

Christian Doctrine Mankind (Part 5)

What Are Our Roles as Men and Women?

Men and Women Were Created Equal

As creations of God, we must recognize that whether we are a man or a woman, we were equally created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27; 5:1-2). Therefore, all people are equally important and valuable to God. It is wrong to say, as some cultures do, that men are more important than women, just as it would be wrong to say that women are more important than men. Scripture makes this clear in several aspects:

- Both have spiritual gifts and are equally important to the church (I Cor. 12:7, 12; I Pet. 4:10).
- Both rely on and need each other (I Cor. 11:11-12).
- Both are to give honor to the other (I Pet. 3:7; I Cor. 11:7).

Men and Women Have Different Roles to Fill

While it is true that men and women are completely equal, we must also recognize that each have their own roles to fill. From the beginning, man was created with the role of being the leader. For this reason, Adam was responsible for his family's actions (God went to *him* first after the fall - Gen. 3:9). Men have also been given the role of being the leaders within the church and submitting to Christ (I Tim. 3:1-13; I Tim. 2:11-14). Eve was created as a helper to Adam (Gen. 2:18) and has the role of submitting to the authority given to her husband (Eph. 5:22-24).

Different Roles Working in Perfect Harmony

The purpose of roles may most clearly be seen in God's design of the husband/wife relationship. The husband is to love his wife just as Christ loved the church. This means that he must be willing to serve his wife and sacrifice for her well-being (Eph. 5:25). In response, the wife submits to him and respects him for his God-given role as the leader (Eph. 5:22-24). Only when this is done, can the couple live in perfect harmony as God intended. As we trust God and obediently fulfill each of our roles, we enjoy the blessing and harmony He desires for us.

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