

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Genesis 2:18
Lesson #22
Gender distinctives
03/12/2023

“Your success as a family, our success as a society, depends not on what happens in the White House, but on what happens inside your house.”

Barbara Bush

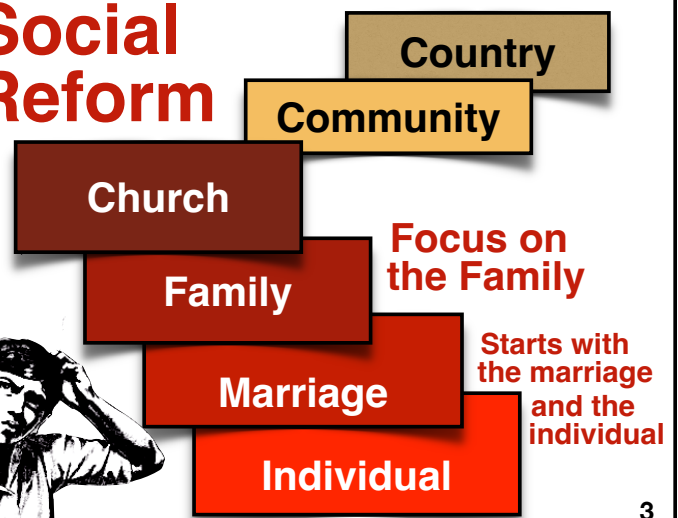


The Scripture is very concerned about social injustice.

1. But **only** within the **faith community**.
2. It seems to **ignore** systemic issues in **broader society**.
3. This may be because (systemic) social injustice is corrected, only with **individual / family renewal**.



Social Reform



The wind of worldly culture

1. Maximize sexual freedom - (viewing sexual moral restrictions as a violation of our right to find happiness)
2. Minimize gender differences - (viewing gender differences as a threat to justice and democracy)

Both are an attack on marriage and the family.



The Biblical Focus on the Family

Gen.1:27

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them.”

Gen.2:18

“It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a **helper suitable** for him.”

Gen.2:24, Matt.19:5, Eph.5:31

“For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and **the two shall become one flesh.**”

The path to wise decisions concerning
gender roles?

1. Affirm gender equality
2. Appreciate gender differences
3. Apply gender contributions



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The path to wise decisions concerning
gender roles?

1. Affirm gender equality

There is no room for a **spiritual, social class culture** in Christianity.

Equality does not mean **egalitarian functions**.



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Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is **neither male nor female**; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

The first thing a man and a woman are called to do is **show respect for** the dignity of each other as:

1. **image bearers** of God
2. with distinct, complementary, gifts to enhance the **proper functioning** of each.

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The path to wise decisions concerning
gender roles?

2. Appreciate gender differences

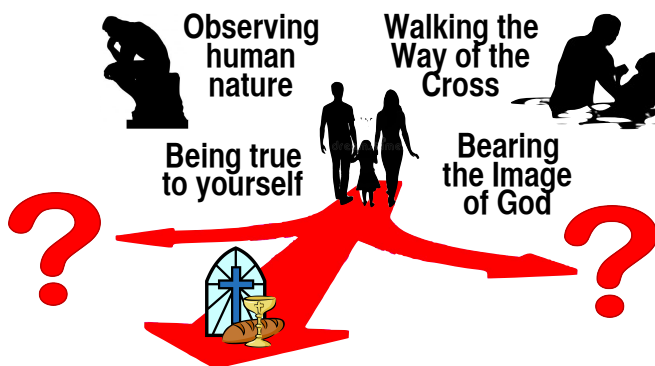
Gender differences are **“hardwired” by nature and decree**.

Gender differences should be **understood and valued, not feared**.

