

# God's Design For **Sexuality** And For The **Family**

- The beauty of **gender, sexuality & marriage**
- A **marriage** that honors Christ
- Joy-filled **Singleness** in God's family
- The heart of biblical **parenting**
- **Womanhood** & training our girls to be women
- **Manhood** & training our boys to be men



*Upcoming series during the Family Bible Hour  
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CFBCSTL.org*

An Equipping Course  
To Build Up the Saints  
To Know God & His Word

Christ Fellowship Bible Church  
9321 Litzinger Road  
Brentwood, Missouri 63144  
CFBCSTL.org

# SESSION 1

## CFBC-Gender and Sexuality

### Preamble to the CBMW Nashville Statement (2017)...

“Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves...” –Psalm 100:3

***Evangelical Christians at the dawn of the twenty-first century find themselves living in a period of historic transition.*** As Western culture has become increasingly post-Christian, it has embarked upon a massive revision of what it means to be a human being. ***By and large the spirit of our age no longer discerns or delights in the beauty of God’s design for human life.*** Many deny that God created human beings for his glory, and that his good purposes for us include our personal and physical design as male and female. ***It is common to think that human identity as male and female is not part of God’s beautiful plan, but is, rather, an expression of an individual’s autonomous preferences.*** The pathway to full and lasting joy through God’s good design for his creatures is thus replaced by the path of shortsighted alternatives that, sooner or later, ruin human life and dishonor God.

This secular spirit of our age presents a great challenge to the Christian church. Will the church of the Lord Jesus Christ lose her biblical conviction, clarity, and courage, and blend into the spirit of the age? Or will she hold fast to the word of life, draw courage from Jesus, and unashamedly proclaim his way as the way of life? Will she maintain her clear, counter-cultural witness to a world that seems bent on ruin?

***We are persuaded that faithfulness in our generation means declaring once again the true story of the world and of our place in it—particularly as male and female.*** Christian Scripture teaches that there is but one God who alone is Creator and Lord of all. To him alone, every person owes glad-hearted thanksgiving, heart-felt praise, and total allegiance. This is the path not only of glorifying God, but of knowing ourselves. ***To forget our Creator is to forget who we are, for he made us for himself. And we cannot know ourselves truly without truly knowing him who made us. We did not make ourselves. We are not our own. Our true identity, as male and female persons, is given by God. It is not only foolish, but hopeless, to try to make ourselves what God did not create us to be.***

### The Chaos...

**Cisgender, agender, gender fluidity**—The sexual revolution has created a host of bewildering terms to describe the struggle for people to reconcile their internal desires with their bodies. What should Christians do with this new vocabulary? It can be overwhelming, especially if you’ve never heard these words before or experienced these struggles. It’s tempting to dismiss the new vocabulary as a postmodern attempt to restructure reality, rejecting both the Bible’s terminology and basic biology.

Christians know that the Bible provides the solution to humanity’s deepest needs, and we don’t need to change any aspect of its message or vocabulary. Our greatest responsibility is to understand how redemption in Jesus Christ fulfills God’s highest purpose for humanity and to know how to share this good news with others.

Yet God’s Word also calls us to reach people with sensitivity and understanding. A dismissive, uncaring attitude won’t help anyone.

Familiarity with modern terminology does not necessarily mean you accept these terms as descriptions of what should be. They simply allow you to talk accurately and sensitively about what people claim they are feeling.

***The most important concept to understand is the attempt to distinguish between (a) the “sex” a person is born with (physical characteristics of a male or female) and (b) the “gender” a person identifies with (their “lived role” as man or woman or other).***

**Gender dysphoria** is the general term to describe an individual’s discontent with the gender “imposed” at birth based on visible physical sex characteristics. (This is referred to as “assigned gender.”)

Individuals who are content with their sex and gender at birth are referred to as **cisgender** (cis- means “on this side of”).

People who identify with a gender different from the one they were created with and had at birth are referred to as **transgender** (trans- means “on the other side of”).

These “other” identities can take many forms. Some individuals identify with different genders at different times (called **gender fluidity**) or no gender at all (called **agendered**).

The possibilities—and the vocabulary to describe them—are seemingly endless.

Christians must recognize that some people really do experience this range of desires and they will be offended if we deny the existence of those desires. We should be sympathetic and acknowledge that the issues are real, but then we need to point them to the deeper issues, which are covered in the Bible.

***Ultimately, we should not follow the culture in separating sex from gender, which is really the crux of the issue.*** We don't have to change the Bible's vocabulary or apologize for what it says. God designed his Word so that it would communicate to all humans and clearly show them the way to be transformed into the full and satisfying humanity—designed as male or female from the beginning—that God provided for us through Jesus Christ.

Owen Strachan is associate professor of Christian theology at Midwestern Seminary and the author of *The Grand Design* (with Gavin Peacock) and the forthcoming *Reenchanting Humanity: A Theology of Mankind*.

## **Cultural Confusion and Causation...**

In a rising new trend, more teenage girls than boys claim they aren't sure about their gender identity. Why?

***To the dismay of radical activists, Dr. Lisa Littman, a researcher at Brown University, conducted a new study that points to peer pressure. The backlash was instant and severe.***

Her research, gathered from 256 parents, reveals it's not uncommon for two or more girls in the same friendship group to begin to identify as transgender. And 87% of them come out as transgender after spending more time on social media. But as they age, that seems to change since only 0.7% of American adults ages 18–24 claim they're transgender.

Within days, Brown University pulled their website press release on Littman's research.

***Ray Blanchard, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto who spent many years working in a gender identity clinic, explains the reason for the angry reactions. "The idea that social influences may be involved flies in the face of the 'born that way' or 'you are who you say you are' narrative."***

## **Are Gender Roles a Social Construct? (Excerpts)**

by Steve Golden on July 6, 2012 (Answers in Genesis)

*The biblical understanding of gender roles stems from the Genesis account of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; however, cultural justification is sometimes used to support unbiblical behavior.*

***The biblical understanding of gender roles stems from the Genesis account of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. If we misunderstand what the Bible says about gender, then we will misunderstand issues like homosexual behavior, the roles of husbands and wives, and what it means to be male or female.***

***However, cultural justification is sometimes used to support unbiblical behavior, and the Bible is sometimes used incorrectly to justify a variety of insupportable concepts about gender roles.***

***We have to start with the Word of God...In Genesis 1:27 we read that God created man with distinct differences in the sexes:***

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

***God created man male and female—Adam and Eve—and He made males and females different physically and distinct in their roles.*** Genesis 2:18 makes Eve's role clear: "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Eve was from the bone and flesh of Adam, meaning she is equal in her standing before God and yet distinct from man (Galatians 3:28).<sup>1</sup> But God gave Adam the authority not only to name the animals but also to name his wife, indicating that she does not share equal authority with her husband. In the Bible's wording, she is his helper.

