

Marriage & Family Ministry

What's the Difference – Chapter 1

Discussion Questions

Continued Study – Building Our Foundation of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

The foundation of biblical manhood and womanhood is for us to express ourselves in the way that God has designed us. If that is true, Scripture should support this.

Q1. As we begin our study on biblical manhood and womanhood, discuss why is it important to stress that both men and woman are **equal** in God's sight?

Consider: It will be crucial to remember that a man's call to leadership does not imply that he is thereby superior to a woman; likewise, a woman's call to submission does not imply that she thereby inferior to a man.

Q2. Read Genesis 1:26-28. How does this passages support the biblical idea that men and women are seen as equal in God's sight?

Q3. Read the following passages and discuss how both men and women are seen by God.

1. Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-31. What does this passage communicate about "the excellent wife?"
2. John 4:25-30. How does Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman communicate his view of women?
3. Galatians 3:23-29. In which way was Paul claiming that men and women are equal?
4. 1st Peter 3:7 and Ephesians 3:4-6. In both passages, the Greek word suqklaronomos, translated "*fellow heirs*" [NASB] is used. What does the use of this word communicate to men about how to treat women?
5. Ephesians 5:21-33. What is the role of both male and female submission?

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Discussion Questions – cont.

Action Items – Topics to Think About and Discuss:

- Q1.** What conceptions does our culture have of what manhood and womanhood are?
- Q2.** What stereotypes of manhood and womanhood do you see in movies, on TV, in magazines or on the Internet?
- How does this compare to what Piper described?
 - How does this compare to your current views?
- Q3.** How do you think society's expression of manhood and womanhood has worked and/or not worked? Has it been beneficial or harmful?
- Q4.** Does equality of personhood and mutuality of respect DEMAND sameness of responsibility or even equal access to all responsibilities, or did God intend from the beginning that our equality is to be expressed differently in the way we relate to each other as man and woman?
- Q5.** What would be the effect on individual men and women, on families, in the church and in society if men and women adhered to the Biblical view of Manhood and Womanhood?
- Q6.** What are any concerns or apprehensions you may have given this discussion on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.
- Q7.** What challenges will you and your spouse encounter, personally and as a couple, as you work to design your marriage according to God's design?