

BIBLICAL MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD - Lesson #2 | DR. LANDON DOWDEN

Preview:

- In the next few weeks we will cover:
 - Eph. 5
 - 1 Peter 3
 - Transgenderism
 - Specific studies for men and women

Review:

1. Last week we:

- Confessed** that many of us had not been equipped in biblical manhood and womanhood by the churches we grew up in.
- Confirmed** that we should study this topic from the Bible and that it's a needed word for both adults and youth.
- Concluded** that:
 - Our gender is not an accident or arbitrary but by Divine design
 - Our gender is not just for the purposes of reproduction but also for our responsibilities as gospel men and women.
- Contended** that: (from *What's the Difference?*)
 - AT THE HEART OF **MATURE MASCULINITY** IS A SENSE OF BENEVOLENT RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD, PROVIDE FOR AND PROTECT WOMEN IN WAYS APPROPRIATE TO A MAN'S DIFFERING RELATIONSHIPS.
 - AT THE HEART OF **MATURE FEMININITY** IS A FREEING DISPOSITION TO AFFIRM, RECEIVE AND NURTURE STRENGTH AND LEADERSHIP FROM WORTHY MEN IN WAYS APPROPRIATE TO A WOMAN'S DIFFERING RELATIONSHIPS.
 - Male-female equality** - Man and woman bear God's image equally.
 - Male headship** - In the partnership of two spiritually equal human beings, man and woman, the man bears the primary responsibility to lead the partnership in a God-glorifying direction.
 - Initiation not domination (leadership but not dictatorship)
 - Primary responsibility but not sole responsibility (partnership w/wife)
 - Sacrificial love in action
 - Male domination** - the assertion of the man's will over the woman's will, heedless of her spiritual equality, her rights, her value.

2. From Genesis 1, we saw the ways in which men and women are equal:

- Both are God's image bearers
- Both are vice-rulers on the earth
- From *What's the Difference?*
 - If God created us in his image AS MALE AND FEMALE, that implies **equality of personhood, equality of dignity, mutual respect, harmony, complementarity, and a unified destiny.**

3. From Genesis 2, we saw the ways in which men and women are different:

- God created the man first.
- God created the woman from the man.
- God created the woman to be a helper "suitable for him."
 - Paul - [1Co 11:8-9 ESV] 8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.
- As the man initiates, the relationship with his wife should be:
 - Primary
 - Permanent
 - Exclusive
 - Intimate

4. If Genesis 1 and 2 reveal to us the pattern of biblical manhood and womanhood, then Genesis 3 reveals where problems entered.

- Russell Moore video (<http://cbmw.org/uncategorized/cbmw-national-conference-media/>)
- Satan shows up and asks the first question in the Bible to Eve.

- i. Why does he ask her?
 - ii. Will those we've disciplined be prepared? We know they will be attacked.
- c. What should we know about Satan's attacks?
 - i. He gets us to **doubt** God so we will **distrust** God and ultimately **disobey** God.
 - ii. He attacks God's authority (Did Elohim instead of Did Yahweh Elohim)
 - iii. He attacks God's character
 - iv. He attacks the certainty of God's judgment
 - v. He assets pleasure but never mentions pain.
- d. Where was Adam?
 - i. Some contend he was not there the entire time.
 - ii. I believe he was there, but failed in his responsibility to protect his wife.
 - iii. He was passive.
 - 1. Are we being passive while those we love are being tempted?
 - 2. Are we being passive with our own temptations?
 - iv. Eve "gave some to her husband...and he ate"
 - 1. Is she fulfilling her purpose? (See Gen. 2:18)
 - v. When he participated "then the eyes of both were opened."
 - vi. Eve was deceived but Adam flat out disobeyed.
- e. God holds Adam primarily responsible:
 - i. He calls to the man - v. 9
 - ii. He uses the second person singular - "you" - v. 9
 - iii. Adam tries to shift the blame to God and to Eve.
- f. Consequences of the fall:
 - i. Man's relationship with God was changed (3:8-13; 3:22-24)
 - ii. Man's relationship with woman was changed (3:7, 12, 16)
 - iii. Man's relationship with creation was changed (3:17-19)
- g. The consequences for Eve:
 - i. Pain in childbearing
 - ii. Wanting to dominate her husband (see 4:7)
 - 1. No longer content to be helper but wanting to be the head.
 - 2. See footnote (against)
 - 3. The husband will rule over her.
 - iii. 1 Tim. 2:14
- h. The consequences for Adam:
 - i. Adam's problem was not just that he ate of the tree but also that he listened to the voice of his wife
 - 1. He let her lead
 - 2. He let her lead him into sin
 - ii. Cursed is the ground BECAUSE OF YOU
 - 1. Romans 5
 - iii. To dust you shall return (DEATH)
 - 1. God didn't tell Eve this, so why does she die?
 - 2. What's true for the head is true for both.
- i. The Gospel
 - i. God knew they were guilty but still came seeking them, just as He does for us.
 - ii. God covered them, just as He does for us.
 - 1. Two animals died that day as substitutes for Adam and Eve.
 - 2. Jesus died as our substitute and God covers us with His righteousness.
 - iii. God promised to crush Satan through the offspring of the woman.

Summary:

- Men and women are equal in the most important way - they both bear the image of God (Gen. 1)
- Men and women are called to play different roles with the husband bearing primary responsibility to lead the family in a God-glorifying manner as the wife supports and helps him. (Gen. 2)
- The fall has made fulfilling our responsibilities as biblical men and women extremely difficult, but our hope is found in the gospel (Gen. 3)
 - Two struggles/sins for men:

- Selfish domination with no regard for the wife's will or good.
- Passivity
- A struggle/sin for ladies:
 - Wanting to dominate their husbands.
 - Not wanting to submit to God's order for the home.

As we study Esther 1 this Sunday, Xerxes provides an unbiblical picture of masculine domination. There is no loving or sacrificial leadership evident in him that has Vashti's good in mind. He certainly has no regard for leading their relationship in a god-glorifying manner. Thankfully, this is not the kind of husband Christ is with His bride, the Church.