

God Made Male & Female

1.15.2017

BIG Idea: Men and women are equal & complementary image-bearers of God.

INTRODUCTION

- Last week we started a new series called "Image of God" by seeing how the bible answers the question, "What does it mean to be human?" We saw that being human = being made in the image of God and the purposes that come with it.
- Being made in God's image means we are created to...
 - Reflect God's character out to the world
 - Represent God's rule in the world
 - Relate in community
 - Re-create by cultivating potential and beauty in the world
- We saw how sin ruined us as God's image-bearers and how Christ came as the new Adam to restore us.
- As we looked at how God made people in his image, we see progressive facets of creation we see in Genesis 1-2...

Humans -> Male/Female -> Marriage -> Sex -> Cultural Mandate

 - Each of these facets is essential in God's plan for human flourishing and for human beings to carry out the purpose he created us for.
- We are in the second facet today and are looking at God creating human beings as male and female. It is important for each of us and for us as a church to
- Q&A- I will be up here at the front after the service. Around 5min after the service is over we will dive into a Q&A time for 15min. Anyone can participate, even if you didn't submit a question.
 - TEXT QUESTIONS to 617-942-0753 POST AT BOTTOM OF SCREEN, DURING SERMON
- Last week we started by asking the question, "What does it mean to be human?" Today, I want to lead with a similar question: What does it mean to be a man or woman? How we answer that question has implications for our understanding of who we are and what our purpose is in this world.
- We begin framing out what it means to be a man or woman from a very young age...As a young boy, I remember hearing the nursery rhyme that went like this...

What are little boys made of?
Snips and snails, and puppy dogs tails,
That's what little boys are made of. [interpretation: snips are little quantities of things. Bits of string, bits of rocks, bit of shells, bits of sticks, etc. So grab some snips, throw in a few snails, and some puppy dog tails and you have a boy.]

What are little girls made of?
Sugar and spice and all things nice,
That's what little girls are made of.
- Now, no one knows who wrote that nursery rhyme but what we know right off the bat is it was clearly not written by a man.
- This feeds into some historic stereo-types in our culture: little boys are trouble and little girls are sweet. Gender stereotypes carry over into adulthood and have shaped us all in one way or other.
- The modern transgender movement has sought to erase any sense of binary gender distinctions in favor of a more fluid and individualistic approach to gender and identity.

- These ideas have come into conflict with other gender movements like feminism. A NY Times article from a couple of years ago called "When Women Become Men at Wellesley" highlights how an historic feminist school like Wellesley College (about 25 minutes from here) has come to wrestle with the transgender movement which encourages students to identify as male if they feel it best describes their identity. Is the school an all women's school anymore if it includes individuals who identify as male and does that change the direction of the school as a champion of feminism?
- As we explore what the Bible says about the topic of God making us male and female, I want to make sure we don't lose the fact that it is firmly rooted in the image of God on hand and feeds ultimately into the Cultural mandate on the other.
- You can turn to GENESIS 1

3 Views on Manhood and Womanhood

1. Egalitarian – men and women are equal in all aspects and are interchangeable in all facets of society. Any distinction in giving roles to men versus women in the Bible is based on cultural norms not because this is the way God intended it.
 2. Hierarchical – men are superior to women and men hold a higher place in all facets of society.
 3. Complementarian - men and women are equal in their essential dignity and worth, but different and complementary in society, especially in relation to the family and the church.
- There is a range of complementarianism but the elders at City on a Hill fit into that camp. I was an egalitarian in college and early seminary but the more I read Scripture the more I saw that there is more to manhood and womanhood than just anatomical differences. We'll talk more about how complementarianism works out in the family and church next week but this week I want us to see that God made human beings male and female for a purpose. They are equal but different and seeing this helps us to see how sin has ruined manhood and womanhood and Christ brings restoration.

1. God made human beings male and female

- Same text as last week with the addition of 2:18. Genesis 1:26-28, 31; 2:18

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

*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, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.... And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

- God made males and females different and the difference is good. God declared it very good in 1:31. There is something beautiful and good about woman that is different than man and that there is something beautiful and good about man that is different than woman. If you believe this truth then you are a Complementarian. How we define particular roles or responsibilities may vary a bit but to believe that God made men and women equal but different for a purpose you are embracing complementarianism.
- While this is a biblical argument, there is also a mountain of scientific evidence that verifies men and

women are different physically and mentally.

