

Title: Biblical Womanhood

Passages: Titus 2:1-5; 1 Peter 3:1-6

Introductory Points

- God created both man and woman in His likeness and are equal in dignity and worth
- True Christianity has been the biggest promoter of women rights (contrast: inaccurate reference/application of the Bible)
- When speak against feminism, do not address the first-wave movement that spoke against lacking right to vote, abolishing enslavement, and spousal abuse,. As a Christian man, we are called to defend such rights anywhere in the world
- Do not dismiss the fact the messenger is a man (and not a woman) but focus on God's Word. God's Word is given by the Holy Spirit.
- Recognize that some in audience have come from a history of hurt by other men or people of authority. Deeply sorry for the pain. Here, share thoughts from God's Word in the context of a heart of compassion being a father of 4 girls and married.

EXPOSITION

I. To be feminine is God's idea.

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:21-22

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

- God created woman. Woman was the result of God's handiwork. One is feminine because created that way.
- A woman's identity of femininity should be rooted in God's Word (not by culture or feelings). Feminist is not result of cultural conditioning.
- God is your designer and creator. Your gender is not by accident. It was by God's design.
- Your femininity is a gift of grace from a loving God.

II. To be feminine means you're called to be a helper.

Genesis 2:18

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

- Helper = Necessary abilities and resources to be of help.
 - Not a term of inferiority.
 - Ex: God called Himself as a helper to the people of Israel. (obviously, God is not indicating He is inferior)

Isaiah 41:10

fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Resource: "Manhood and womanhood as defined by the Bible" - John Piper

<https://www.desiringgod.org/books/whats-the-difference.pdf>

- woman should be inclined to affirm and leadership and initiative of men around her.
- Singles: Look for a man you can help, not fix.
 - Be at peace that God knows your situation. Marriage is not the epitome of living.
 - Be content and be creative to cultivate leadership in the men in your life. (pastors, friends, workers, etc.)
 - Guard your heart against culture of disrespect of all things male in leadership.

III. To be feminine is to have a reverent attitude.

Titus 2:1-5

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

Reverent means respectful

Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior,

- reverent = like a priestess
 - One who acts like a priest of God
 - One with full awareness of God
- Characteristics = respectful, thoughtfulness, wisdom, gentleness, humble, and modest.
- OT Examples:

Job 2:9-10 (Irreverent = wife of Job)

Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

- Reverent = Esther, Abigail

Esther 5:1-2

On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, in front of the king's quarters, while the king was sitting on his royal throne inside the throne room opposite the entrance to the palace. And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won favor in his sight, and he held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

- Esther was thoughtful and respectful of her actions.

1 Samuel 25:25-26 (Abigail)

Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent. Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, because the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal.

- Abigail was very thoughtful and kind in her actions. She still cared despite her husband's poor actions.

not slanderers or slaves to much wine.

- Reverent behavior contrasted with culture
 - Culture: gossip / slander
 - Culture: methods of escapism

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

- Biblical woman runs to God to find ways to meet her needs
 - Ex: "War Room" movie where place of escape is prayer of room before God.

Why are many irrelevant?

- Many women lacked godly fathers.
- Many women lack godly examples.

Reverent means modesty (external and internal)

1 Timothy 2:9-10

likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

1 Peter 3:1-6

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

- Reverence is rooted in the fear of the Lord and humility/modesty.
- True womanhood cultivates true beauty of character
- A woman's value and worth is not contingent upon what she looks like.
 - Culture: "Look at me"
 - Biblical: "Look at God"
- Inner character is what truly matters.

Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

- when rooted in God, one doesn't need to compare oneself to others because one's focus is on pleasing God.

IV. To be feminine is to be a nurturer of the home

Titus 2:4-5

and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

- Woman has the ability to conceive and bear children.
 - Each child is a gracious gift of God.
- Scope also includes single and childless women.

Isaiah 54:1

"Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the LORD.

- Women who are single or without any biological children can still "mother" others and have great impact and influence well beyond what one could physically bear.

V. To be feminine is to love Biblically

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Definition: Love is an act of the will accompanied by emotion that leads to action be behalf of its object.

- Act of the will = choice
- Accompanied by emotion = sometimes action precedes feelings.
- See Jesus' example in Garden of Gethsamane.

Matthew 26:39

And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Luke 23:34

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

- Jesus chose to love us through the cross.

John 13:1

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

- Talk to yourself, don't listen to yourself.

Summary:

Women:

- Let your worth and identity be in God.

Husbands

- affirm and care for your wife's womanhood

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,