***If God's creation of Eve, a female, as a helper and companion for Adam, a male, is not clear enough to defend marriage as being reserved for a man and a woman, Genesis 2:24 clears up any confusion:***

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

***From the very beginning of God's Word, He makes no allowances for "alternative" lifestyles such as homosexuality, bestiality, polygamy, and so on.***<sup>2</sup>

A final point regards the Curse in Genesis 3. Here we see that Adam and Eve already had distinct roles, but as a result of the Curse, their roles became toilsome and painful. In verse 16, God graciously allowed Eve (and her female descendants) to bear children, but childbirth would be associated with a good deal of physical pain as well as concerns about bringing a child into this cursed world.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, God tells Eve, "Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you" (Genesis 3:16).<sup>4</sup> Christians differ over what this verse means, but two likely interpretations arise: (1) Eve will try to usurp her husband's role as head, but God is requiring Adam to keep her from doing so, resulting in conflict; or (2) Eve will try to usurp her husband's role as head, and he will exercise unbiblical male domination over her.<sup>5</sup>

***So what does gender as a social construct have to do with any of this?... People who specialize in the area of gender theory typically make it their aim to justify sexual and gender-related behavior that the Bible condemns as sinful.***

**Gender theory argues that men and women are different only on the physical level;** in other words, they have the exact same capacities for everything except reproductive functions, such as childbearing (though there are increasing attempts among secularists to make it possible for men to carry unborn children). **Gender theory further holds that any distinctions between males and females (e.g., men acting as heads of their households, dressing in ways that are socially appropriate to one's gender, and so on) are "constructs" that society forces them to abide by. If they "transgress" (gender theorists love that word) those social boundaries, the gender theorist argues, they are ostracized and punished.**

Many gender theorists will even go so far as to say that a person may be a man on the physical level, but if he feels like he is actually female, then he may identify as female. Gender theorists argue that he then should be able to live as his chosen gender, even down to using the women's restroom, dressing in women's clothing, and being referred to as she/her.

**The natural outworking of all this gender confusion is complete distortion of what the Bible says about the roles of men and women and about marriage.** If there is nothing that requires a man to identify as male or a woman to identify as female, why maintain a rigid definition of marriage? **"Marriage between a man and a woman" only matters if the definition of man and woman matter.** If two men "get married," but one identifies as a female, society has simply tried to find a way around God's design for marriage by making *male* and *female* meaningless words.<sup>6</sup>

However, there is strong scientific evidence that the differences between men and women run deeper than basic anatomy. Dr. Gregg Johnson, professor of biology at Bethel University, wrote a detailed article on gender differences. He explained that males, among other things, are often more dominating, more goal and rule oriented, and have bodies and nervous systems that are built for long hours of physical toil. Women, on the other hand, demonstrate more care-giving behaviors, are more in touch with social dynamics, and have bodies that favor fat storage, which aids in pregnancy.<sup>7</sup> In fact, Dr. Johnson concludes, "Sex differences present in all the organ systems across various mammalian species go far beyond the superficial anatomical characteristics necessary for reproduction. These differences are direct responses to the levels of circulating hormones, which differ significantly between the sexes."<sup>8</sup> Under the localized influence of hormones and the DNA blueprint, certain embryonic tissues are formed into either male or female structures and other tissues regress. Later, at puberty, increasing amounts of testosterone and estrogen prompt maturation of these sexual differences.

So, generally speaking, if you're born a male, there's no way to truly change that.<sup>9</sup> This is consistent with Genesis 1:27; God has made us male and female. Psalm 139:13–14 explains that our biological development is marked by the hand of God:

*For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

In light of passages such as this, we should desire to embrace our role as a biblical man or woman, rather than trying to change ourselves into the opposite of what God intended.

Scripture has norms and expectations for men and women as well, particularly focused on modesty. While Scripture does not clearly outline a dress code for us, we are given guidelines. For example, 1 Peter 3:1–5 tells women to dress modestly and to place their primary focus on their spiritual development. Ephesians 4:17–19 tells the people of God not to be like unbelievers, who engage in lewdness. Romans 12:1 makes clear that we are to present our bodies as holy and acceptable before God—which we can hardly do if we refuse to live modestly or within the male or female boundaries God formed in us. With regard to cultural expectations, Scripture seems to indicate that we should dress not only modestly but also in ways appropriate to our gender in whatever culture we live. A prime example is in 1 Corinthians 11, where Paul addresses the issue of head coverings in the church. Of course, textual details and history are far too unclear to give a definitive answer as to what the head coverings represented (and indeed, commentators vary in their interpretations), but suffice it to say, head coverings were *clearly* intended for women, at least in that congregation:

*Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved. For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. (1 Corinthians 11:4–6)*

While some Christians would argue that this passage applies to women in the church today, others believe the text indicates it was a culturally specific issue. Whether the head coverings are meant to indicate that the woman is married (as in some countries today) or something else, Paul was writing about a symbol that may not carry the same meaning today. The custom was that women either cover their heads or cut their hair short—but it was considered “disgraceful” in that day for a woman to do the latter. What does that tell us? Paul is advising women to—within the bounds of modesty—adhere to cultural expectations of femininity. On the same front, Paul indicates that if a man wears a head covering, which was meant for a woman, it is dishonoring. Here, too, Paul seems to be indicating that men, within the bounds of modesty, should adhere to cultural expectations of masculinity. But what is significant is that men were barred from wearing head coverings—and if a man did, there would certainly be a question as to why he was adorned with something intended for a woman. If a man dons what is typically considered female clothing, we have to ask the question, why is he doing such a thing? Has the culture determined that it is now masculine and appropriate? Likely not. Is the man trying to be subversive and get a reaction out of people? Possibly. Has the man decided he would rather identify as a woman, which could lead to more extreme

measures, such as sex reassignment surgery? If that is the case, he is clearly trying to change how God created him, as though he can do a better job.<sup>10</sup>

When a person expresses the desire to live as the opposite sex and takes measures to do so, he or she could very likely be experiencing some sort of gender confusion—and many secularists would agree. The difference is in how we would approach the situation—they would encourage him to embrace his perceived “identity,” while the believer should seek to share the gospel with him and to teach him God’s design for men and women.

## Footnotes

1. “Evangelical feminists” often cite Galatians 3:28 to support their idea that the New Testament removed gender roles. Paul wrote, ““There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”” However, to rip this verse from its context is a deeply flawed hermeneutical practice, and the evangelical feminist’s interpretation of this verse forces numerous contradictions in the New Testament. For example, Galatians is generally regarded as Paul’s earliest canonical letter. So if Paul was saying that there is no longer any distinction between these groups, then it is rather strange that he continued to make distinctions for many years between Jew and Gentile (Romans 1:16–17; 11:25–28; Acts 18:1–6), slave and free (1 Corinthians 7:17–24; Ephesians 6:5–9; Colossians 3:22–4:1), and male and female (Ephesians 5:21–33; Colossians 3:18–19).
2. While Abraham, David, Solomon, and others in Scripture did practice polygamy, they were not pursuing God’s original design for marriage, and their polygamous relationships should be viewed as examples of conduct Christians should not engage in. For more information on polygamy in the Bible and the disastrous consequences of these relationships, see Roger Patterson, “What About Polygamy in the Bible?,” also available as a chapter in Ken Ham and Bodie Hodge, gen. eds., *How Do We Know the Bible Is True?* Volume 1 (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2011).
3. Obviously, due to the fact that we live in a fallen world, some women are unable to bear children. For further information on childbirth and pain, see Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell’s articles, “Is It Wrong to Interfere with the Pain of Childbirth?,” “The Evolution of Childbirth?,” and “Understanding the Answer in Genesis 3:16.”
4. For further information on how God worked through Eve, see Dr. Georgia Purdom’s presentation, *Hope Amid Despair*.
5. Raymond C. Ortlund, Jr., “Male-Female Equality and Male Headship: Genesis 1–3,” in *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood*, John Piper and Wayne Grudem, eds. (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2006), p. 108.
6. Since *marriage* is defined in the Bible as being strictly between a man and a woman, two men or two women or any other formulation of a “marriage” is outside of God’s design and therefore not a true marriage.
7. Gregg Johnson, “The Biological Basis for Gender-Specific Behavior,” in *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood*, John Piper and Wayne Grudem, eds. (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2006), pp. 282–284.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 284.
9. This is not to say that there are not exceptions to the rule. Hormone levels vary, and not every man or woman will exhibit every characteristic Dr. Johnson describes. However, generally speaking, these differences are readily apparent in men and women, and they are based on God-given hormones that correlate to gender.
10. Regarding hermaphrodites (those who are born anatomically both male and female), I am not advocating that nothing be done for their condition. Humanity is marked by the Curse, and with that comes a marring of God’s design for us. In those rare cases, in which there are physical and social issues and challenges that must be dealt with individually, wisdom should be exercised in determining how to handle the situation so that the outcome is God honoring. For more on this, see Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell’s article, “Feedback: Hermaphroditism.”