- Physiological differences between men and women.
 - Men are larger and stronger than women and have about 30% more upper body strength.
 - Women enter puberty roughly 2 years prior to men but men's fertility lasts longer into life.
 - Men's and women's vital organs differ in size and efficiency. Men have larger hearts and lungs than women. Women have larger livers, stomachs, thyroid glands, and kidneys than men. Women have lower blood pressure and a faster heartbeat than men.
 - Men are more hairy than women. As one article said about this, "After puberty kicks in, men develop giant musty patches of hair all over their bodies, often making them indistinguishable from the legendary Sasquatch of the Pacific Northwest. Women are far less hairy and thus more fully human."
 - In athletics men have a clear advantage most of the time except for activities that require balance and long-endurance. As far as long endurance, men hold an advantage in marathons but in ultramarathons women compete nearly equally and will win over men periodically.
- Modern studies also reveal that the old idea that men and women think differently is actually based on neurological differences in the brain.
- A University of Pennsylvania study on the brains of men and women... "found greater neural connectivity from front to back and within one hemisphere in males, suggesting their brains are structured to facilitate connectivity between perception and coordinated action. In contrast, in females, the wiring goes between the left and right hemispheres, suggesting that they facilitate communication between the analytical and intuition."
 - "These maps show us a stark difference--and complementarity--in the architecture of the human brain that helps provide a potential neural basis as to why men excel at certain tasks, and women at others," said Verma.
 - The study reported that on average men are more likely better at learning and performing a single task, such as navigating. Women meanwhile were likelier to have a superior memory and social cognition skills -- making them better equipped for multi-tasking and creating solutions which could work for a group. (<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/health/men-women-brains-wired-differently-study-article-1.1535958>)
 - "It's quite striking how complementary the brains of women and men really are," said Dr. Ruben Gur. <https://www.pennmedicine.org/news/news-releases/2013/december/brain-connectivity-study-revea>
- God designed us differently physically and mentally so that as we complement each other as image-bearers of God, we can carry out the Cultural Mandate to spread across the earth, cultivating and creating for his glory and our joy.
- But this is how God created us and not how we are. Instead we see...

2. Sin has fractured us as men and women

- In Genesis 3, we see sin enter in. We will dig into this more next week when we talk about marriage but both Adam and Eve failed in their roles and it led to the fall into sin.
- Back in Gen 2:15 it says Adam was put into the garden to work it and keep it. The word for keep carries the idea of protect. Adam was to protect the garden and protect Eve. But what do we find in Genesis 3? The serpent, who we know to be Satan from later in Scripture, entered the Garden and was talking to Eve. Adam was there but he didn't intervene. When Satan started twisting the Word of God he didn't speak up. He abdicated his responsibility to protect Eve and instead stood there.
- Eve was made as a helper to Adam. She was made from him and was given to him as his bride. Yet, what do we see Eve doing in Genesis 3 but talking to Satan. It wasn't just that she talked to him but that she contemplated sin and went ahead and committed sin, all without as much as

a word to her husband. "Do you think this is a good idea?" She acted independently as if she didn't need him.

- They gave up being made as male and female in God's image for trying to BE God.
- And as we saw last week, when Adam and Eve sinned, it brought a tear in the fabric of our identity. The moment they rebelled against their creator things changed. They hid their nakedness from each other because they were ashamed, they hid themselves from God because of their guilt and fear, and when he confronted them individually they shifted the blame.
- Our broken relationship with our Creator meant that our relationship with ourselves was broken. We now longer thought rightly about who we were.
- Isaiah 53:6a *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;*
- No one is born and grows up in this world with an accurate concept of being a man or woman in the image of God. We all are effected by the fall on this... We have a sinful nature and then we choose to sin, even when we try to be good.
- ILL – My dad traveled a lot when I was growing up. He had taught me that when he left town that I was the man of the house. He had taught me that a man courageously protects those around him so I remember one time when I was 5 that my dad left for a business trip on evening. Right after dinner, I went upstairs to be room and got my little baseball bat and brought it downstairs. I plopped down on the couch next to my mom and she asked me what the bat was for. I explained to her that I was going to protect her and my sister while my dad was out of town.

I did that yet on countless occasions I would disrespect my mom and be mean to my sister. That carried through my teen years when I would use my strength to get my way or hurt others. I thought I knew what it meant to be a man but it was all tainted by sin.

- When it comes to manhood and womanhood cultures tend to manifest one of two extremes.
- Hyper-genderism – Gender is valued more than being equal image-bearers of God. This is where the differences between male and female are overly valued, creating a hierarchical society.
- Sinful masculinity and femininity develop.
- Genesis 4:23-24 Adam and Eve's great grandson Lamech pictures broken manhood. It says he took two wives, meaning he had stepped outside of the approved practice and then brags about how he killed a man for hitting him. Let's modernize this... Lamech collects women like trading cards and defines his manliness by the fact that he killed a guy for looking at him funny. "I'm the toughest, manliness man you've ever seen." His lust for power and his anger are out of control.
- In hyper-gender cultures men like Lamech rise to the top and women are devalued and are not treated like equal image-bearers of God. Countless women have suffered in cultures like this but so have men who don't fit the stereo-type of manhood. They are often ostracized because they are not the biggest or strongest or most manly.
- In these types of cultures women often find their sexuality can be used to gain power. We see this in the seductive woman who shows up all over the book of Proverbs. Women are valued for what they look like and sex becomes a currency whether with their husbands or other men.
- Agenderism is another response to our alienation from our Creator. Agenderism is where the division of people into male and female is considered erroneous and artificial. This is sometimes in response to hyper-genderism models of manhood and womanhood that have led to the abuse of women and alienation of some men.
- Gender dysphoria – the condition of feeling one's emotional and psychological identity as male or female to be opposite to one's biological sex is something we see more and more in our

culture. It shows up in a very small percentage of the population and for the majority of them the feelings pass in time but there are some that the sense of dysphoria persists.

