

(b) Adam: fatherly role – to guard and to provide

Before the fall

Genesis 2:15 – “to work/minister it and keep/guard it” Num. 3:7-8, 18:7

After the fall

Genesis 3:17-19 – man toils to provide from the ground “Adamah”

(c) Eve: motherly role – to help and to give life

Before the fall

Genesis 2:18-20 – “helper” like God e.g. Exodus 18:4

After the fall

Genesis 3:20, “Eve... the mother of all the living.”

Some questions to discuss...

1. Talk together about being an image/mirror of God. How does this encourage us and challenge us as men or women?
2. Talk together about the calling and duty of being a father or mother (either biological or spiritual). Share any encouragements... puzzles... challenges.
3. Discuss this quote about how God wants us to relate: “a relationship or situation in which two or more different things improve or emphasize each other’s qualities.” How does this help us as we approach serving the Lord as men and as women?

Being male, being female: part 1

While waiting to begin: what difference does it make to everyday life knowing that you have a PURPOSE... which is to bring glory to CHRIST?

Introduction: why this topic?

- the Bible
- the world

1. We exist to glorify God – as men and as women

(a) We are made to mirror God (Genesis 1:26-28)

Let us make man “AS” our image

For what purpose? dominion & fruitfulness

(b) God has given us a body and a soul with which to glorify Him (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

NOT “bodies, glorify God”...

BUT “you, glorify God in your body”

Embodied souls...

e.g. “love...”

(c) Our bodies determine whether we're to glorify God as a man or as a woman

God's images are EITHER MALE images or FEMALE images.

2. God's design is for us to glorify Him as fathers and as mothers

(a) from the command of God in Genesis 1:29

God wants dominion/rule... and fruitfulness...
So, he gives us natures and abilities to achieve it

What distinguishes us?

- potential for fatherhood
- potential for motherhood

"The man is constituted – body and soul – with the purposes of being a husband and a father in view. The woman is constituted – body and soul – with the purposes of being a wife and a mother in view." (Matthew Roberts, *"Pride: identity and the worship of self"*, p96)

Being male and being female is both duty and vocation

(b) "dominion": human families are to be governed together by fathers and mothers

father: "he must manage his own household well" 1 Timothy 3:4,5,12
= preside, protect, maintain

mother: "manage their households" 1 Timothy 5:14
= ruler of the house, *oikodespotes*

(c) the church is a family that needs fathers and mothers

e.g. 1 Timothy 5:1-2

See 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Fathers:

Mothers:

Especially in the church

3. Men and women are different: "complementary"

(a) "complementarity"

"a relationship of situation in which two or more different things improve or emphasize each other's qualities."

Andrew Wilson, "Beautiful Complementarity"

entirely equal... necessary... similar-but-different