## God's Creation...

### The CBMW Danvers Statement (1987)...Affirmations (Excerpts)

Based on our understanding of Biblical teachings, we affirm the following:

11. Both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood (Gen 1:26-27, 2:18).
12. Distinctions in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order, and should find an echo in every human heart (Gen 2:18, 21-24; 1 Cor 11:7-9; 1 Tim 2:12-14).
13. Adam's headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall, and was not a result of sin (Gen 2:16-18, 21-24, 3:1-13; 1 Cor 11:7-9).
14. The Fall introduced distortions into the relationships between men and women (Gen 3:1-7, 12, 16).
  1. In the home, the husband's loving, humble headship tends to be replaced by domination or passivity; the wife's intelligent, willing submission tends to be replaced by usurpation or servility.
  2. In the church, sin inclines men toward a worldly love of power or an abdication of spiritual responsibility, and inclines women to resist limitations on their roles or to neglect the use of their gifts in appropriate ministries.
15. The Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, manifests the equally high value and dignity which God attached to the roles of both men and women (Gen 1:26-27, 2:18; Gal 3:28). Both Old and New Testaments also affirm the principle of male headship in the family and in the covenant community (Gen 2:18; Eph 5:21-33; Col 3:18-19; 1 Tim 2:11-15).
16. Redemption in Christ aims at removing the distortions introduced by the curse.
  1. In the family, husbands should forsake harsh or selfish leadership and grow in love and care for their wives; wives should forsake resistance to their husbands' authority and grow in willing, joyful submission to their husbands' leadership (Eph 5:21-33; Col 3:18-19; Tit 2:3-5; 1 Pet 3:1-7).
  2. In the church, redemption in Christ gives men and women an equal share in the blessings of salvation; nevertheless, some governing and teaching roles within the church are restricted to men (Gal 3:28; 1 Cor 11:2-16; 1 Tim 2:11-15).
17. In all of life Christ is the supreme authority and guide for men and women, so that no earthly submission-domestic, religious, or civil-ever implies a mandate to follow a human authority into sin (Dan 3:10-18; Acts 4:19-20, 5:27-29; 1 Pet 3:1-2).
18. In both men and women a heartfelt sense of call to ministry should never be used to set aside Biblical criteria for particular ministries (1 Tim 2:11-15, 3:1-13; Tit

1:5-9). Rather, Biblical teaching should remain the authority for testing our subjective discernment of God's will.

## **Appendix...Secular Worldviews and Biblical Norms**

Cultural narratives aren't self-sustaining or free-floating. They need to be situated within a worldview that makes them meaningful, intelligible, and plausible. Simplifying somewhat, we can identify two secular worldviews that have shaped and supported the mainstream narrative...

### *Naturalism*

**Naturalism is the view that *nature is all there is*, where 'nature' is basically understood as whatever can be studied scientifically. For the Naturalist, the natural universe—the physical cosmos—is the only reality that exists (or at least the only reality that matters).** According to Naturalism, everything has (ultimately) a *scientific* explanation, and that must include *human nature* and *human experiences*.

**According to the standard origins story of Naturalism, we are the products of undirected naturalistic evolutionary processes. We're highly evolved animals with some unique abilities. On this view, there is no transcendent purpose or meaning to human life. If there is any meaning to human life, it is one that we create for ourselves.**

**It's no secret that Naturalism has a hard time accounting for objective moral laws.** On what basis can a Naturalist argue that some human behaviors are *objectively morally right* while others are *objectively morally wrong*? If Naturalism were true, why would there be laws of morality that stand over us? How *could* there be?

**In the absence of any better moral theories, Naturalists will commonly adopt some version of *utilitarianism*, according to which morality is defined in terms of whatever maximizes pleasure and minimizes pain—"the greatest happiness for the greatest number," as Jeremy Bentham famously expressed it.**

How then would a Naturalist view of transgenderism? A Naturalist will typically want to say that gender identity is a *psychological phenomenon rooted in the physical brain*.

Furthermore, a Naturalist will be inclined to say that transgenderism is just one facet of human biological diversity, of natural variation within a species. There's no right or wrong about it. Transgenderism isn't a disorder or dysfunction because, on the Naturalist view, there's simply no right way or a wrong way for a human being to be. We are what naturalistic evolutionary processes have made us—end of story.

If anything can be said to be ‘wrong’ it’s that some people are unhappy with their bodies. They have a *male body* and a *female brain*, or vice versa, and that incongruity causes them pain; it causes emotional suffering. Thus, if they’re going to be happy, one or other—the body or the brain—needs to be changed.

**So which must change? For the Naturalist, it’s the body that will have to change**, for two basic reasons: first, it’s generally easier (and safer) to modify the body than to tinker with the brain; secondly, our *personal identity* is more closely associated with our brain, because the brain is the seat of consciousness (and thus of self-consciousness). From the Naturalist’s perspective, then, it makes sense for a transgender person to pursue ‘sex reassignment’ treatments.

### ***Postmodernism***

Postmodernism—to simplify matters to an almost criminal extent—can be characterized as the view that *there are no absolute norms* and *there is no objective reality*. According to this worldview, reality isn’t something objective “out there” to be discovered. It isn’t something that exists independently of our thoughts and our language. Reality is something we *create* or *construct* by the way we think about and speak about our subjective experiences. That means, of course, that truth is always relative; it is relativized either to the individual subject or to groups of subjects (communities or societies).

Consequently, the Postmodernist will have quite a different take on transgenderism than the Naturalist. For the Postmodernist, ‘gender’ is a fluid social construction that isn’t anchored to any objective biological categories. It isn’t a category imposed on us by nature; rather, it’s a category we invented and which we impose on our ourselves. So gender identity isn’t rooted in brain physiology (as the Naturalist holds) but is entirely a matter of personal preferences and self-perceptions.

Put simply: what you are is what you *perceive* yourself to be. ***In fact, more strongly: what you are is what you conceive yourself to be.*** For self-conception is more powerful than mere self-perception. On this radical view, you have the freedom and the right to define yourself, indeed to *redefine* yourself, without limit. And if your physical appearance doesn’t currently align with your self-defined identity, then your physical appearance needs to get in line.

