

Course outline

Foundations

- Week 1: Man and Woman in Creation: Equality, Fertility, and Complementarity
- Week 2: Man and Woman in Creation: A Biblical Theology of Beautiful Difference
- Week 3: Man and Woman in a Fallen World
- Week 4: Man and Woman in Christ
- Week 5: Man and Woman in the Modern World

Applications

- Week 6: The Meaning of Sex
- Week 7: Singleness and Marriage
- Week 8: Parenting
- Week 9: The Church (Part 1)
- Week 10: The Church (Part 2)
- Week 11: Work

Apologetics

- Week 12: Answering Common Questions
- Week 13: The Goodness and Beauty of God's Design

Questions? E-mail bobby.jamieson@capbap.org or paul.billings@campusoutreach.org

Suggested reading

- Mary Harrington, *Feminism Against Progress*
- Erika Bachiochi, *The Rights of Women*
- Alastair Roberts, “Rescuing Christian Masculinity” (online)
- Stephen B. Clark, *Man and Woman in Christ*, 467–506
- Abigail Favale, *The Genesis of Gender*, Ch 4
- Allan Carlson, *The Family in America*

CHBC Core Seminars

Man and Woman in Christ *Week 5*



Man and Woman in the Modern World

Introduction

What does it mean to be “working at home”? (Titus 2:5)

I. Four Ways the World Has Changed

1. *From a society that uses tools to one dominated and permeated by technology.*

2. *From household production to a market society.*

Transformations wrought by the industrial revolution:

- From working in and around the home to working in factories or offices. New and growing divide between “work” and “home.”
- From working for subsistence to working for pay.
- From men and women working interdependently to working separately.
- From producing a huge amount of necessary goods to *purchasing* virtually all of them: food, clothes, furniture, tools, housing.

Markets: from marginal to central and total.

Children: from economic asset to liability.

Work as the “chief repository of male identity” (and, increasingly, female identity)

Dorothy Sayers: “It is all very well to say that woman’s place is the home—but modern civilization has taken all these pleasant and profitable activities out of the home, where the women looked after them, and handed them over to big industry, to be directed and organized by men at the head of large factories.”¹

3. *From communal cohesion and generational continuity to atomized individuals.*

4. *From sex, marriage, and conceiving children all being (more or less) bound together, to divorcing sex from both marriage and children*

II. Where Are We Now?

Some statistics:

- Median age of first marriage: 28 for women, 30 for men
- Share of adults who never marry: 35% (in 1970, only 9%)
- Growing income gap in who does and doesn’t marry
- Percentage of undergraduate degrees obtained: 57.4% women, 42.6% men.
- US total fertility rate in 2020: 1.6. (Down from 3.7 in 1960)

In sum:

Equality ↑
Complementarity ↓
Fertility ↓↓
Diversity ↑

III. Application

1. *From tools to technological society:* What are ways that you can recognize and celebrate differences between men and women that our technological society minimizes?

2. *From household production to market society:*

- Sisters, whether you’re single or married, what can it look like, positively, for you to be “working at home”?
- Brothers, whether you’re single or married, how can you grow toward, and grow in being, a good manager of a household?
- What can your household do that a workplace or a commercial third space cannot?

3. *From communal cohesion to atomized individuals:* How rich or poor are you in natural family? How can you seek to provide for others in the church who are poorer in that way?

4. *Separating sex, marriage, and children:*

- What’s your attitude toward children? Do you see them as a good, and as good for you? Do you see them as a blessing to be desired or a nuisance to be avoided?
- If you are not married, but desire to be, what can you do now not only to prepare for marriage, but to prepare specifically to be a mother or father?

¹ Dorothy L. Sayers, *Are Women Human? Penetrating, Sensible, and Witty Essays on the Role of Women in Society* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005), 32–33.