

“Displaying God’s Image Despite Our Cultural Wreckage”

Sermon Notes

- **In a world that suppresses and distorts biblical manhood and womanhood, let’s receive and relish these identities**

-Genesis 1:26-27; 2:15, 18

**God makes us male or fashions us female as he wills and behold, they are both very good, so...*

1. Brothers...look to Boaz

- His provision (vv.3, 8-9, 14-16)
- His protection (vv.5, 9b, 15b, 16b, 20b, 22b)
- His piety (1, 4, 12)

2. Sisters...look to Ruth

- She’s helping (vv.2, 6-7, 10, 11-13)
- She’s hard-working (vv.3, 7, 15, 17)
- She’s home (vv.18-23)

MEFC Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of October 9th - 15th

Getting Started

1. If a four-year old boy were to walk up to you and ask: “What does it mean for me to grow up to be a man - *and not a woman?*” how would you answer him? Now flip the question around. If it were instead a four-year old girl who asked you: “What does it mean for me to grow up to be a woman - *and not a man?*” how would you respond? In other words, what is the essence of manhood and womanhood? Though we clearly bear equal worth before God (Genesis 1:26-27, 31), are our differences merely that of biology? How do we answer these four year olds?

Digging Deeper

2. Psalm 100, verse 3 invites us to: “Know that the LORD himself is God; it is he who made us, and not we ourselves...”. Why is this truth a refreshing reminder to us especially in 21st century America? In a culture where it is increasingly held that we establish our own identity - particularly as it relates to gender - how do these words in Psalm 100:3 provide much-needed correction?

Open Your Bible to Genesis 1:26...

3. In our church, we treasure the biblical doctrine known as complementarianism - the scriptural teaching that men and women are equal in value and dignity (Genesis 1:26-27, 31; 2:23) yet different in role and responsibility. How many marks of equality can you spot the verses just cited? What practical impact ought these truths to have in our lives as we interact with one another as male and female?
4. While we are unwavering in our view of male and female equality, we are just as steadfast about our differences in role and responsibility. According to Genesis 2:15, God gives Adam two fundamental tasks in the garden. What are they? While the meaning of the first one is fairly straightforward, what about that second one? What does it mean that Adam is to “keep” the garden (*hint*: if you’d like a little help, the same word is used once again in Genesis 3:24 to describe the responsibility of the cherubim). How well did Adam do in this second role? Give some specifics from the text in Genesis 2-3.
5. How does man’s role as provider and protector reflect the image of God (Genesis 22:14; Philippians 4:19; Psalm 5:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)?
6. Men...in what ways do these God-given identities both encourage and challenge you? Where specifically do you sense your need for God’s grace in the gospel as you seek to carry out his design for you?
7. According to Genesis 2:18, God designs Eve for one fundamental task in the garden. What is it? Does this mean that Eve is consigned to the junior varsity of humanity? Like, women are the second-string gender...riding the bench on the b-team while men get to start on the a-team?

Before answering, read carefully through each of these biblical passages: Psalm 30:10; 46:1; 54:4; 71:23-24; 118:7; 121:1-2; Hosea 13:9; John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; and Hebrews 13:6. According to the Bible, what does it mean to be a “helper”? According to common sense, what does it imply about you if you require help (consider the first half of Genesis 2:18)? How does woman's role as helper reflect the image of God?

8. Women...in what ways does this God-given identity both encourage and challenge you? Where specifically do you sense your need for God's grace in the gospel as you seek to carry out his design for you?
9. At Mound Free Church, we don't simply put up with the Bible's teaching concerning manhood and womanhood, we take deep pleasure in it. Since complementarian theology is true to the biblical text, we believe it is both beautiful and best. Reflecting back on the message for both 'brothers' and 'sisters' in this week's sermon outline, how do Boaz and Ruth provide sterling examples for us as we look to grow in our understanding and application of what the Bible teaches us as men and women?