***Thus, we have before us two secular worldviews which, in quite different ways, provide a broader framework for the mainstream narrative on transgenderism....we should recognize that these two worldviews—Naturalism and Postmodernism—do have one tenet in common: an axiomatic commitment to human autonomy. Both proceed from an absolute denial of any transcendent divine norms.***

**What then is the overarching lesson to draw from these observations? Simply this: when we approach the issue of transgenderism, we need to be aware of how the issues and the overarching narrative have been supported and shaped by secular worldviews that are committed to human autonomy. We must not look at the issue through those warped lenses. Rather, we must view the issue through the lens of a Christian worldview: a worldview that represents a biblical perspective on God, creation, revelation, human nature, moral laws, the fallenness of this world, and what God has done and is doing to redeem this fallen world.**

### *Normative Perspective*

*The normative perspective invites us to ask, “What are the norms or standards that apply here?” Perhaps the first and most general thing to say is that God himself is our ultimate norm. God himself is the final standard of what is true, good, and beautiful. That entails an utter repudiation of the kind of human autonomy reflected in the two secular worldviews outlined above. God, as the author of creation, defines his creation. God, as the creator of humankind, defines what it means to be human. We simply do not get to define what we are or who we are! In matters of Christian ethics, God’s norms are expressed to us primarily in his laws. God’s laws are what we might call our proximate norms.*

*In the first place, we have what Reformed theologians have called **creation ordinances: moral laws grounded in the order and design of creation.** The most immediately relevant creation ordinance is that of human sexuality and family relationships:*

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...” (Genesis 1:27–28)

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)

It could hardly be clearer from the creation account that God did not intend sexuality and gender to be fluid and expressed on a continuum. Indeed, the assumption throughout the Bible is that there are two sexes, male and female, and the primary determiner of a person’s sex is *physiology*. We’re embodied beings and our sexuality is expressed through our bodies. The creation account thus establishes some foundational norms of human sexuality.

*Secondly, we have the Decalogue—the Ten Commandments—which the Reformed tradition has consistently taken as a summary of God’s moral law.* A number of these commandments are directly relevant to transgenderism.

***The First Commandment:*** “You shall have no other gods before me.” ***Once again, we find here an implicit repudiation of human autonomy, which is a form of idolatry—treating the creature as though it were the Creator. We should recognize that the LGBT movement represents a form of idolatry: treating human sexual experiences as a greater authority than the Word of God.*** Whatever our response to transgenderism, gender dysphoria, and so forth, it must be a response that seeks to interpret human experiences in light of God’s Word rather than the reverse.

***The Fifth Commandment:*** “Honor your father and your mother.” This commandment presupposes parental authority and leadership. It stands firmly against the idea that a child should set the agenda regarding his or her ‘gender identity’. The commandment also implies *parental oversight and care for children*, and thus the protection of children within a proper family structure. This clearly has major implications for ‘transgender parents’ (especially the cases of ‘transgender men’ who conceive and give birth, cases which we should expect to increase in number as transgenderism becomes even more mainstreamed).

***The Sixth Commandment:*** “You shall not murder.” This commandment enjoins the preservation and protection of human life, and thus has implications for (among other things) ‘sex reassignment’ treatments, many of which carry significant health risks.

***The Seventh Commandment:*** “You shall not commit adultery.” ***This commandment presupposes the biblical understanding of marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman, which in turn presupposes the basic binary of sexual differentiation established in Genesis 1 and 2.***

***The Ninth Commandment:*** “You shall not bear false witness.” According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism, “The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbor’s good name, especially in witness-bearing.” This has obvious implications for ‘sex reassignment’ treatments: if biological sex is indeed the primary indicator of ontological sex, then such treatments are a form of deception—an elaborate charade—in which people attempt to present themselves falsely as members of the opposite sex.

We can see, then, that from a normative perspective the Bible has much to say about how we should understand and evaluate these issues.

**James N. Anderson**  
Associate Professor of Theology and Philosophy  
Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte

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## Session 2

# A Godly Marriage

Taught by Tom Rayborn (January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

It was said of Matthew Henry's home that "the Matthew Henry household was like the 'gates of heaven' where the parents governed all family life by the Word of God." Matthew Henry argued that our homes should be "little churches" where God is worshiped daily, where Jesus Christ reigns as Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit is further sanctifying those saved and working in those yet to be saved.

The idea of a godly marriage is a marriage built upon God in Christ, one or preferably both husband and woman saved by grace, with a view to living out the marriage to the glory of God by obeying God's Word.

As we consider the subject of a godly marriage, it is always best to begin by going to the original Source, to look at where marriage comes from and what was its original design.

### **ORIGIN/DESIGN**

Marriage is the design and gift from God - Genesis 1:27

Divine origin - Not from society

Speaks of great value

Both the man and the woman are image-bearers of God – Genesis 1:27

Equality before God

Different roles – man as the head, woman as the help-meet

"Headship is not a ticket to privilege but a charge to responsibility. It is not tyranny, but leadership based on love." Erroll Hulse

### **HUSBAND as Prophet, Priest and King**

Teaching God's Word in the family

Praying for the family, standing in the gap

Leading the family and ruling with love and grace

Both husband and wife in communion with God

Display glory of God in: fruitful, fill, subdue – 1:28

## **PURPOSE**

Companionship and mutual assistance – Genesis 2:18

“Just like Adam, you must individually receive your mate as God's provision for your need for companionship. Receiving your mate demonstrates your faith in God's integrity. Adam's focus was on God's flawless character, not Eve's performance. He knew God and knew that God could be trusted. Adam enthusiastically received Eve because he knew she was from God. Adam's faith in God enabled him to receive Eve as God's perfect provision for him.” Dennis Rainey

Procreation – be fruitful and multiply – Genesis 1:28

Restraint of sin – faithfulness and fidelity to one another – Genesis 2:18; I Corinthians 7:2,9

## **A GODLY MARRIAGE IS FOUNDED ON THE WORD OF GOD**

“It is better to be without bread in your houses that without Bibles, for the words of God's mouth are and should be to you more than your necessary food. But what will it avail you to have Bibles in your houses if you do not use them? To have the great things of God's law and gospel written to you, if you count them as a strange thing?” Matthew Henry

**Matthew 4:4** –

**Matthew 7:24,25** –

**Deuteronomy 6:6-9** -

## **A GODLY MARRIAGE IS ONE OF PERMANENCE**

**Ephesians 5:25** - Husbands, love your wives and Christ loves the church and gave Himself up for her.

**Romans 8:35** - Who can separate us from the love of Christ? NOTHING!

Staying married, therefore, is not mainly about staying in love. It is about keeping covenant. “Till death do us part” or “As long as we both shall live” is a sacred covenant promise – the same kind Jesus made with His bride when He died for her.” John Piper

## **A GODLY MARRIAGE IS BUILT ON BIBLICAL PRIORITIES**

**GOD'S WORD** – Ephesians 5:25-27; Colossians 3:16

PRAYER – Colossians 4:2; Philippians 4:6,7

“Join together in frequent and fervent prayer. Prayer forces the mind into sobriety, and moves the heart with the presence and majesty of God. Pray also for each other when you are in secret, that God may do that work which you most desire, upon each other's hearts.” Richard Baxter

FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER AND OTHERS

“Take every opportunity which your nearness provides to be speaking seriously to each other about the matters of God, and your salvation. Discussing those things of this world no more than required. And then talk together of the state and duty of your souls towards God, and of your hopes of heaven, as those that take these for their greatest business. And don't speak lightly, or irreverently, or in a rude and disputing manner; but with gravity and sobriety, as those that are discussing the most important things in the whole world.” Richard Baxter

COMMUNICATION

“Wherever you find marital failure, you will find a breakdown in real communication. Wherever you find marital success, you will find a good communication system.” Wayne Mack

CHURCH LIFE

MINISTRY TO OTHERS

**A GODLY MARRIAGE APPLIES THE “ONE ANOTHER” VERSES**

Forgive – Ephesians 4:32

Love – John 13:34,35; I Peter 1:22; 4:8

Be kind – Ephesians 4:32

Serve – Galatians 5:13

Devoted – Romans 12:10

Bear one another's burdens – Galatians 6:2

Encourage one another – I Thessalonians 5:11

Do not complain against one another – James 5:9

Honesty – Colossians 3:9

Humility – I Peter 5:5



# Session 3

Biblical Parenting

1/26/2020

Christ Fellowship Bible Church

Family Bible Hour

Taught by Jarett Olivastro

## 1) The Goal of Parenting

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*[Ephesians 6:1-4]* – “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise), ‘that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.’ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

*[Colossians 3:20-21]* – “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”

## 2) Why do we parent?

### a) God’s Calling

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**b) To be Holy**

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[1 Corinthians 10:31] – “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

[Psalm 127:3-5] – “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!”