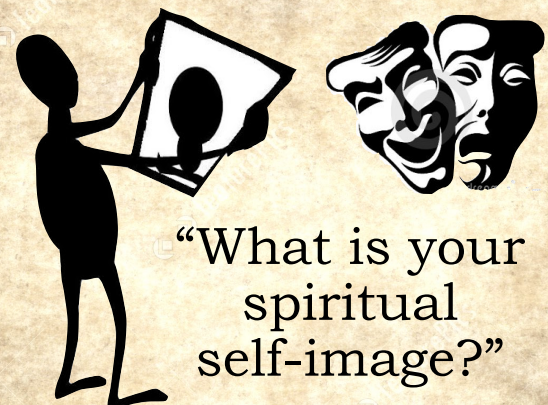


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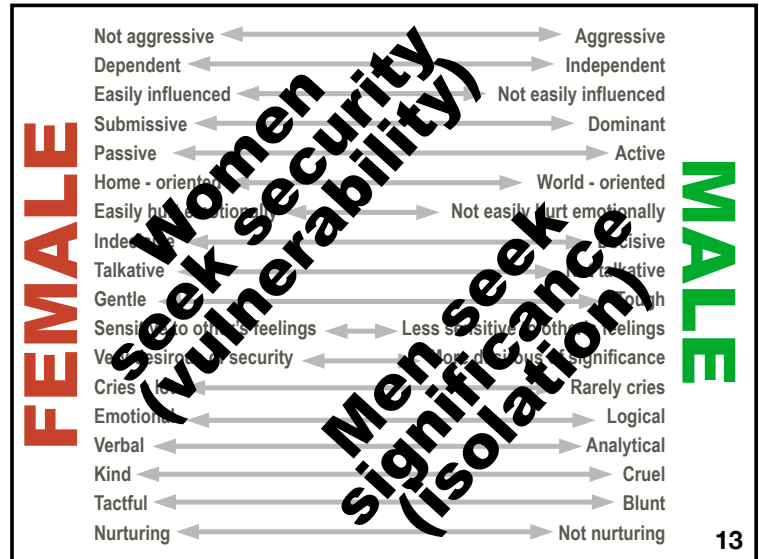
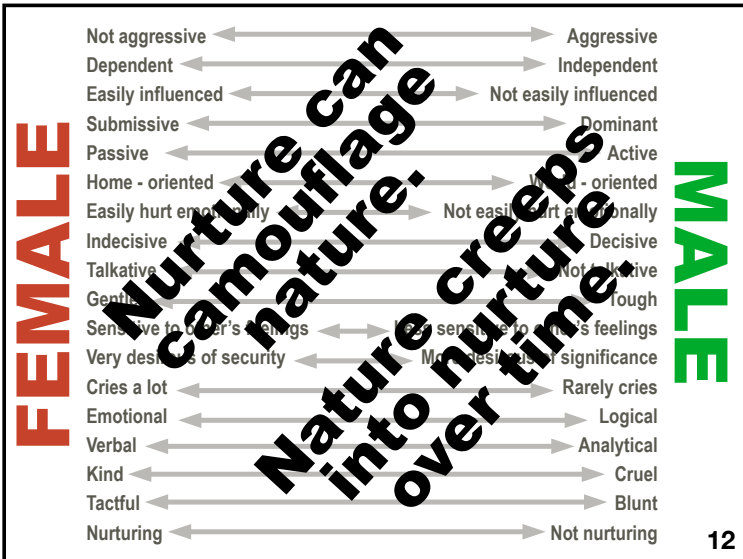
The path to wisdom starts by
facing in the right direction.



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The path to wise decisions concerning **gender roles?**

3. Apply gender contributions

Gender differences should be **sought out, encouraged, and applied.**



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What is the essence of “manhood”?

1 Corinthians 13:11

“When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man (male), **I did away with childish things.**”

1. Men are adults (not children).

The end of “**prolonged adolescence syndrome**”



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What is the essence of “manhood”?


Gen.2:18

“It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a **helper suitable** for him.”

Hebrew (Ezer Kenegdo)
“helper” (deliverer) + “suitable” (complementary)

2. Men are incomplete.

Men **need women.**



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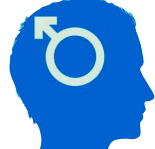
What is the essence of “manhood”?

Ephesians 5:23

“23 For the **husband is the head of the wife**, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, **so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.**”

3. Men have special (leadership) responsibilities.

They must manage **anger in the face of feeling insignificant and isolated.**



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What is the essence of “manhood”?

