

# What The Bible Says About... The Role of Men and Women

## INTRO.

### A. God's original design:

- Genesis 1:26-31- overview of creation
- Genesis 2- detailed description of creation of man and woman
  - Created ADAM first... gave HIM instructions... then created woman as "suitable helper"
- Genesis 2:24- "one flesh"; complemented one another in their "God-designed" roles

### B. They chose to disregard God's design:

- Genesis 3:16-17- (To woman) - "*Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you.*"
- Same grammatical construction as Genesis 4:7
- (To man)- "*Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree...*"

### C. "Blurring of roles" - God disapproves - trouble follows

- I Timothy 2:13-14- inspired commentary on Gen. 3

### D. I Corinthians 11:3, 7-9- God's ordained order ("What the Bible Says...")

QUESTION: Is this order "culturally-mandated" or "God-designed"?

## I- WHAT IS MAN'S ROLE?

### A. AS A MALE

- God expects a man to act and look like a MAN
  - hair - I Corinthians 11:14
  - clothes - Deuteronomy 22:5
- Leadership role - I Timothy 3:4-5, 12

QUESTION: Was Jesus ever hesitant to break or ignore the traditions of his day?

Did he put women in leadership roles in the church? ... as apostles? Elders?

### B. AS HUSBAND

- Ephesians 5:25-28- "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church...*"
- I Peter 3:7- "*Live w/wife in understanding way... honor as weaker partner...*"
- I Corinthians 7:2-5- willing and exclusive sexual partner

### C. AS FATHER

- I Timothy 5:8- provide physical necessities for family
- Ephesians 6:4- nourish, train and discipline children

### D. IN CHURCH ASSEMBLY

- I Corinthians 14:34-37- men are to be leaders in assembly ("assembly" context- see v23, 26, 34)
- I Timothy 2:8- "...men (Greek word specifies "male") to pray in every place..."

## II- WHAT IS WOMAN'S ROLE?

### A. AS A FEMALE

- Be proud of being a woman- tenderness & sensitivity
- I Peter 3:2- moral purity
- I Peter 3:3-6; I Timothy 2:9-10 - modesty

## B. AS WIFE

- I Peter 3:1, Titus 2:5; Ephesians 5:24; I Corinthians 11:3 - Submit to husband
- Genesis 2:18- “suitable helper” for husband
- I Peter 3:2- live in such way that unbelieving husband will be attracted to the gospel
- I Corinthians 7:2-5- willing and exclusive sexual partner for husband

## C. AS MOTHER

- I Timothy 5:14- (Greek word- “oikos-despotes”) - “house ruler”
- Titus 2:5- (Greek word- “oikourous”)- “house keeper”

## D. AS WIDOW

- I Timothy 5:10- busy yourself w/good deeds

## E. IN CHURCH ASSEMBLY

- I Corinthians 14:34-37- “be silent; not speak”
  - context: (v23-26)- “*When the whole church comes together...*”

### QUESTION: - Is a Woman Inferior to a Man?

- Absolutely not.
  - Are members inferior to elders?
  - Are you inferior to a policeman? ... governor?
- Galatians 3:28- “...neither male nor female...”
  - Same context says, “...neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free...”
  - Did becoming a Christian cause one to cease being JEW? ... or FREE?
    - **Concerning salvation**- all are equal. Does not erase every role/relationship.
- I Peter 3:7- “...heirs together of the gracious gift of life...”
  - God makes a husband and wife a “unit” ... partners... joint-heirs. - each with a particular role (sphere)

## CONCL.

A. As God’s people, we need to be emphasizing **God’s** designed plan for Men & Women; not **current culture’s** plan.

B. It is indeed a poorer society when it loses male/female distinctions

- Result: EFFEMINATE MEN AND MASCULINE WOMEN
- I Corinthians 6:9- “*male prostitutes*”- (“effeminate”; literally- “soft to the touch”)  
“*homosexual offenders*”- (literally - “male sexual intercourse”)

C. It began with Adam... when he quit being the leader (Eve quit being submissive)

- God places the blame squarely at Adam’s feet- Genesis 3:17; I Corinthians 15:22

D. God has a design... an ordained role for both men and women.

- ... ARE WE WILLING TO SUBMIT TO GOD’S DESIGN?