

Small Group Guide BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD (PART 2)

The Church at Brook Hills

Dr. David Platt

May 22, 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

BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD (PART 2) Genesis 1-3

Summary of Manhood and Womanhood in Genesis 1-2...

- God created men and women with equal dignity.
- God created men and women with different roles.
 - Man was created to be the head.
 - Woman was created to be the helper.
- God created men and women as a reflection of the Trinity.
 - This is loving authority and glad submission in the context of beautiful relationship.

Sin’s Distortion of Manhood and Womanhood in Genesis 3...

- Manhood...
 - Passive: Spineless _____ abdication _____ of his responsibility.
 - Aggressive: Selfish _____ abuse _____ of his authority.

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- He will experience pain in his role of breadwinning.
- Womanhood...
 - Passive: Spineless dismissal of any responsibility.
 - Aggressive: Selfish defiance against authority.
 - She will experience pain in her role of childbearing.

God's Design for Manhood and Womanhood in Genesis 1-3...

- Manhood...
 - Man's primary responsibility is to lead...
 - For the good of woman.
 - For the glory of Christ.
 - Man is accountable to God for...
 - Protection of his wife.
 - Provision in the home.
- Womanhood...
 - Woman's primary responsibility is to support...
 - Through a humble disposition that yields to man's leadership.
 - With ultimate devotion to following Christ's leadership.
 - Woman is accountable to God for...
 - Affirmation of her husband.
 - Nurture in the home.

Application To Our Lives...

- Men...
 - Initiate humble, hard-working leadership...
 - In spiritual devotion.
 - In marital duties (or potential marital duties).
 - In parental discipline.
 - In essential decisions.
 - Amidst inevitable disagreements.
 - By the grace of Christ, lay down your life to...
 - Honor women.
 - Train boys to be men.
- Women...
 - Incline yourselves toward wise, willing submission...
 - To God in constant prayer.
 - To men in certain positions.
 - For the glory of Christ, live in a way that...
 - Demonstrates godly respect for men.
 - Shows girls how to be women.

Anticipation For The Future...

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- One day, our lives will be _____ redeemed _____.
- One day, our relationships will be made _____ right _____.
 - Jesus died to make us the _____ men _____ and _____ women _____ God created us to be.

Message Summary

Dr. Platt began with a summary of biblical manhood and womanhood based on Genesis 1–2. Man and woman were created with equal dignity and with different roles—in this they reflect the Trinity.

In Genesis 3, we read how sin distorted the roles of manhood and womanhood. Men are tempted to either abdicate responsibility or abuse their authority. Women are tempted to dismiss all responsibility or selfishly defy authority. Sin resulted in gender-specific punishments in this life (pain in breadwinning and childbearing).

God’s intention for men is that they would lead in protection and provision for the good of woman and the glory of Christ. God’s intention for women is that they would support through nurture and affirmation, with a humble disposition. Every woman is still ultimately responsible to Christ.

Men are to be humble, hard-working leaders and initiators in marriage, parenting, and the church. Women should be inclined to wise, willing submission to God and to men in certain positions.

Discuss

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.

- **Read Genesis 3. From the text, what are two ways in which men may sin and fail to fulfill their biblical roles? What are two ways in which women may sin and fail to fulfill their biblical roles? What are the consequences of sin for the man? For the woman?**
- **Why do you think it is so tempting for both men and women to shirk responsibility? How is selfishness at the core of both abuse of authority and defiance of authority? How do these sins show our lack of trust in God? How would an understanding and affirmation of both mankind’s responsibility and God’s sovereignty help combat these sins?**
- **How do these passive and aggressive sins play out in twenty-first-century Birmingham among both families and singles? Provide some examples. How does our contemporary culture tend to shape us into its conceptions of manhood and womanhood?**
- **Realizing that our natural inclinations are to react in one or both sinful extremes (I’m not responsible at all; or, I am fully in control—not God) how can we better prayerfully navigate decisions and roles in the home? How can we better serve each other in our roles as husband and wife?**
- **Man’s primary responsibility is to lead. How and for whose sake? Woman’s primary responsibility is to support. How and for whose sake?**
- **How can a man fulfill his duties to protect and provide for his wife and family? How can all men do these two things in the context of the church body?**
- **How can a woman fulfill her duties to affirm and nurture her husband and family? How can all women do these two things in the context of the church body?**
- **Men are to exhibit leadership in many areas. How can men lead in spiritual devotion? In marriage? In parenting? In mission? In the church? In decisions and disagreements?**
- **How does Genesis 3:20 show Adam’s trust in God and affirmation of his wife?**
- **Women are to be inclined to wise, willing submission. How can they maintain a submissive spirit? To men in what positions should they submit? Does submission equal being a doormat or committing intellectual suicide or putting up with abuse?**
- **How can men show boys how to be men? How can women show girls how to be women?**
- **When making decisions in the family, how can men initiate and lead while still affirming the gifting and dignity of their wives? How can women submit but still ensure they are ultimately taking responsibility for their actions before Christ?**

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- **What does biblical manhood mean for making disciples in all nations, even difficult places? What does biblical womanhood mean for making disciples in all nations?**
- **What are common distractions for men that keep them from leading? How can these be dealt with? What are common ways in which women can be deceived about their biblical roles? How can these be dealt with?**
- **Knowing that all of us struggle with sin, what hope does the gospel offer us in regard to biblical manhood and womanhood? How can God's forgiveness in Christ lead us to forgive others? How does the gospel give us hope for tomorrow?**

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?

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.

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

- **Lives and Church:** *Pray that our families and our faith family would honor the biblical teaching of what it means to be a woman, even if that means being radically countercultural.*
- **Local:** *This week we are praying for Family Connection, Inc. We are also praying for First Baptist Church Trussville, Buddy Champion, pastor.*
- **Global:** *This week we are praying for the Nicholises and the Coes, two long-term missionary families serving in Ecuador. We are also praying for Brook Hills team in East Asia, India, and Southeast Asia.*