*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

* Herman Bavinck, *The Christian Family*
* J. Budziszewski, *On the Meaning of Sex*
* W. Bradford Wilcox, “Reconcilable Differences: What Social Sciences Show About Complementarity of Sexes & Parenting” (online)
* Melissa Kearney, *The Two-Parent Privilege*

CHBCCore Seminars

**Man and Woman in Christ**

***Week 8***

**Parenting**

**I. Both Parents’ Goals for All Children**

*1. That they become mature adults.* (Prov. 10:5 and many others)

*2. That they become Christians and love the Lord with all their being.* (Deut. 6:1–7)

**II. What Mothers and Fathers Uniquely Contribute**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mothers** | **Fathers** |
| Capacity to breastfeed | More effective discipline |
| Ability to understand infants and children | Fun, engaging, challenging ***play*** |
| Ability to nurture and comfort children | Challenge children to embrace life’s challenges |
| Take greater pleasure in caring for infants |  |
| Lighter sleepers |  |
| Better at interpreting children’s physical and verbal cues |  |
| More attuned to child’s immediate well-being | More attuned to child’s long-term development |
| Discipline more responsive | Discipline more firm |
| Generally more flexible and sympathetic | Generally more predictable and consistent |
| In every community ever studied, mothers take primary responsibility for nurture of infants and small children |  |

**Parenting with the grain of sexual difference:**

* *Play to your strengths. Work on your weaknesses.*
* *Recognize that a mother’s role starts big and stays big, whereas a father’s role starts smaller and grows.*
* *Look to your spouse as a complement*.

**Counsel for mothers:**

*1. Embrace your indispensable role in the early years.*

*2. Embrace the vast scope of your calling.*

*3. Embrace the glory and dignity of care.* (Isa. 66:13)

*4. Beware the temptations of smothering and codependency.*

**Counsel for fathers:**

*1. Take initiative in your family’s spiritual formation.* (Eph. 6:4)

*2. Bear the weight and bring the fun.*

*3. Beware the temptations of passivity and harshness*. (1 Sam. 2:17, 22, 29; Col. 3:21)

**III. What Children of Each Sex Need**

**Girls:**

*1. Girls’ hearts flourish in the context of secure affection.*

*2. Teach girls to view their unique capacity to bear and nurture children as a gift to be welcomed rather than a defect to be minimized or avoided.*

*3.Encourage girls, as potential mothers, to develop motherly gifts, strengths, habits, and abilities.*

*4. Encourage a “success sequence” that differs radically from the world’s.*

World’s success sequence: education (and more education) >> good job >> establish career >> progress in career >> pseudo-marriage >> marriage (maybe, eventually) >> a child or two

**Boys**

*1. Boys’ hearts thrive on risk.*

*2. Learn to channel boyish energy into manly virtue.*

*3. Encourage boys, as potential fathers, to develop fatherly gifts, strengths, habits, and abilities.*

*4. Treat your son’s growth into manhood as a collaborative community project.*