**3) How Do We Parent?**

Ephesians 6:4 says “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the **discipline** and **instruction** of the Lord.”

**a) Discipline**

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1. Get to the heart

2. Explain the offense

3. Administer the rod

4. Pray & repent

[Proverbs 23:13-14] – *“Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.”*

**b) Instruction**

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[Proverbs 1:7-8] – *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching”*

[Proverbs 3:1-2] – “My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.”

[Proverbs 3:21-22] – “My son, do not lose sight of these – keep sound wisdom and discretion, and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck.”

### c) Family Worship

**Definition** - Family Worship is simple, intentional time in which your family worships God together

There are three aspects of family worship:

1. Daily instruction
  
2. Daily prayer to the throne of God
  
3. Daily singing the praise of God

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## Session 4

### "Be a Man! Masculinity & Training Our Boys to Be Men!" 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Geoffrey R. Kirkland

As fathers, we *\*must\** be: Intentional, thoughtful, prayerful, biblical, instructional (exhortation).  
we *\*cannot\** be: negligent, lazy, hands-off, naive, [depending on] church-only (derelict of duty).

→ **Definition = Masculinity is the courageous duty of sacrificial responsibility.**  
It is God's call upon *\*every man\** to take the responsibility to sacrifice, lead, protect & provide.

#### *Background to This Message on Biblical Masculinity*

- As we understand, embrace & delight in God's design for our sexuality, we joyfully embrace & submit to the authoritative Word that *\*GOD\** made man male & female (the reality that gender that cannot be separated from one's biological sex), *we must* recognize we're walking head-on into a TIDAL WAVE of cultural pressure, confusion, chaos & rebellion.
- Outside of the home [with daily, diligent, biblical instruction from both father & mother], the next place where God has designed boys to be taught biblical masculinity is ***THE LOCAL CHURCH*** (not the field, not the youth group, not the college class, not social media, not video games) - *we must take the call & invest in our boys & persistently, proactively & biblically model & exhort them to be Men of God!*

**THESIS** — *In its own very confused and warped culture of Corinth, Paul exhorts the Christians to heed his counsel on what biblical masculinity & manhood involves.*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

1. Teach Them ***Watchfulness***: over yourself, women & children.

“You see, traditional manhood fears death, but it fears something even worse: being a coward.

For a man, the only thing worse than a bullet in the kidney, or a knife across the throat, is the failure to act. To act self-sacrificially on behalf of women and children is the epitome of virtuous manhood. It reflects, in fact, the apex of Christian doctrine: a Savior-husband giving his life to save His bride, the church!” (Owen Strachen)

**2. Teach them Surefootedness: stand firm in Word & prayer.**

True men are men of the Word.

**3. Teach them Manliness: act like a man [bravery]; not a woman or a boy or a sissy.**

- “Enough with soft, men. Biblical manhood is muscular Christianity. Jesus was a tough man of action.” (Gavin Peacock)
- Masculinity demands manly bravery.

**4. Teach them Boldness: strength; do hard things.**

John Piper was teaching on the **Manliness** of JC Ryle and said this about “Masculine Christianity” -- “Theology and church and mission are marked by overarching godly male leadership in the spirit of Christ, with an ethos of tender-hearted strength, and contrite courage, and risk-taking decisiveness, and readiness to sacrifice for the sake of leading, protecting, and providing for the community—all of which is possible only through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It’s the feel of a great, majestic God, who by his redeeming work in Jesus Christ, inclines

men to take humble, Christ-exalting initiative, and inclines women to come alongside the men with joyful support, intelligent helpfulness, and fruitful partnership in the work.”

5. Teach them **Selflessness**: love God & love people

**Character Training: leading your children to be selfless in their lives:**

1. lead them to surrender their lives (Rom 12.1-2)
2. Lead them to be an example (1 Tim 4.12)
3. Lead them to exercise discipline (1 Tim 4.7b)
4. Lead them to deny ungodliness (Titus 2.11-13)  
-- John Barnett [in “The Word Filled Family”]

*Is it really possible? Is it really attainable for our boys, for a young man, a ‘lad’, a youth, a teen to do this? Yes!*

- Prov 20:11

- The rest of Prov 20! **What is he marked by?/** what distinguishes the godly man >> the youth?
  1. He’s made with worth & dignity; a creation of God (12, 27)
  2. diligence (not laziness) (13-14)
  3. Truth (not lies) (17, 23, 28)
  4. Listening & submitting to advice/counsel (18)
  5. Purity not slander/gossip (19)
  6. honoring parents (20)
  7. working hard/patience (21)
  8. no revenge (22)
  9. strength (29)

**Remember!**

A few things to remember:

1. GOD HAS SPOKEN AUTHORITATIVELY
2. SATAN IS ACTIVE VIGILANTLY
3. YOU MUST INSTRUCT PROACTIVELY

**Practical take-aways for teaching biblical masculinity:**

1. Teaching our young boys to be men includes taking **RESPONSIBILITY**.

- Masculinity is about taking responsibility for the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of those in our care. ***This is what women want: a man who loves her, leads her, protects her, provides for her physically/spiritually; he is decisive; courageous; humble; has a plan; he works hard; & he loves God above all else with a blazing passion!***

“But [you must] teach the young man that he has immense dignity and worth, that he was made — whatever his chest size, whatever his height — to spend himself for the good of others, and you will form the kind of young men who do not cower when a terrorist stands up, sweating and fevered, to fulfill Allah’s will by mowing down innocents. This kind of young man wakes up from his nap, sees bloodshed on the horizon, and moves with a swiftness he has trained for to sacrifice himself for others. He may die, he knows. But he will die with honor” (Owen Strachen).

## 2. Teaching our boys to be men includes learning biblical **THEOLOGY**.

- We must relentlessly teach our boys biblical truth, systematic theology, a Godly worldview and to **form biblical convictions & NOT WAVER FROM those convictions (even if they must die!)**. JC Ryle nailed it spot on -- this lack of conviction is an epidemic which is just now doing great harm, and especially among young people. . . . It produces what I must venture to call . . . a “jelly-fish” Christianity . . . a Christianity without bone, or muscle, or power. . . . Alas! It is a type of much of the religion of this day, of which the leading principle is, “no dogma, no distinct tenets, no positive doctrine.”

## 3. Teaching our boys to be men includes willfully embracing God’s **AUTHORITY**.

- We must teach our young men that real manhood submits to the authority of God’s Word, the Bible. Real men prioritize the church & its worship services. Real men love hard preaching and welcome the Spirit’s conviction. It’s like what John Piper said: “**A masculine ministry heralds the truth of Scripture, with urgency and forcefulness and penetrating conviction, to the world and in the regular worship services of the church.**” And real men love this!

On October 16, 1555, Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley were sentenced to be burnt at the stake by Bloody Mary.

Latimer said to his companion while they were together being tied to the wooden stakes, “Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and **play the man**; we shall this day light such a candle by God’s grace in England as shall never be put out!”



