17 (ESV) "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."

II. The Functioning of Manhood and Womanhood in a Fallen World

"Our culture is in deep trouble, and at the heart of its trouble is its loss of a vision for manhood. If it is difficult for you and me as adult males, to maintain our masculine balance in this gender-neutral culture, imagine what it must be like for our sons, who are growing up in an increasingly feminized world."
—Stu Weber

“I find myself in the sometimes quite uncomfortable position of having to belabor the obvious, and hold up examples of femininity to women who almost feel apologetic for being feminine or being womanly. I would remind you that *femininity* is not a curse. It is not even a triviality. It is a gift, a divine gift, to be accepted with both hands, and to thank God for. Because remember, it was His idea.”
—Elizabeth Elliot

A. Developing Biblical Masculinity

1. Point Him to Biblical Examples

Joshua 24:15 (ESV) “And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

2. Teach Him to Submit to Authority

Matthew 28:18b (NKJV) “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

3. Teach Him to Take Responsibility and Reject Passivity

4. Teach Him Manners

5. Teach Him How to Do Manly Things

Read good books (readers are leaders). Teach him how to jump start a car. Teach him how to use basic tools (hammer, saw, screwdriver, etc.). Teach him how to manage money. Teach him how to serve others. Teach him how to handle a loss (life is full of disappointments; don't allow them to define you).

—From Randy Stinson, *A Biblical Guide to Manhood*

B. Developing Biblical Femininity

1. Hold up Biblical Examples Before Her

Proverbs 31:10-31

“This passage denies that a woman's place is *in* the home. It affirms that her *priority* is the home.”

—Doug Wilson

Proverbs 31:28 (ESV) “Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.”

2. Teach Her Modesty

3. Teach Her That Inner Beauty Is the Best Kind of Beauty

4. Teach and Model for Her the Biblical Roles in Marriage

5. Teach Her What It Means to Be Feminine

First Baptist Church Powell
Sermon 8: Here We Stand On Manhood and Womanhood
Series: Here We Stand
Various Scriptures

The University of Tennessee Office of Diversity caused quite a controversy when they posted items on the University web-site encouraging all students to use “gender neutral pronouns” when referring to others. Instead of “she” or “he” students should say “ze” to refer to both sexes. That is only one of the many changes suggested on the website to make the university more “transgender friendly.” After Tennessee legislators spoke very strongly against this, the gender neutral terms were deleted from the website. It seems that we have a University that is on the cutting edge of societal change.

The transgender movement has pushed its way to the forefront of our culture with what seems to be blinding speed. Recently, *Time Magazine* dubbed the whole transgender issue as “the new civil rights movement.” Allow me to give you a few more facts. Just over a year ago (May 30, 2014) a review board of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services ruled that people receiving Medicare may no longer be automatically rejected for coverage for sex reassignment surgery. The latest count I saw (it is likely much higher now) is that 15 states, and the District of Columbia, have enacted laws that provide explicit protections for transgender people. California enacted a law that enables students to use restrooms and play on athletic teams of the gender they identify with, regardless of their biological sex. Public schools in New York City and other localities have issued guidelines that permit students to participate in sports and physical education in accordance with their gender identity, not their biology [All of the above from *Baptist Press* 6-11-14]

Let’s drop back for a moment and look at some basics about this topic that is warring against the biblical view on manhood and womanhood. Exactly what is “transgender,” or more technically, transgenderism? Here is a definition from Joe Carter of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (ERLC). “Transgenderism is an umbrella term for the state or condition of identifying or expressing a gender identity that does not match a person’s physical/genetic sex.” [Joe Carter, *5 Facts about Transgenderism*, ERLC website] Some studies claim that there are as many as 700,000 people in the USA who consider themselves transgendered. [ERLC].

