

Source night

Topic- Men and Women, same or different?

Introduction Past- Patriarchy Male dominates, the men hold the power. Women were often exploited. 1960's onward 'Women's liberation' Feminism. Some ask for equality, some say female superior to men. Current trend to become 'gender neutral', differences are 'purely biological' but Matthew 19 :4

Two viewpoints- Complementarian or Egalitarian (There are also views between these two)

Egalitarian The belief that both sexes are the same in value and role.

The most important thing is our heart 1 Samuel 16 :7 We are all the same in Christ Galatians 3 :28

The idea of a hierarchy in the relationship came from the curse from sin. Genesis 3 :16, so now Jesus has dealt with sin/curse this no longer applies.

References in the Bible to male headship etc are more to do with the culture/local situations at the time.

Complementarian The idea that although both sexes have the same value, but have different roles.

Equality is not sameness Galatians 3 :28 is talking about salvation, value, worth not roles.

You can believe in order without hierarchy, male headship does not mean male domination or male chauvinism. However scripture suggests the sexes have different roles & responsibilities. Titus 2:1-4

Complementarians hold that men and women were designed to be different, and have different roles in the home, church and some add society. Complementarianism fair, because God sets standards of fairness

Differences between men and women

God designed us, & meant us to be different. Dt 22:5

1. Biologically
2. Emotionally
3. Thinking and communication
4. Spiritually ?

Male	Female
Task focus	Relationship focus
Competitive	Cooperative
Logic	Intuitive
Wants to be respected	Wants to be cherished

Men and Women from Creation & Fall

Key points from creation and the fall. Lessons are for all time, as Adam had no parents to leave! 2 :25

Genesis 1 :26-31 Genesis 2 :18-25 Genesis 3 :16-21

1. God is responsible for two sexes. First thing 'not good' was for man to be alone 2 :18
2. Both sexes were made in the image/likeness of God. So both of same value, deserve same dignity. However within the trinity there is order + equal value. Order is in everything God makes & does. People are more like God than anything else in universe. We both reflect God & represent God on Earth and called to have a relationship with God
3. Man was given responsibility to name animals 2 :20, and his wife Eve 3 :20.
4. Both were given responsibility for creation 1 :28 Man set to work in the garden 2 :15
5. At the fall the sexes were given different curses. Pain in childbirth, ruled over 3 :16 Hard graft 3 :17
6. Did the fall happen because Adam failed to set example of Godly leadership & Eve took over? 3 :17

Men and Women from Salvation

Context of Galatians 3 :28 is important v23-29 heirship 1 Peter 3 :7

In 1st century culture only men inherited, unless no male relative, so women inheriting equally God's kingdom was radical stuff. Full equal right of inheritance in the UK only became law in 1922!

Jesus and Men and Women

There seems to be a difference in how Jesus spoke to men and women, being gentler with women.

Jesus tended to call women upward Luke 8 :48, John 8 :11, Matthew 15 :28 Women challenged to relate.

He tended to call men downward Luke 19 :5, Mark 9 :35, Mark 8 :33 Men were challenged to 'do'.

Men and Women at home and family 1 Peter 3 :1-7, Colossians 3 :18-19, Ephesians 5 :22-33

The man is called to lead within the family 1 Corinthians 11 :3

Wives are called to 'give' respect to that. (NB It is theirs to give, or take back e.g. no to sinful actions)

Jesus says a Husband and wife are one flesh Mark 10 :8 Reflection of trinity, both order and unity Jn 10 :30

Relationship between husband & wife, so special that used to explain Christ and his Church

Any place for a domineering husband? No, if Christ is picture of husband, 'Christ emptied himself'-Phil 2

A Christian husband is called on to accept his responsibilities, to lead by Godly example. Final say so

Bible turns concept of headship on it's head. World Head- Dominates Bible Head- Servanthood serves

Example of couple working as a team in ministry Acts 18 :26

Men and Women in the Church

Women were clearly involved in ministry in the early church, even hosting the Church itself. Col 4 :15

Phoebe was a deacon in the Church Romans 16 :1

Women prophesied in the church Acts 21 :9 Prayed in Church 1 Cor 11 :5

Pricilla and Aquila worked in the church together as a couple.

Two areas that men are called to do but not women. (Women were disciples, only men in 12 Apostles)

1. Biblical teaching 1 Timothy 2 :11-12

2. Overall Church leadership 1 Timothy 2 :12

Why? Purely for cultural reasons? Or spiritual reasons? For example, sensitivity?

Women were warned not to make attending Church a fashion show or chance to show off 1 Tim 2 :9-10

What about the head covering thing? 1 Corinthians 11 :2-16 Does it mean a cloth or hat should be worn by a woman in Church? Only covering talked about in passage is hair.

Key to understanding passage is v3 So the covering of long hair demonstrated acceptance of the authority of her husband and of God. Honouring God's order.

The Corinthian women were being told not to usurp men, but to glory in being a woman.

It was to be clear to an outsider that the men and women were not the same in appearance.



Men and Women in the wider secular World

Any Biblical reason for men and women to have different roles/jobs in the business/professional world?

No, in OT God called Deborah to be a leading figure in the nation Judges 4 :4-5

If we celebrate, rather than deny our differences, maybe we are drawn into different professions/roles?

How should Men and Women treat each other?

1. Respect Less physical strength should not be abused 1 Peter 3 :7 Husband praise his wife Proverbs 31 :10

2. Purity Recognise sexual temptation can be very powerful 1 Timothy 5 :2

3. Careful not to put each other down based on our sex. No-one should be demeaned.

Questions for Life Group next week

What does it mean to be feminine or masculine? Should we celebrate our differences more?



What does it mean in practice to be a Godly Biblical, man or woman?

Would you join a Church where the main leader was a woman?



Do we have the right attitude to the other gender in both our words and actions?

How do different roles work out in practice?

What is society's view in general about gender differences?