## **Counsel from John Angell James**

On a chapter titled: “The period between school and manhood”

### **Some advice for training men...**

1. Most sacredly observe the Sabbath, and constantly attend to the means of grace (Church, preaching, prayer, ordinances)
  - let nothing induce you to prostitute the hallowed day to worldly pleasure.
2. Keep up attention to the private duties of religion (never let a day pass without reading the Scriptures and private prayer)
3. Be very careful in the selection of companions.
  - one bad companion at this time, when the character is assuming its permanent form, will give a most fatal direction.
4. Strive to excel in the business or profession to which your life is to be devoted.
  - do not be satisfied with mediocrity in anything that is lawful. Even as a tradesman, you should endeavor to be distinguished by doing all your work to the glory of God by being the best you can be at your work.
5. If your attention to business leaves any time unoccupied, I advise you to carry on a course of reading [good books that focus you upon God’s glory in Christ].
6. If you can find a pious and intelligent associate (friend), embrace the opportunity of innocent and pleasurable companionship and fellowship (=discipleship).

Remember again and again, It is from fourteen to eighteen that the character, in relation to BOTH worlds – this world and the next – is generally formed. Judge what manner of persons you ought to be at that time. You cannot doubt, my children, that your parents love you. In all your recollections, we have a witness to this. We have, as you know, done everything to promote your welfare, and, so far as was compatible with this object, your pleasure also... You must be aware, my dear children, that all our conduct toward you has been conducted upon these principles. Before you were capable of receiving instruction, we presented ceaseless prayer to God for your personal piety. As soon as reason dawned, we poured the light of religious instruction upon your mind by the aid of familiar poetry, catechisms, and conversations.... So act, my children, toward the salvation of the soul. This, this is the end of life; keep it constantly in mind; never lose sight of it. Gain all the knowledge, all the comfort, all the fame, all the wealth you can in subordination to this one great business. But remember that whatever subordinate ends you may pursue, the paramount (=ultimate) object that you must seek is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever!

## Session 5

### Godly Singleness - Using Your Singleness to the Glory of God

Taught by: Peter Pei

#### *Introduction*

THE LACK OF BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF SINGLENES IS A GREAT SPRING BOARD FOR CHRISTIANS TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT BIBLICAL SINGLENES IS LIKE, TO SHOW THAT JESUS IS HOLY AND ENDOWED WITH SALVATION!

#### *What Is Godly Singleness?*

1. GODLY SINGLENES IS A \_\_\_\_\_.

2. GODLY SINGLENES IS A \_\_\_\_\_.

#### *What Are the Grounds for Godly Singleness?*

THE THREE GROUNDS FOR GODLY SINGLENES...

THE PHRASE UNDISTRACTED DEVOTION...

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.*

*Examples of Devotion in Godly Singleness*

MARY THE SISTER OF MARTHA

The apostle Paul said that his life and ministry were riveted on a single aim. 'I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). That is astonishing, when you think of all the varied things Paul did, in fact, [talked] about. There must be a sense in which 'Jesus Christ and Him crucified' is the ground and sum of everything else he says. He is pushing us to see our lives with a single focus, and for the cross of Christ to be that focus."

ANNA

JOSEPH

JOHN THE BAPTIST

JESUS

*Conclusion*

## Verse Compilation

I really am going to jump all over the place. **So really, this is a great selection of verses.** I will not be staying at a text for long.

Starting texts we will go through... Matthew 19:3-12 (particularly verses 11 and 12); 1 Corinthians 7:35. I will spend longer time in Matthew 19 than in any other text.

The following will be briefly read or alluded with respect to their examples...

Joshua- Exodus 32:17, 33:11

Mary the sister of Martha- Luke 10:39, John 11:2, John 11:28, John 11:31.

Anna- Luke 2:36-38.

Joseph- Genesis 39:1-9.

John the Baptist- John 3:25-30, Luke 7:19, 22-23.

Jesus- Mark 14:32-36.

I am not going to go over the following. I included them in my outline as a means of extra examples should people want to look into them later.

Jonathan- 1 Samuel 20, 23:15-18.

Daniel- Daniel 6, 10:1-12.

Paul- 1 Corinthians 2:2, Galatians 4:19, Ephesians 3:14-21, Philippians 3:7-14, etc.

Conclusion

Luke 19:11-27... mostly on verses 20-27.

## Session 6

Geoffrey R. Kirkland

CFBC Family Bible Hour

Sunday, February 16, 2020

**Titus 2:4-5 — “Biblical Womanhood & Teaching Our Girls to Be Women & Embrace Biblical Femininity!”**

Our feminized-intoxicated culture has taken up arms in an all out war against God, and His Word, and His Created Order for men and for women. Yes, it's an all-out war! What are we going to do? How are we going to actively, intentionally, & biblically engage this? We must prepare.

Parents cannot fall into:

1. Selfishness – thinking of self
2. Self-indulgence – doing what self wants
3. Negligence – hands off [they'll figure it out]
4. Passivity – taking things as they come/being reactive.

**God made woman, so God alone determines what it *means* to be a woman & the *role* of the woman to fulfill. God is The Authority, not man!**

“The world looks for happiness through self-assertion. The Christian knows that joy is found in self-abandonment. ‘If a man will let himself be lost for my sake, then he will find his true self.’ A Christian woman’s true freedom lies on the other side of a very small gate — Humble obedience — but that gate leads out into a largeness of life undreamed of by the liberators of the world (our culture), to a place where the God-given differentiation between the sexes is not obfuscated but celebrated, where our inequalities are seen as essential to the image of God, for it is in male and Female, in male as male and female as female, not as two identical and interchangeable halves, that the image of God is manifested.” (Elizabeth Elliot)

- What is it that prompts a young woman to give her life for the Lord?
  1. A Towering View of God’s Glory
  2. A Satisfied Taste of Christ’s Love
  3. A Singular Ambition from God’s Spirit
  4. A Full-fledged Reliance on Holy Scripture
  5. An Eternal Mindset of a Soul’s Worth

“Biblical womanhood clashes with prevailing notions of femininity. The Bible insists that women will find freedom, joy and liberation not in casting off God’s design, but in embracing it. Of course, this is true not just with gender roles, but in our whole lives as Christians: we find all that our hearts seek not in rejecting biblical wisdom, but in allowing it to reshape us.... To be a woman is to support, to nurture, and to strengthen men in order that they would flourish and fulfill their God-given role as leaders.” (Owen Strachen)

**Titus 2:4-5 will guide us as to how and what we should teach our younger women regarding biblical womanhood & biblical femininity.**

Titus 2:4 -- we are to “encourage” the young women [NASB].

The word means to urge, train, teach, admonish, school; to strongly encourage with purpose.

- So, we must, then, be intent to encourage, to train, to bring to their senses, to think rightly; to hold on to their duty; to think rightly & live soberly accordingly to what they know to be right (from Scripture).
- Our young women must learn to live by what they *KNOW* is true & not live by how they *\*FEEL\** in a moment.
- **Feminism** is a feelings-oriented, self-focused, pridefully-driven way of life;
- **Biblical femininity** is a Truth-oriented, God-focused, Spirit/Scripture-led way of life!

From Titus 2, our young women must be taught in 3 primary realms (*domestic* life, *personal* life, *spiritual* life).

## **I. IN THEIR *DOMESTIC* LIFE**

1. love their husbands

2. love their children

3. submissive to their own husbands (5b)

You don't need a Master's Degree to figure out what it means to love your husband, love your children, and work at home. How hard is that? By the way, there are no qualifiers there, no caveats, no footnotes. It's just what it says. Go home, submit to your husband, have children, raise them in godliness, take care of your house. And that's what older women are to teach younger women, they're to teach it not only with their mouth, they're to teach it with their life.  
(John MacArthur)

## II. IN THEIR **PERSONAL** LIFE

1. Sensible

2. Pure

3. Kind

## III. IN THEIR **SPIRITUAL** LIFE (v.5)

- “so that...” — the Word will not be dishonored. So that God's Truth won't be discredited; so as to not bring shame upon the Word; so that no one can say anything 'insulting' about the Word.