What does the Bible say about this *hot button* topic that is beginning to permeate our culture? In the Bible, gender is God-given and not dependent on how a person feels about himself or herself. *It is a matter of biology, not emotions.* I remember counseling a person several years ago, (who would definitely call herself a transgendered person) who gave the standard line of those who claim to be transgendered. She said, “All of my life I have been a man trapped in a woman’s body.” Here is what we are going to see in the Scriptures. There is more to manhood and womanhood than biology and genetics. However, neither manhood nor womanhood is ever separated from biology and genetics. At its root, being male is determined by biology, or more specifically, genetics. It is never determined by what you feel. The same is true of being female. When a child was born in the Bible it was identified as a “male child” or a “female child.” This was way before they could even express what they felt about themselves. There is not even a hint in the Bible that the sex of a person could ever be changed. Even when, through medical science, an operation is performed to “change the sex” it has been found impossible to truly change a person’s sex. Johns Hopkins University became the first American hospital to offer “sex-reassignment” surgery. Later, after many follow up interviews, they stopped doing these surgeries. Dr. McHugh, the former Psychiatrist in Chief at Johns Hopkins said, “‘Sex change’ is biologically impossible ... People who undergo sex-reassignment surgery do not change from men to women or vice versa. Rather, they become feminized men or masculinized women.” [Joe Carter, *5 Facts about Transgenderism*, 4-16-2015, ERLC] That is very revealing.

Where does the Bible stand on manhood and womanhood? It is very important to answer that question because where the Bible stands is where we stand.

I. The Origin of Manhood and Womanhood (Genesis 1-3)

There is nothing that God created that was created with the hands on care that man was created with.

Psalms 33:6-9 (ESV):

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

Think on this for a moment. Think about the universe. I continue to be overwhelmed with the immensity of the universe. There are possibly billions of galaxies and billions of stars in the individual galaxies. Yet the Bible says that God spoke them into being. I am moved to ask the same question the Psalmist asked in Psalms 8:3-4 (ESV) “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”

When God created the animals, He spoke them into being. Yet, the Bible tells us that our God who spoke the universe into being and spoke the animals into being, when He created man, He created man with His own hands. Genesis 2:7 (ESV) “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.” The word “formed” is the same root word that is used of a potter forming a vessel out of clay. The God who spoke the universe into existence took the earth he created and from it He formed man like a potter forms a vessel. Then God breathed into man His own breath – the breath of life. Man was not just one creature among the many; he was “handmade” by God and given life from God’s breath. Let’s look at some details of this special creation of God.

A. Male and Female Were Created Equal in God’s Image (Genesis 1)

Genesis 1:26-27 (ESV):

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

Both sexes bore the divine image. What does that mean – the image and likeness of God? The Hebrew word translated “image” has the meaning of shadow or carving – that is, not the real thing but similar. We are not gods but God put some of His qualities in us. The Hebrew word translated “likeness” means pattern, or model, or example. In other words, God himself was the model in the creation of man and woman.

Let’s go a little deeper in what it means that God created both male and female in His image. It does not refer to our bodies, because John 4:24 tells us God is a spirit. Like God, man has a rational personality and a moral consciousness. We have intellect, the ability to think abstractly, emotion, and will. We can rationally think, feel, and choose. Again, the Hebrew word for image and the word for likeness do not mean man was the essence of God – unable to sin, omnipotent, omniscient, unchangeable, etc. We were created in His shadow and likeness. Also, the image of God means that we are spiritual beings with a spirit that allows us to worship God, know God, and have an intimate relationship with God. We are spiritual beings that possess a soul, and we are housed in a body. The fact that both the male and the female bear God’s image demonstrates that they are equal in dignity and being. Both are equally necessary and important to God’s design for the human race.

B. Male and Female Were Created with Differences (Genesis 2)

Equality of status does not mean interchangeability of function. In other words, being equal does not mean that there are not distinct differences. Males and females are different physically way beyond the obvious differences. The individual cells are different. The brain functions differently and is even formed differently. We respond to stress differently. Not only are we different physically, we are different emotionally and intellectually we process information differently. Equal does not mean the same.

Let me give you the most basic physical difference. Genesis 2:21-22 (ESV) “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. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.”

