

**Welcome to  
Lakeview Church's  
Marriage and Family  
Ministry**

**Our Vision**  
To Help Equip and Empower Couples Grow  
Closer to Christ and Each Other

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**Marriage and Family Ministry**

- ▶ Welcome and Opening Prayer
- ▶ Child Care - Sharing the Load
- ▶ About Lakeview's Marriage and Family Ministry Team
  - Pastor Jim and Lisa, Steve and Eileen Clark, Bob and Sue DePuy
  - We are in this Together...
- ▶ Enjoying the Journey Together - Video

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**Marriage and Family Ministry**

**Celebrating God's Design!**

- ❖ The Marriage and Family Ministry exists to **equip** and **power** couples and families to grow closer to Christ and each other.
- ❖ We exist to **offer** couples, from engaged through milestone anniversaries, a place to learn together **from Scripture how to build a home where:**
  - (1) The love of Christ is shining;
  - (2) Relationships are Biblically structured; and
  - (3) Genuine intimacy, authenticity and vulnerability is central.

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## Marriage and Family Ministry

### We Do It In Community!

The need for Small Groups and Accountability to achieve our goals!:

- ✓ 10% chance of achieving if you hear an idea.
- ✓ 40% chance if you hear and decide to do it.
- ✓ 50% chance you make a plan to achieve it.
- ✓ 65% chance if you commit to someone else.
- ✓ 95% chance if you meet with an accountability partner.

<sup>1</sup> These statistics are from the "American Society of Training and Development", referenced in "Made to Crave".

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## Marriage and Family Ministry

### Structure of This Ministry is Both Large and Small Group

**Large Group:** Designed to Instruct and Discuss

**Small Group:** Designed to Discuss, Challenge, Apply, and Encourage

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## Marriage and Family Ministry

### Piper's Story

- Father was gone 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of the year.
- Mother took up mantle as leader / head-of-house.
- When father returned: "*These were the happiest time for mother. Oh, how she rejoiced to have Daddy home! She loved his leadership.*"
- Happy about his return and that he picked up the mantle, he 're-assumed' the role of being the man, head, leader of the household.
- She no longer had to fill the role for which she was capable, but not designed for.

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### Marriage and Family Ministry

- Seeing his mother "relinquish" her role as leader of the household when his father returned, he writes:
  - "It never occurred to me that **leadership** and **submission** has anything to do with superiority and inferiority."
  - I would add, it has nothing to do regarding **worth** and **value** of a person.

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### Marriage and Family Ministry

- "**Leadership**" and "**Submission**" - Has to do with how God designed men and woman, **NOT** how he assigned value and worth.
- It is not "**capabilities and competencies**" but of **Design**, God's Design which is inherent in the personhood of both men and women.

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### Marriage and Family Ministry

#### Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

Is God's design and the God-given differences, which *exists at the root of our personhood*, as to what makes a man a man and a woman a woman according to God's Word.

This speaks to our God-designed **Differences** **NOT** our **Value** in God's eyes.

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**Marriage and Family Ministry**

The Battle Rages On

❖ “Anything You Can Do I can Do Better!”

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**Marriage and Family Ministry**

Complementarianism

The belief that God has created men and women **equal** in their **essential dignity and human personhood**, but has **assigned** different but complementary roles and responsibilities to men and woman within marriage, family life and the church.

*Additional Comment:* It assigns leadership roles to men and support roles to women, based on the interpretation of certain biblical passages. One of its precepts is that while women may assist in the decision making process, the ultimate authority for the decision is the purview of the male.

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**Marriage and Family Ministry**

Egalitarianism

Holds that all human persons are created equally in God's sight, having equal responsibility to use their gifts and obey their calling. People who are called to roles and ministries are to use their gifts without regard to class, gender, race or any other differences between individuals.

*Pastor Jim's Comment:* The Egalitarian position holds that there are no inherent hierarchical structures other than what is **artificially** created. One prominent evangelical feminist states that the Bible's "main thrust is towards the **leveling**, not the maintenance, of **birth-based status** differences."

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**Marriage and Family Ministry**

**Complementarian or Egalitarian?**

- ✓ We adhere that the Complementarian perspective of Manhood and Womanhood is Biblical.
- ✓ We take the position that at CREATION – God instilled in men and women the inherent "*capabilities and competencies*"; He assigned each "*complementary roles*", in order for them to fulfill their God-given responsibilities and roles.
- ✓ We reject the Egalitarian belief that these differences are a result of the FALL, SIN or CULTURE<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Note: Because of the Fall, Sin and Culture, the way in which we live out our God-designed roles and responsibilities in our marriages and families is the root of many if not most of our marital and family problems. Learning to live out our roles and responsibilities in a God honoring manner the Goal of this Ministry.