A woman can be a woman of strength (Prov 31:10)

- But, her strength flourishes as she loves & lives out God's plan for her as a woman, as revealed in Scripture!
- A woman's beauty & strength radiates in her fear of the Lord, her softness, her inner beauty of a quiet & gentle spirit, her purity & modesty in dress, her help to men, her respect for & submission to her husband if married, and her life giving, nurturing instinct!

So then, we could rightly affirm the following:

- ✓ A woman's strength comes in her UNCOMPLAINING SUBMISSION.
- ✓ A woman's dignity thrives in her GOD-PURSUING OBEDIENCE.
- ✓ A woman's honor excels in her HARD-WORKING ROLE/FUNCTION.
- ✓ A woman's work flourishes in her STEADFAST FAITHFULNESS.
- ✓ A woman's glory triumphs in her GOD-FEARING REVERENCE.
- ✓ A woman's legacy advances in her BIBLICAL CHILDREARING.
- ✓ A woman's crown adorns in her HEAVENWARD ORIENTATION.

A biblical woman's perspective on **submission**:

"Christians—both men and women—recognize first the authority of Christ. They pray 'Thy will be done.' They set about making an honest effort to cooperate with what He is doing, straightening out the kinks in their own lives according to his wishes. A Christian woman, then, in submission to God, recognizes the divinely assigned authority of her husband (he didn't earn it, remember, he received it by appointment). She then sets about lending her full strength to helping him do what he's supposed to do, be what he's supposed to be—her head. She's not always trying to get her own way. She's trying to make it easier for him to do his job. She seeks to contribute to his purpose, not scheme how to accomplish her own." (Elizabeth Elliot)

A passionate call to **study the inspired Scripture** (first and foremost!) to understand biblical womanhood:

"Let me exhort you not only to study the Scriptures, to learn the way of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, but to study them, in order to form your own character as women, by their precepts and their examples. Many and precious are the volumes that have been written for your benefit by your own sex. Female pens have been most happily and usefully employed in delineating female excellence, in writings which you would do well to read. But after all, there is no guide for the formation of female character, morally or spiritually considered, like the inspired one. A woman unacquainted with the Bible, and ignorant of its contents, as affecting her own conduct, character, and history, has yet to know the finest patterns of female loveliness. The Bible is the best mirror by which most accurately to know what you are, and to become what you should be; before which you may adjust all the moral clothings of the soul, and from which you may go forth adorned with all the beauties of holiness, clothed with the garment of purity, and decorated with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit." (John Angell James)

The importance of **godly character** in biblical womanhood:

The most precious earthly treasure a girl can have, is character. Her character is what she really is. If she will look beyond what she appears to be, and what people think of her – and look at her heart fairly and honestly, judging herself by the standards of right and wrong to which her own conscience gives sanction – then she can know whether she has a good character. Remember, many things that are fun – end in wrong! Much that seems pleasurable – after awhile comes to be evil! Everything like this should be rejected without hesitation. To do right will often cost a struggle – but it is always worth the effort. We dare not allow ourselves to be continually guided by what others do. Christ is our Perfect Pattern, and only those who form their lives after Him, are building the best character. He is the one great Pattern for us, His children. (Mabel Hale)

The **dazzling sparkle** that biblical femininity proves to be in godly woman in a dark and depraved culture:

Like the diamond, also, womanhood of this type shines the most brightly in the darkness. The noble woman is beautiful in the light—in the time of joy, in the brightness of prosperity, in the midst of earthly gladness. She shines then in her home, among her friends, wherever she goes. But it is only in time of trial, that the most precious things in her nature appear. Like those precious stones, too, the rich luster of her life is not dimmed by time and its experiences. Sorrow comes upon her—but it makes her beauty of soul only the more radiant. Care comes to her—toil, burden bearing, responsibility, sometimes poverty, pinching want, loss—but amid it all, she moves victorious, unfretted in spirit, keeping faith, her face shining still with its sacred inner light. And she works good works. There ought to be sweet encouragement in this, for every woman who is trying to live a life of loving service for Christ. No one knows what the final outcome will be of the smallest thing done in love, for one of Christ's little ones in the Master's name. (J.R. Miller)

**THE CHRISTIAN HOME**

<i>O give us homes built firm upon the Savior, Where Christ is Head, and Counsellor and Guide; Where ev'ry child is taught His love and favor And gives his heart to Christ, the crucified: How sweet to know that tho' his footsteps waver His faithful Lord is walking by his side!</i>	<i>A home where each finds joy in serving others, And love still shines, tho' days be dark and grim.</i>
<i>O give us homes with godly fathers, mothers, Who always place their hope and trust in Him; Whose tender patience turmoil never bothers, Whose calm and courage trouble cannot dim;</i>	<i>O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Master, The Bible read, the precious hymns still sung; Where prayer comes first in peace or in disaster, And praise is natural speech to ev'ry tongue; Where mountains move before a faith that's vaster, And Christ sufficient is for old and young.</i>

# Session 7 — Biblical Grandparenting

Taught by Randy Kirkland

Sunday, March 1, 2020

## Biblical Grandparenting

### I. The Privilege...

**Proverbs 17:6**...Grandchildren are the crown of old men,  
And the glory of sons is their fathers.

### II. The Profile...Godly Character

**Titus 2:1-5** But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

**2 Older men** are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

**3 Older women** likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, **4** so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, **5** to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

### III. Perpetuating Biblical Truth...

**Deuteronomy 4:9** “Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.

Deuteronomy 6:6,7

Deuteronomy 11:19

Ephesians 6:4

**Psalms 78** Listen, O my people, to my instruction;  
Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings of old,  
3 Which we have heard and known,  
And our fathers have told us.

4 We will not conceal them from their children,  
But tell to the generation to come the praises of the Lord,  
And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.  
5 For He established a testimony in Jacob  
And appointed a law in Israel,  
Which He commanded our fathers  
That they should teach them to their children,  
6 That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be  
born,  
That they may arise and tell them to their children,  
7 That they should put their confidence in God  
And not forget the works of God,  
But keep His commandments,  
8 And not be like their fathers,  
A stubborn and rebellious generation,  
A generation that did not prepare its heart  
And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

### **Notable Grandparents...**

**Lois (2 Timothy 1)..**3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

### **Estelle...**

### **IV. Presence...**

“Being a grandparent is an exciting calling. Many a grandparent has said that if they knew grandchildren were so much fun, they’d have skipped the kids and gone straight to the grandkids! Have fun with your grandchildren. Build lifelong memories. Share wisdom. Serve the Lord alongside them, if possible. Listen when they are struggling. Be a shoulder to lean on. But, above all, be a godly example and influence, not afraid to speak up with God’s truth, even when it’s difficult.”  
Avery Foley

- Support Mom and Dad...and know when to step aside.
- Personal time
- Listen
- Encourage
- Appreciate individuality...interests, aptitudes

## V. Perspective...Share wisdom

- Lessons learned
- God's provision and faithfulness

**Psalm 145:4** “One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.”

**Psalm 100:5** “For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.”

**Psalm 37:25** “I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.”

## VI. Prayer...

### How To Pray For Your Children and Grandchildren

Wayne Stiles

“The list is not a magic formula. It doesn't guarantee that God will answer right away. But prayer is powerful, even when the answer is delayed.

Because there are 12 prayers in this list, you could concentrate on one prayer per month. Within a year you will have consistently prayed the entire list.