The woman was made from the man, not from the dust. This is not some allegory or a myth about origins. This is literally how man and woman were created. Adam really was created from the dust of the earth. The elements that make up our body are the elements of the earth. Eve really was taken from Adam. Genetic research has shown that one pair of human chromosomes labeled X and Y determines the gender of a child. All males have both X and Y chromosomes; all females have only a pair of X chromosomes. From a purely biological standpoint, the Y chromosome determines maleness. If the child inherits an X chromosome from the father – it will be female. If the chromosome is a Y – it will be a male. The father’s seed is the determining factor in the gender of the child. Genetically therefore it is possible to create a female from a male. However, it is not possible to extract a male’s genetic code from a female because a female has no Y chromosome. This is perfectly harmonious with the Biblical account of Eve being taken from Adam.

When we examine the origin of manhood and womanhood we see that both male and female were created equal in God’s image and yet they were created with significant differences.

C. Male and Female Were Cursed by the Fall (Genesis 3)

By “fall” we are speaking of their disobedience and the resulting consequences. God said in Genesis 2:17 (ESV): “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.” Adam and Eve ate of the tree of life and they died. It wasn’t an immediate physical death, but it was an immediate spiritual death (they were separated from the life of God and communion with God). Also, there was the entrance of a power called sin that dwells in our members (Romans 7:23) that gives Satan inroad to our life to tempt and entice and enslave those who have not been born of God. Every sin, every perversion of God’s plan for maleness and femaleness comes as a result of sin coming into the world, as recorded in Genesis 3.

II. The Functioning of Manhood and Womanhood in a Fallen World

Because men and women (who are created equally but different) live as sin cursed people in a sin cursed world, there are problems with manhood and womanhood. One of the stated goals of the National Organization of Women is to work toward, “an end to all distinctions based on sex.” It is this mindset that laid the groundwork for the whole transgendered movement that is so effective in our culture today. Here is what is happening all around us. We are raising a generation of “girly men” and “manly girls.” Popular Christian author, Stu Weber, speaking to men described the problem like this:

Our culture is in deep trouble, and at the heart of its trouble is its loss of a vision for manhood. If it is difficult for you and me as adult males, to maintain our masculine balance in this gender-neutral culture, imagine what it must be like for our sons, who are growing up in an increasingly feminized world.

Femininity is being as vigorously attacked as is masculinity. Elizabeth Elliot said:

I find myself in the sometimes quite uncomfortable position of having to belabor the obvious, and hold up examples of femininity to women who almost feel apologetic for being feminine or being womanly. I would remind you that *femininity* is not a curse. It is not even a triviality. It is a gift, a divine gift, to be accepted with both hands, and to thank God for. Because remember, it was His idea.

[Quoted in *Think Biblically*, John MacArthur et. al. page 169]

The sad thing is that so many in the church (notice that I didn't say "in Christ") have bought into this *gender neutral* mindset. The key to restoring biblical manhood and womanhood in the church lies with the parents. What are parents to do? Parents are to train their children in what it means to be a biblical man and what it means to be a biblical woman. Allow me to give you some principles for parents.

A. Developing Biblical Masculinity

1. Point Him to Biblical Examples

We could learn a lot about biblical masculinity from many heroes of the Bible. Joshua exemplified biblical masculinity when he took leadership in Joshua 24:15: "And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

There was David who as a teenager killed a lion and a bear and in the confrontation with the giant, Goliath, he ran to the battle, not away from the giant. In the New Testament, we see the Apostle Paul who constantly ran to the battle, not away from it. Even after being stoned, he went back into the same town where he was stoned. What an example of a fearless risk-taking man of God who illustrates biblical manhood.

The greatest example of masculinity is the Lord Jesus Himself. Being perfect in all His ways, Jesus is the highest example of biblical masculinity. While Jesus was fully God, he was also fully man. Growing up as a carpenter, or stone mason (the word can mean either), Jesus was no emaciated washed out pathetic man that is pictured in many artist's renderings of Him. He was a hard worker. He had no fear. He faced demonic spirits and always triumphed. He faced hostile Jewish leaders who wanted Him dead and wouldn't give an inch to them. We see the respect He had for women and the tenderness with which He treated His mother as he hung in agony on the cross.