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**Marriage and Family Ministry**

**Counter-Cultural**

Recognizing and adhering to the God designed differences and roles of men and women goes against the cultural belief and the politically correct thinking that

**There is No Difference Between Men and Women**

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**Marriage and Family Ministry**

**Building a House with a Pipe-Wrench**

- Is "Working" or "Workable" the right measure?
- Rejecting God's design is not "Working"
  - More divorce,
  - More homosexuality,
  - Confused young men and young women,
  - More social awkwardness;
  - More mental distress and the list goes on.
  - Resulting from denying God-given, God-designed identity.

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### Marriage and Family Ministry

#### Manhood & Womanhood 'According to the Bible'

- ✓ The Bible will provide the foundational truths, it will point out the *True Facts*; however...
- ✓ People, like you and me, will also want to know, "*if we live out what the Bible says about the roles and responsibility of men and women, will it be truly satisfying and fulfilling?*"

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### Marriage and Family Ministry

Will Living According to God's Design Really Make a Difference?

**YES!**

*"Biblical Manhood and Womanhood is a deeply satisfying gift of grace from a loving God who has the best interest of His creatures at heart. This is fulfilling in the deepest sense."*

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### Marriage and Family Ministry

#### Two Important Biblical Facts

- ▶ First, the God-given differences between men and women are *not cultural*, but are based upon *permanent facts* of Creation.
  - They don't "*change with the times*".
- ▶ Second, differentiated roles were **CREATED** by God, and fulfilling our roles is deeply satisfying.
  - Sin *warped/distorted/perverted* our relationship

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## Marriage and Family Ministry

### Before the Fall – The Beauty and Design

**Genesis 2:18** – “Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a **helper fit** for him.’”

“**Helper / Helpmate**” – Not demeaning, fills in what is lacking; provides mutual assistance.

“**Fit / Corresponding**” – “According to his opposite”, the idea of counterpart.

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## Marriage and Family Ministry

**Genesis 2:18** – “Then the LORD God said, ‘It is **not good** that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’”

What he lacked, she supplied, and what she lacked he supplied, for a life of common purpose.

The basis for marriage is “**complementing**” each other, not “**competing**” with each other.

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## Marriage and Family Ministry

### Closing Thoughts

- ▶ **Sin – Oh My!!** – That’s why we have Marriage Ministries ☺
- ▶ Can I do this... It may seem like an overwhelming challenge, but we have Christ.
- ▶ Marriages based upon God’s design of Equal worth but Differing Roles is not onerous (*burdensome, difficult*) or oppressive.
- ▶ It does not promote pride or self exaltation. It conforms to who we are by God’s good design.
- ▶ Therefore, marriage is most fulfilling in the deepest sense that word when we live it out in our God-designed, complementary roles.

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### Marriage and Family Ministry

#### A Prayer for Your Marriage:

Teach me how to pray and make my prayers a true language of love. Where love has died, create new love in me. Show me what unconditional love really is and how to communicate it in a way that is clearly perceived. May the God of patience and comfort grant us to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus (Ro. 5:5). Make us a couple, not pursuing separate, competitive, or independent lives, but working together, overlooking each other's faults and weaknesses for the greater good of the church. Help us to pursue the things, which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another (Ro. 14:19). May we be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1Cor. 1:10)

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### Marriage and Family Ministry

#### HOMEWORK for Next Two Weeks

1. **Continued Study** - Biblical Foundation
2. **Action Items** - Consider; Talk with Spouse
3. **Small Group**: Challenge each other, make Application to your self and your marriage, and Encourage one another.
4. **Two Weeks (Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>)** - Meet to discuss C. 2.
5. **Q.'s on C. 1** - Bring on the 27<sup>th</sup> or email me [but not next week.]

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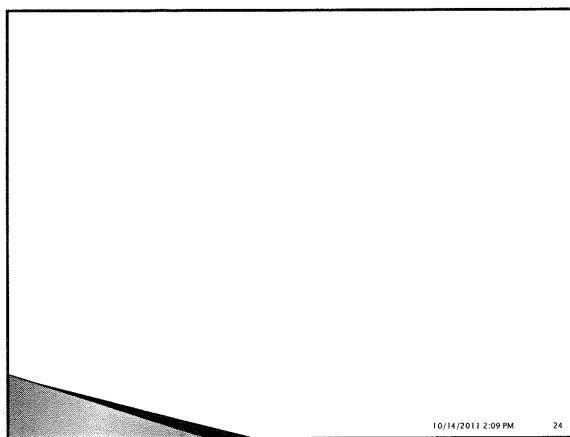
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