Ephesians 5

“25 Husbands, **love** your wives, **just as Christ also loved the church** and gave Himself up for her; . . . 31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and **the two shall become one flesh.**”

4. Men should be intimate / vulnerable in their connection to the family.



The end of “**macho-man syndrome**”

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What is the essence of “manhood”?

Ephesians 6:4

“And, fathers, **do not provoke** your children to anger; but **bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**”

5. A man is partner / parent.



The end of “**absentee father syndrome**”

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What are mistakes men can make in the area of “gender manners”?

1. Show **DISRESPECT** for women (Abandoning, sexually / physically abusing, or ignoring)

What are good things men can do in the area of “gender manners”?

1. Intimate **involvement**
2. Patient **listening**
3. Sacrificial **nurturing**



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What are mistakes a man can make in the area of “gender manners”?

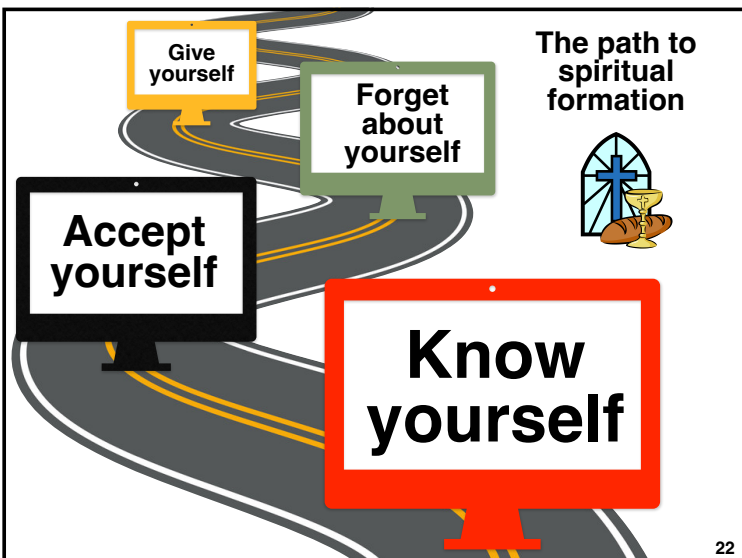
2. Mismanage **ANGER** in the face of “insignificance” and “isolation”.

What are good things a man can do in the area of “gender manners”?

1. Be vulnerable - **don't withdraw or attack.**
2. Find peace in Christ - **be humble.**
3. Selfless **sacrificing.**



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What is the essence of “womanhood”?

1 Peter 3

“1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even **if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.**”

1. Women are adults (not children).



The end of “**prolonged codependent syndrome**”

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What is the essence of “womanhood”?

Gen.2:18

“It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a **helper suitable** for him.”

2. Women are nurturers.

Hebrew (Ezer Kenegdo)
“helper” (deliverer) + “suitable (complementary)”



She **notarizes (affirms)**
the man.

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What is the essence of “womanhood”?

1 Peter 3:6

“6 . . . just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right **without being frightened by any fear.**
7 . . . as with someone **weaker,**”

3. Women are **vulnerable** (weaker vessels).

They must stand strong
in **managing fears.**



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What are some mistakes a woman can make in the area of “gender manners”?

1. Show **DISRESPECT** for men
(Belittling, embarrassing, or mothering)

What are some good things a woman can do in the area of “gender manners”?



1. **Yielding** to leadership
2. Encouraging **leadership**
3. Gracious **receiving**

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Headship **Submission**
are inner postures rather
than rigid outward rules.

Be vulnerable



A selfless
initiator

Be secure



A supportive
responder

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The test of a healthy gender culture

- Both men and women **feel affirmed, free, and valued** as men and women.
- Gender specific postures are clear, respected, and **modeled by leaders.**
- **Men are self-sacrificing leaders** who build and model communities where women’s gifts, input, and strengths are sought, welcomed, and applied.
- When there are conflicts, individuals sense they are **respected, understood, treated justly, and cared for.**

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A Berean’s look at . . .



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