- This is something the church has historically not been sympathetic to but the truth is because of the fall of mankind, we are all broken. We may not share the same degree of brokenness in every area of our lives but we are fellow broken people.

3. Christ restores us as male and female image-bearers

- As broken and fractured men and women, we would be hopeless if left in our sin. We are complicit in an open rebellion against our Creator and he is right in judging us. Yet, what we find in the midst of it all is not God's judgment but his pursuing grace.

Romans 5:6,8 *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

- Paul said "while we were weak." This is our condition before Christ comes but now we are loved. Now, Christ has taken our place, born the wrath we deserved and gives us new life.
- Jesus came on a rescue mission to undo all of the affects of the fall and restore humanity to our Creator. This is why Paul refers to being a Christian as being a new creation.
- 2 Cor 5:17 – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
- In the greatest sense possible every Christian is an image-bearers of God, made new in Christ, and being perfected like him. You are made new not just as an image-bearer but as a man or woman.
- That doesn't mean we are made perfect today. Christ purchased it and it is guaranteed but we still live in this flesh and in this broken world. We will all individually feel the struggle as long as we are in this world. But here are a couple handles for biblical manhood and womanhood. Are NOT exhaustive but are a synthesis of a lot of verses. Just to give you a direction.
- **Being a man of God –Courageous love** Definitely not mutually exclusive but presses into the what God has created men to be whether single or married, whether at home or at work.
- We see this in places like 1 Cor 16:13-14 *"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."* There is something incredible about a man of God who is courageous in loving and serving other. Who steps into hard situations, takes on the burdens of others, and is the one to step in front of a bullet meant for others. The grace of God through Christ empowers men to step out of hyper masculinity and out of passivity into this kind of "holy masculinity." It is a context where others around him flourish and grow to love God more, including the women in his life.
- Notice this masculinity has nothing to do with how tall you are, how strong you are, whether you are good at sports or whether you even like sports at all. Its about character.
- **Being a woman of God – Bold faith**
not shaped by fear but faith in Jesus, modest and not overly valuing their appearance, not living life waiting for a man to complete them. Women were the first to see the resurrected Jesus, were among the early disciples, hosted churches in their homes, taught the word of God in various contexts, and suffered for the name of Christ.
- What you see in Proverbs 31 and in the other godly women of the Bible is a bold, active faith. It leads a woman to be more serious about life, about what is important, about God and about the mission of Jesus. Stats show Woman are more active in church and bible study groups than men.

- More single women are serving on the mission field in the hardest, most unreached places on earth today than single men. They seem to be stepping out with a bold faith that doesn't measure their life by whether they get a husband or other women think they are beautiful.
- There is something powerful about the bold faith of a woman who knows who she is in Christ and steps out. She brings all she is as a woman to the table of Christ's mission and he uses it.
- Notice being a woman of God has nothing to do with external appearance or what she wears or whether she can get guys to like her. It is about a woman's character.

CONCLUSION

- Christ meets us in our brokenness, in our sense that we are not enough. That we aren't the man or woman God wants us to be.
- ILL - Andrew Garfield is a famous actor most well known for playing Spiderman and dating Emma Stone. He recently did a movie called, *Silence*, based on a book by a Japanese author about two 17th century Portuguese monks who travel to Japan amidst the persecution and martyrdom of Christians by their government. To get ready for the role, Garfield went through a series of Catholic spiritual exercises. In an interview done afterward, he described what was described as a life changing experience.
 "The main thing that I wanted to heal, that I brought to Jesus, that I brought to the Exercises, was this feeling of not-enough-ness.... This feeling of that forever longing for the perfect expression of this thing that is inside each of us. That wound of not-enough-ness. That wound of feeling like what I have to offer is never enough."
 "What was really easy was falling in love with this person, was falling in love with Jesus Christ. That was the most surprising thing." He fell silent at the thought of it, clearly moved to emotion. He clutched his chest, just below the sternum, somewhere between his gut and his heart, and what he said next came out through bursts of laughter: "God! That was the most remarkable thing—falling in love, and how easy it was to fall in love with Jesus."

<http://www.americamagazine.org/issue/grace-enough>

- Trust – God made you just the way he did. Don't value your manhood or womanhood based on what our culture has pictured as ideal but know that you are in the image of God. You are a fallen man or woman and you will feel that in a very real way in this world but Jesus came that by his grace every brother of his can embrace living out as a courageously loving man or woman of bold faith.

***Unless otherwise notes, all verses are taken from the *English Standard Version*, copyright 2000, Crossway Books; Material used from Logos Bible Software Platinum edition; Tim Keller sermon, "In the Image of God" sermon (11.8.2008); John Piper article, "The Image of God" available on desiringgod.org