Here in Christ Jesus we see the essence of biblical masculinity. He was kind and tender, fearless, the epitome of self-sacrifice, a man with a servant spirit who performed the slave labor of washing the disciples' feet, kind compassionate, and yet unyielding to evil. Oh what a man!

2. Teach Him to Submit to Authority

All authority resides in Christ. Matthew 28:18b Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Everyone, who is or will be in authority, is and will be under authority. The best way to prepare your son to be the head of his home when he is married is to train him to submit to the authorities in his life while he is a boy. He must learn through discipline to be under his parents' authority, to be under the authority of teachers and administrators at school, and to submit to authority at church. The one under authority will be effective when the time comes for him to be in a position of authority.

3. Teach Him to Take Responsibility and Reject Passivity

With our modern invention of "adolescence" which covers people even in college, there is pressure to just float along, have fun, and just do what you have to do to get by. Boys in our culture are taught to put off taking responsibility till later in life. That is a partial explanation for the problem we have with 30 year olds addicted to video games. Passivity is very unmanly! Leaders are aggressive and take responsibility. Boys need to learn, at a young age, that some fun and games are acceptable, but life isn't about fun and

games. Grow up! At least by teenager years (if not before) help him get an age appropriate job where he is given responsibility and where he is rewarded for being aggressive instead of passive.

4. Teach Him Manners, Especially Manners that relate to His Treatment of Females

Teach him to open doors for females – including his sisters. Teach him table manners how to speak politely to all adults and, especially, women. Teach him how to shake hands while looking the person in the eye.

5. Teach Him How to do Manly Things

Randy Stinson in his book, *A Biblical Guide to Manhood*, lists twenty-five things that a dad should teach his son. Here are a few. Read good books (readers are leaders). Teach him how to jump start a car. Teach him how to use basic tools (hammer, saw, screwdriver, etc.). Teach him how to manage money. Teach him how to serve others. Teach him how to handle a loss (life is full of disappointments; don't allow them to define you). You can add your own.

I have left out many things but these are the kind of things to help him develop his maleness and not get confused as to his sexual identity. What about single mothers? We need some men in the church to step up and spend time with boys who don't have a Father who is active in their life.

B. Developing Biblical Femininity

1. Hold up Biblical Examples before Her

Probably the example you should hold up most prominently when it comes to what a godly woman looks like is the ideal woman of Proverbs 31:10-31. What we find in Proverbs 31 is a picture of true biblical femininity, and it blows apart most people's view of what true femininity looks like. This woman is a teacher of her children, an accomplished business woman who runs a successful home based business. She keeps the home going, and makes her husband look good. A good summary statement is from Doug Wilson, "This passage denies that a woman's place is *in* the home. It affirms that her *priority* is the home." [*Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, Fall 2009, page 32]

This woman is not downtrodden, oppressed, or unfulfilled. She is not an unhappy doormat that her husband walks on. She is confident, but not arrogant, organized, but not obsessive, inwardly beautiful, but not flaunting it. Mothers – become a Proverbs 31 scholar and teach these ideals to your daughters. Look at the result of this kind of femininity: Proverbs 31:28 (ESV) "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

2. Teach Her Modesty

What is modest is not determined by culture. Immodesty is a huge problem even in the church. Adult women – PLEASE *set the example*, and mothers, modesty ought not to be a suggestion (and I understand what a battle this can be).

3. Teach Her That Inner Beauty Is the Best Kind of Beauty

Inner beauty is the only kind that lasts. Outward beauty is fleeting. You will get old and there is only so much you can do. Inner beauty can keep becoming more beautiful as the years pass.

4. Teach and Model for Her the Biblical Roles in Marriage

Even if you are not married, teach them diligently to her.

5. Teach Her What It Means to Be Feminine

Conclusion

Masculinity and femininity are not a part of the curse of sin. They are God's perfect plan. It is sin that has distorted masculinity and femininity. Those who have experienced the gospel and have victory over sin, and the indwelling enabling Holy Spirit, must model for the rest of humanity that God's plan is always best. Our response to a culture that is reaping what has been sown is not, "I told you so." Our response is to give them the gospel and do all that is possible to raise masculine boys and feminine girls.