

## Small Group Guide

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### BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD (PART 1)

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

May 15, 2011

Genesis 1-3

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

### Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

**Welcome**—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

**Review**—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

**Prayer**—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

### Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

#### Sermon Outline

##### The Effects Of Manhood And Womanhood...

- Our understanding of \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our understanding of the \_\_\_\_\_ gospel \_\_\_\_\_.
- How we express our \_\_\_\_\_ sexuality \_\_\_\_\_.
- How we love our \_\_\_\_\_ spouses \_\_\_\_\_.
- How we thrive as \_\_\_\_\_ singles \_\_\_\_\_.
- How we train our \_\_\_\_\_ children \_\_\_\_\_.

##### Three Truths About Manhood And Womanhood...

- God created men and women with \_\_\_\_\_ equal \_\_\_\_\_ dignity. (Genesis 1:26-31)
  - We all \_\_\_\_\_ resemble \_\_\_\_\_ God.
  - We all \_\_\_\_\_ represent \_\_\_\_\_ God.
  - We all have the capacity to \_\_\_\_\_ relate \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
  - We all have personal \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility \_\_\_\_\_ before God.
- God created men and women with \_\_\_\_\_ different \_\_\_\_\_ roles. (Genesis 2:4-24)
  - Man and woman \_\_\_\_\_ complement \_\_\_\_\_ one another.
    - Man was created to be the \_\_\_\_\_ head \_\_\_\_\_ . (1 Cor. 11:3, 8; Eph. 5:23)
    - Woman was created to be the \_\_\_\_\_ helper \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - Man was created to exercise loving \_\_\_\_\_ authority \_\_\_\_\_ over woman.

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- Woman was created to extend glad submission to man.
- Are you sure about that?
  - The order of creation. (1 Tim. 2:12-13, 1 Cor. 11:8)
  - The design of creation.
  - The naming of woman.
  - The naming of the human race.
  - The representation of man. (Rom. 5)
  - The responsibility of man. (Gen. 3:1-9)
  - The effect of sin. (Gen 3:16-19)
    - Not the introduction of new roles.
    - Instead, the distortion of previous roles.
  - The redemption of sinners. (1 Pet. 3; Eph. 5)
- God created men and women as a reflection of the Trinity.
  - The persons of the Trinity are equally divine.
  - The persons of the Trinity are positionally different.
    - The Father has authority over the Son.
    - The Son is subject to the Father. (Rom. 8:34; Heb 1:3, 13; 1 Pet. 3:22)
  - This is loving authority and glad submission in the context of beautiful relationship.

#### Three Conclusions Concerning Manhood And Womanhood...

- All of this is good for us.
  - Unity in Diversity: We are attracted to one another by our differences.
  - Equality amidst Intimacy: We honor one another as we enjoy one another.
- All of this is glorifying to God.
  - We reflect His character.
  - We trust His Word.
- All of this is the essence of the gospel. (Eph. 5)
  - Christ is our sacrificial groom.
    - He died to save us.
  - We are His submissive bride.
    - We live to serve Him.
  - God has designed the headship of men and the help of women to display the glory of Christ in the salvation of the church.

### Message Summary

*Our culture has been bombarded with various understandings of what true manhood and womanhood is in theory and how it lives out in practice. God addresses this topic clearly through His Word, however, and our understanding of it affects how we view Him, the gospel, and relate to those around us. God created man and woman as equals in value and dignity. Both genders were created in the image of God and bear that image to the world. Men and women are both valued equally by God and are both worthy of the respect and dignity of others. Although both are inherently equal in their beings, the roles of men and women differ according to the picture given by God in creation. The man is the head and is given the responsibility to lead in the Spirit of God, in the pursuit of God's glory; the woman is given the role of follower, supporter, and co-laborer by the Spirit of God in the pursuit of God's glory. The introduction of sin into the world did not introduce or change the intent of these roles, but, rather, distorted the men and women who fill those roles. The biblical understanding and application of manhood and womanhood allows believers to actively portray the gospel before a sinful world and glorifies Christ through the display of God's image to a lost world.*

### Discuss

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Use the following questions to review the Head (What does God want me to know?), Heart (What does God want me to value?), and Hands (What does God want me to do?) aspects of the message.

- How is God's creation of gender evidence of the importance of both genders in individual identities? In families? In the world?
- How does our society de-value genders by efforts to homogenize them and critique differences?
- How do we belittle the opposite gender by our words, even if seemingly in jest? How is this harmful to instilling value for the beauty of gender differences in our children?
- What images come to mind when you hear the words "authority" and "submit"? How do our possibly negative cultural influences affect the way that we want to interpret biblical teaching about manhood and womanhood?
- If you are a man, do you feel arrogance when you hear that you are the "authority" over your wife? What does this indicate about your misunderstanding of biblical manhood? What should you feel in light of this responsibility?
- If you are a woman, do you feel defensive when you hear that you are to be "submissive" to your husband? What does this indicate about your misunderstanding of biblical womanhood? What should you feel in light of this valuable role?
- How does our existence as sinful men and women affect the way that we view the roles of men and women as laid out in Genesis and the rest of Scripture?
- What models in our lives do we have that live out a biblical example of the beauty of manhood and womanhood?
- Why is it difficult to imagine the loving and beautiful relationship between the authority of a husband and the submission of a wife if we have not seen it modeled before? How does the example of our own parents affect how we view God's design in this case?
- What steps can we take to make sure that we are reading God's intended meaning of Scripture instead of reading our cultural influence into Scripture?
- How can the nature of the difference in roles between men and women NOT affect their equal intrinsic value?
- Why is the biblical relationship of godly men and women important in the spread of the gospel?
- How are these relationships not only a living picture of the gospel, but also a living representation of God?
- How does your view of God affect your understanding of gender roles and functions?

## **Respond . . .**

*Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:*

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to value?
- How do your values need to change to align with His values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?
- How should the truths of this message affect the way you invest in the next generation?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.

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### ***Weekly Prayer Focus ... (from the worship guide)***

- ***Global:*** *This week we are praying for the Brook Hills Mid-Term Missionaries going out this summer. We are also praying for Brook Hills teams in East Asia, India, and Southeast Asia.*
- ***Local:*** *This week we are praying for The Jimmie Hale Mission. We are also praying for Briarwood Presbyterian, Harry Reeder, Pastor.*
- ***Lives and Church:*** *Let us all pray that God fills this faith family with men who reflect the character of the perfect Man, Jesus Christ.*