

### III. Final Exhortations

Men:

1. Produce more than you consume (1 Tim 5:8)
2. Cultivate strength in all its forms (1 Cor 16:13, 1 Tim 4:7-8)
3. Find fitting objects for mastery
4. Singles: remove remaining impediments to marriage
5. Fathers: Consider what more you can give to your family

Women:

1. Be mothers, always in spirit sometimes in body
2. Recognize & lament false promises made by our culture
3. Be generous towards men with the currency of respect (Eph 5:33)
4. Singles: do not view your womanhood as wasted
5. Mothers: embrace the seasons of life

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#### Suggested reading

- O.M. Bakke, *When Children Became People*
- Brad Wilcox, *Why Marriage Matters: Thirty Conclusions from the Social Sciences*
- Richard Reeves, *Of Boys and Men*
- Paul Vitz, *The Complementarity of Women and Men: Philosophy, Theology, Psychology, and Art*

CHBC Core Seminars

## Man and Woman in Christ Week 13



## The Goodness & Beauty of God's Design

### Introduction

Sexual Difference is both Biblical and Beautiful.

Scripture's teachings, if believed and lived out, would *prevent* some of the world's greatest problems and *prime* us to experience some of life's greatest satisfactions.

### I. What Christian Teaching on Sexual Difference Counters

#### 1. *The Male Purpose Void* (1 Cor 11:7, 1 John 2:14)

Men are struggling. Some stats:

- Young men between 25 and 31 are 66% more likely than their female counterparts to be living with their parents.
- In 1985, the typical man between the ages of 20-34 could squeeze your hand with 30 more lbs of force than the typical man in the same age range today.
- The disparity in bachelor degrees attained between women and men is now wider than it was in 1972, when Title IX was instituted to counter the disparity men had over women.
- 1 in 5 men say they have gotten emotional support from a friend in the past week.
- Boys and men commit suicide 4x more often than women.

What does Scripture say to a man who feels useless or worthless?

## 2. *Spousal Oppression* (Eph 5:22-33, 1 Peter 3:7)

Wilcox: Churchgoing conservative Protestant men ranked the best at caring for their families, and nominal conservative Protestant men ranked the worst at caring for their wives and families.

Takeaway: Though easily distorted, Scripture's teaching on male leadership counters spousal oppression, because that leadership is to be marked by warmth, affection, and sacrificial service.

## 3. *Sexualization of Persons* (Matt 5:28)

Historical reference point: The Roman Empire & Early Christianity

To counter sexualization, you need:

- a re-enchantment of the sexual act
- a framework for regulating sex
- consent *and* covenant
- moralizing impediments to cheap sex

## 4. *Hyper-Individualism* (Mark 10:28-30)

Christian teaching invites men and women to care for one another as family members and to resist isolation.

Trend:

In 1950, a 65-year-old woman had an average of 41 living relatives. By 2095, she will have an average of only 25 living relatives.

## II. What Christian Teaching on Sexual Difference Promotes

### 1. The dignity of singleness

Jesus gives single Christians unique *encouragement* and *purpose*.

### 2. *More, Happier, and Earlier Marriages*

Marriage is good for the world.

- Marriage increases the likelihood that parents have good relationships with their children.
- Marriage hinders sexual promiscuity, aggression, & sensation-seeking amongst men.
- Marriage reduces poverty for women and children.
- Marriage reduces rates of alcohol and substance abuse.
- Married men have longer life expectancies.
- Married women have experiencing domestic violence less

Conservative Protestants cohabitate less, get married earlier, stay married longer, have sex more regularly, and have happier married women.

### 3. *Natalism* (Psalm 127:3-5)

Historical reference point: Pagan versus Christian birth rates in Rome

The Christian vision of marriage and family presents us with a “counter-cultural abundance agenda.”