

## Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

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We are often confused on this point because we fear sounding puritanical or out dated. There are several key issues involved. Wayne Grudem has done us all big favor by helping us to understand these in his book.

Men and women are equal in value and dignity. Genesis 1:27 says both male and female are created in the image of God. This must be our starting point. In marriage, we are to value each other or we are not giving God the value and honor He deserves. In God's image, men and women have will, thoughts, volition and feelings.

Men and women have different roles in marriage as part of the created order. We should celebrate and enjoy our differences. Grudem lists ten reasons:

1. The Order. Adam was created first. I Timothy 2:13 tells us that Paul sees this as important.
2. The Representation. Eve took the fruit but in I Corinthians 15:22, Adam is representative of the sinful nature.
3. Adam named Eve in 3:20
4. Genesis 5:20. Adam refers to the human race. This whispers headship
5. Primary accountability in 3:9 is pinned on Adam. "Where are you?" is singular. The greater responsibility is laid at Adam's feet.
6. Eve was created to fulfill Adam. Genesis 2:18 (I Corinthians 11:9) Helper is not a term of lesser value. It is most often used of God.
7. Conflict (curse) brought a distortion. Genesis 3:16 of the original order – it did not bring a new order. The term "DESIRE" is aggressive and hostile. It is used in Genesis 4:7. The term "rule" speaks of the conflict that will come. It was not a good thing. It is the same word used of the Philistines ruling over God's people.
8. Restoration: The Gospel is all about restoration. Colossians 3:18-19: the undoing of the curse.
9. Mystery (Ephesians 5:31- 32 and Genesis 2:24): Adam and Eve are a picture of Christ and the Church. **THAT IS NOT CULTURALLY SOMETHING THAT CHANGES.**
10. There is an important parallel with the Trinity here. There is equality, yet a difference in roles.

How does this work? What does it mean? As believers, we are obligated to follow the Biblical pattern.

### OBJECTIONS ANSWERED

1. Galatians 3:28 – Does not say we are THE SAME. It says we are united.
2. What about mutual submission? In the context of Ephesians 5, wives, children, and slaves are all mentioned. No one would set forth the argument that children are to rule over their parents.
3. Ephesians 5:23 – Some say "Head" means "source" and has no reference to "authority." In ancient Greek, out of 2,336 times the word is used, it always means authority and never "source."