

## Introduction

### Influence of Culture on our Thinking

*Colossians 2: 2b-8—“...to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”*

*2 Timothy 3:5-7—“...having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.”*

Today’s Prevailing Philosophy: \_\_\_\_\_

History of feminism in America

- First stage: \_\_\_\_\_
- Second stage: \_\_\_\_\_
- Third stage: \_\_\_\_\_

Influence of Feminism in our homes, our churches and our hearts:

### What is Biblical Womanhood?

**Biblical Womanhood**—The state of being a woman who is devoted to the God-breathed truth of the Bible and embraces her feminine design as ordained by God in His Word and echoing the eternal relationships within the Trinity.

**Complementarian**—The biblical womanhood position which supports and promotes full personal equality of men and women, coupled with a glad embrace of sex appropriate differences of roles and responsibilities in the home and in the church.

## Truth from the Bible

### The Biblical Pattern

- Equality of Men and Women

**Genesis 1:27-28a**—“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them.”

**Genesis 1:31a**—“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”

- Differences of Men and Women

**Genesis 2:7**—“...then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”

**Genesis 2:15**—“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

**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.””

Before the Fall	After the Fall
Full equality of _____ and _____	Disparity in _____
_____ the role of the man.	Distortion of _____
_____ the role of the woman.	Difficulty and pain in the areas of _____
<b>This is good!</b>	<b>This is the curse!</b>

Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the primary roles of men and women. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ this restoration.

## The Trinitarian Design

- Eternal Existence of the Trinity

**John 17:5 & 24**—“And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.”

- The Trinity at Creation of the Universe

**Genesis 1:2**—“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of god was hovering over the face of the waters.”

**John 1:3**—“All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

**1 Corinthians 8:6**—“...yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

**Hebrews 1:2**—“...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”

- The Trinity at Creation of Man (Genesis 1:26)  
**Genesis 1:26a**—“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”
- Authority and Submission within the Trinity  
**Luke 22:42**—“...saying, ‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.’”

Complementarity, the position of biblical womanhood, is rooted in the Trinity and established in Creation.

## **Biblical Principles of Manhood and Womanhood**

- In the home  
**Ephesians 5:22-28**—“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for his, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”
- In the church  
**1 Timothy 2:11-13a**—“Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve...”
- In the culture  
**2 Corinthians 4:6-7**—“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”

# Summary

## What Biblical Womanhood Looks Like

In the Local Church

***Titus 2:3-4a***—“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...”

***2 Timothy 3:14-15***—“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

***Acts 18:26***—“He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him they took him and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

“A woman is not to teach in a situation that calls for a strong, forceful pressing of men’s consciences on the basis of divine authority.”—John Piper

- Authority and Submission in the Church

Authority in the local church: The divine calling of spiritual, gifted men to take primary responsibility as elders for Christ-like servant leadership and teaching in the church.

Submission in the local church: The divine calling of the rest of the church, both men and women, to honor and affirm the leadership and teaching of the elders and to be equipped by it for the hundreds and hundreds of various ministries available to men and women in the service of Christ. John Piper

Authority and Submission in the Church does **not**<sup>1</sup>:

- » Call women to submit to false teaching
- » Address male leadership in the area other than the family and the church
- » Instruct women to submit to each individual elder
- » Tell women to submit to domineering controlling, mean-spirited men
- » Put a woman’s pastor or elder board in a higher position of authority than God’s Word

In the Sunday School Classroom

The material in this seminar is based on the curriculum *Biblical Womanhood in a Postmodern Culture*, by Linda Linder. Copyright ©2011 Bethlehem College and Seminary Press. [www.bcsmn.org](http://www.bcsmn.org)

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<sup>1</sup> The first four points are taken from *Women’s Ministry in the Local Church* by J. Ligon Duncan and Susan Hunt, (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2006), 74.