#### **1. That they will know Christ as Savior early in life.**

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. —Romans 10:1

From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. —2 Timothy 3:15

#### **2. That they will have a hatred for sin.**

Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for He guards the lives of His faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. —Psalm 97:10

#### **3. That they will be caught when guilty.**

It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. —Psalm 119:71

**4. That they will be protected from the evil one in each area of their lives: spiritual, physical, emotional, social.**

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. —Luke 2:52

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. —John 17:15

**5. That they will have a responsible attitude in all their interpersonal relationships.**

Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. —Daniel 6:3

**6. That they will respect those in authority over them.**

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. —Romans 13:1

**7. That they will desire the right kind of friends and be protected from the wrong friends.**

My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them. If they say, “Come along with us; let’s lie in wait for someone’s blood, let’s waylay some harmless soul.” —Proverbs 1:10-11

**8. That they will be kept from the wrong mate and directed to the right one.**

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? —2 Corinthians 6:14

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.” —Genesis 2:18

**9. That they, as well as the one they marry, will remain pure before and after marriage.**

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. —1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge. —Hebrews 13:4

**10. That they will learn to submit completely to God and actively resist Satan in all circumstances.**

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. — James 4:7

**11. That they will be single-hearted, willing to be sold out to Jesus Christ.**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God –this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. —Romans 12:1-2

**12. That they will be hedged in so they cannot find their way to wrong people or wrong places and that the wrong people cannot find their way to them.**

Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way. —Hosea 2:6”

<https://waynestiles.com/how-to-pray-for-your-children-and-grandchildren/>

## **What will your legacy be?**

**Proverbs 13:22a...**A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children

“We often think of “inheritance” in terms of money, valuable possessions, or property. But we leave our children and grandchildren so much more than that. When God takes us home, we leave behind a ‘spiritual inheritance’...a legacy that will long outlive us. This legacy can be either positive or negative. What legacy are you leaving behind?” Ken Ham

“Our goal should never be just to be liked by our grandchildren. It should be to share God’s works and goodness with them so that the next generation and the generation after may praise and glorify the name of the Lord God.” Avery Foley

## **Jacob’s Blessing of Joseph...**

**Genesis 48...**15 He blessed Joseph, and said,  
“The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,  
The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,  
16 The angel who has redeemed me from all evil,  
Bless the lads;  
And may my name live on in them,  
And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;

And may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”

“In Jacob's blessing there is a threefold appellation of the Deity, and a threefold blessing given to Joseph's sons. God is, first, the Elohim before whom his fathers had walked. Next, He is the Elohim who, as a shepherd, had watched over Jacob all his life long. But, thirdly, He is that Divine Presence which had been, and still was, Jacob's "goel," redeeming and rescuing him from all evil.

The word "goel" is here used for the first time...it is here used in its wider sense of a Saviour and a Deliverer...Jacob recognised a Divine Presence which constantly guarded him, and which was ever his Redeemer and Saviour.” Charles John Ellicott

## **Appendix 1...**

### **Spurgeon's Secret for Raising Godly Children**

“On September 20, 1856, Charles Spurgeon came home to an unexpected surprise – twin sons. Susannah had given birth on that Saturday morning to Charles and Thomas.

Spurgeon taught his sons to love the Bible. He also encouraged them to study the historic confessions of faith like the Westminster Catechism and the Second London Confession of 1689. To make sure his sons were grounded firmly in the gospel, Spurgeon waited until their eighteenth birthday to baptize them. ‘I would have children taught all the great doctrines of truth without a solitary exception.’

Both Thomas and Charles followed in their father's footsteps and became Christian ministers. Spurgeon was constantly surrounded by children from the orphanage. He edited a catechism for kids and also wrote a book entitled Come Ye Children.

Children brought out Spurgeon's brightest and tenderest side. His biographers claimed Spurgeon himself was childlike in his faith and in his preaching. Even children could understand the lofty theological doctrines he incarnated in the pulpit. ‘You do not thoroughly know any truth till you can put it before a child so that he can see it.’

Here are thirteen quotes by Spurgeon about raising Godly children...

1. “As soon as a child is capable of being lost, it is capable of being saved.”



2. "Whether we teach young Christians truth or not, the devil will be sure to teach them error."
3. "Children will imitate their fathers in their vices, seldom in their repentance."
4. "Some of the worst of men have been the children of godly parents."
5. "If we never have headaches through rebuking our children, we shall have plenty of heartaches when they grow up."
6. "We must not expect to see our children blessed unless we ourselves grow in grace."
7. "What a blessing to have our children enlisted in Christ's army!"
8. "If you want the eminent men in God's Church, look for them amongst those converted in youth."
9. "I hope we seldom bow the knee without praying for our children."
10. "You cannot pray for your children if you do not pray for yourselves."
11. "It is not your instruction that can save the souls of your children; it is the blessing of God the Holy Spirit accompanying your labours."
12. "It is not very easy, I know, to preach Christ to little children, but there is nothing else worth preaching."
13. "Give us the first seven years of a child, with God's grace, and we may defy the world, the flesh, and the devil."

### **Spurgeon's Secret**

Spurgeon knew how to raise Godly children because his parents and grandparents raised him to fear the Lord.

'Here, then, is the secret. You must impart to the young your own soul; you must feel as if the ruin of that child would be your own ruin.'

Speaking about his own family tree, Spurgeon said, 'O that the line may continue for years to come, till as long as generations are born there shall be one of our kith and kin to carry the standard and sound the trumpet and fight for the Lord of Israel.'

Today, the Spurgeon family continues to uphold their ancestor's great legacy and love for reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

<https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/blog-entries/spurgeons-secret-for-raising-godly-children>

## **Appendix 2...**

### **Four Biblical Roles of Grandparenting**

#### **ROLE 1 God wants you to be a BLESSING GIVER**

*"The memory of the righteous will be a **blessing**..." -Prov. 10:7*

##### **Be a Blessing Giver:**

###### **Spiritually** by:

- *praying* for them and with them
- *encouraging* them in their growth and gifts
- *valuing* them as God's special creation

###### **Emotionally** by:

- *celebrating* their accomplishments
- *encouraging* them through their struggles
- *communicating* unconditional love always

###### **Physically** by:

- providing a home where they're *always welcome*
- providing arms where they're *always safe*
- providing an atmosphere where they're *always accepted*
- 

#### **ROLE 2 God wants you to be a LEGACY MAKER**

*"The righteous man leads a **blameless life**; blessed are his children after him." -Prov. 20:7*

##### **Be a Legacy Maker** by:

###### **Bringing honor** to your family reputation through godly living

- *living* a life of integrity both publicly and privately
- *bringing* the best out in those around you

###### **Making decisions** based on an eternal perspective

- *finishing* well- always have the end goal in mind
- *loving* people and using things instead of loving things and using people

###### **Leaving 'good tracks'** for your grandchildren to follow

- *letting* them know why you do what you do
- *being* and example of faithful living

### **ROLE 3 God wants you to be a TORCH BEARER**

*"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come." -Psalm 71:18*

Be a **Torchbearer**...

#### **Of the gospel to your grandchildren and your community**

- make sure your grandchildren hear the truth of the gospel
- trust the Holy Spirit to draw them on His time schedule
- demonstrate a consistent concern and compassion for unsaved people

#### **Of moral living in an immoral world**

- take bold yet gracious stands on moral issues
- show them how to flourish spiritually in a hostile culture
- teach your grandchildren to develop discernment as you help them evaluate their world

### **ROLE 4 God wants you to be a STANDARD SETTER**

*"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree...They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him." -Psalm 92:12,14-15*

Be a **Standard Setter**...

By modeling, teaching and encouraging:

- inspiring faith
- consistent integrity
- practical poise
- personal discipline
- steadfast endurance
- contagious courage

<https://familymatters.net/grace-based-parenting>



