

Raising Girls to be Godly Women in a Confused and Conflicted Culture

***'Never before in our history have we been so eager to tear up the blueprint of biology and redefine our roles as men and women, mothers and fathers.'*¹**

¹ Anne Noir and David Jessel, *Brain Sex: The Real Difference between Men and Women*, (Mandarin, 1989) ,149

² John Piper and Wayne Grudem, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* , (Crossway Wheaton, 1991),33

³ Sharon James, *God's Design for Women*, (Evangelical Press, 2002), 54

***'The tendency today is to stress the equality of men and women by minimising the unique significance of our maleness or femaleness. But this deprecation of male and female personhood is a great loss. It is taking a tremendous toll on generations of young men and women who do not know what it means to be a man or woman. Confusion over the meaning of sexual personhood today is epidemic. The consequence of this confusion is not free and happy harmony among gender-free persons relating on the basis of abstract competencies. The consequence rather is more divorce, more homosexuality, more sexual abuse, more promiscuity, more social awkwardness, and more emotional distress and suicide that come with the loss of God-given identity.'*²**

Introduction

- Worldviews

A. CREATION

God's Good Order

Genesis 1&2

- **Genesis 1v 26-28 Man and Woman of Equal Value**
- **Genesis 2v15-28 Equal beings- different roles**

'Adam was incapable of fulfilling the creation mandate alone, and, even more profoundly, he was in need of a relationship with another human being. But although woman was one 'of the same kind' as himself and perfectly equal in dignity, she was gloriously different. They fitted together'.³

B. FALL
Conflict and Confusion

Genesis 3

- **God's Order challenged and restored.**

**A 20th Century Manifestation of the tensions between men and women:
Understanding the Women's Movement/Feminism and its impact on girls.**

A Brief History Lesson: The Industrial Revolution

Prior to the Industrial Revolution *'The vast majority of people lived on farms or in peasant villages. Productive work was done not by lone individuals but by families and households... the boundary between home and world was highly permeable... It meant that husband and wife worked side by side in the same economic enterprise'* ⁴

⁴ Pearcey, *Total Truth*, 327

⁵ Sharon James, *God's design for Women*, Evangelical Press, 2002

Social Upheaval and the redefining of male/female roles

The righting of wrongs

*'...Throughout history men have tyrannised women, whether by wife beating, polygamy, rape or forced prostitution. There are records through the ages of women being raped by conquering armies, but the worst instances have probably taken place this century...'*⁵

Equality

Fairness
Inclusiveness
Sameness
Balance
Justice

Inequality

Unfairness
Exclusiveness
Difference
Imbalance
Injustice

The corruption of good intentions

Power Games

The undermining of family and marriage

*'The feminists on Closing the Gender Gap- representative of a broad swathe of opinion in feminist education circles and influential on government policy- are pleased that girls, and working-class girls in particular, are leaving the domestic sphere of home and hearth and becoming increasingly independent of men through work. The education feminists think that this is the only way girls can gain status. It is only in the world of men- work, the public sphere- that women can find fulfilment and happiness, the same as it is for boys and men.'*⁶

⁶ James Tooley, 'The Miseducation of Women' p92, Continuum, 2002

⁷ Melanie Phillips, 'The Sex-Change Society', The Social Market Foundation, November 1999, London

⁸ Sharon James, God's Design for Women p17, Evangelical Press, 2002

⁹ *Population education: a contemporary concern*, Educational studies and documents No 28, UNESCO, 1978.

*'The government has thrust children forward as its shield of moral valour. Yet the interests of children are best served if their natural parents are married; the poverty of children is significantly caused by their parents, failure to remain so. Behind its child-centred rhetoric, the Labour government is actively discriminating against the one family structure that actually benefited children, pretending to a false even-handedness while creating instead a feminised model of the family that is making men literally and metaphorically redundant.'*⁷

The social consequences of feminist 'social justice'

Divide and Rule

*'By the beginning of the 21st century, the movement known as feminism had fragmented. The dream of a united sisterhood had never come to pass; indeed the tabloids were able to revel in vicious infighting between supposed 'sisters'. The so-called sameness feminism of the 1960s was soon taken over by the difference feminism of the 1980s (women are the superior sex!) and there was now a major backlash against feminist ideas in the 1990s. It is now said that we live in a post-feminist era,'*⁸

The State takes over

A UNESCO document on population control and the need for sex education, published in 1978, suggests that younger age groups are 'appropriate targets' and that 'the school, with its captive audience,' is 'the obvious place to start'⁹

'It is the themes of the early Greer, Steinem and Friedan- that independence and career are what are most important to a girl, that marriage, children and family are just so much domestic drudgery- that match the curriculum and emphasis of schooling for girls today...'

Why is all this important?

Conclusions

C. REDEMPTION Restoring God's Design

'The woman reflects the glory of God by reflecting the glory of man, whose glory she is. However much modern egalitarians do not like it, God did not make the world according to their specifications.'¹⁰

¹⁰ Douglas Wilson, *Future Men* p17, Cannon Press, 2004

¹¹ John Piper and Wayne Grudem, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* p35, Crossway Books, 1991

Beyond Culture

'When the Bible teaches that men and women fulfil different roles in relation to each other, charging man with a unique leadership role, it bases this differentiation not on temporary cultural norms but on permanent facts of creation. This is seen in 1 Corinthians 11:3-16 (especially vv, 8-9,14); Ephesians 5:21-33 (especially vv, 31-32); and 1 Timothy 2:11-14 (especially vv, 13-14). In the Bible, differentiated roles for men and women are never traced back to the fall of man and woman into sin. Rather, the foundation of this differentiation is traced back to the way things were in Eden before sin warped our relationships. Differentiated roles were corrupted, by the fall. They were created by God.'¹¹

Teaching a Biblical Worldview

This is a heart issue

'...in winning people over to a vision of manhood and woman hood, not only must there be thorough exegesis, there must also be a portrayal of the vision that satisfies the heart as well as the head. Or to put it another way: we must commend the beauty as well as the truth of the vision. We must show that something is not only right but also good. It is not merely valid but also valuable, not only accurate but also admirable.'¹²

¹² John Piper and Wayne Grudem, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* p33, Crossway Books, 1991

Proverbs 31

1 Timothy 2

Titus 2

1 Peter 3

Beauty that Lasts

Raising Girls to be Godly Women: Practicalities

Who, What, When, Where, How?

Q&A

Further Reading:

Women

- Piper and Gruden, Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, (Crossway Books, Illinois, 1991)
- Wayne Grudem, Evangelical Feminism and Biblical Truth, (IVP, Leicester, 2005)
- Werner Neuer, Man and Woman in Christian Perspective, (London, 1990)
- Ken M. Campbell, Marriage and the family in the Biblical World, (Illinois 2003)
- Brian Edwards, Men, Women and Authority, (Day One, Bromley, 1996)
- Susan T Foh, Women and the Word of God, (Presbyterian and Reformed, USA, 1979)
- Sharon James, God's Design for Women, (Evangelical Press, Darlington, 2002)
- Judith S. Graham, Puritan Family Life, (Northeastern University Press, 2000)
- Wendy Shallit, A Return to Modesty, (The Free Press, New York, 1999)
- Barbara Hughes, Disciplines of a Godly Woman, (Crossway Books, Illinois, 2001)
- Carolyne Mahaney, Feminine Appeal, (Crossway Books, Illinois, 2003)
- Carolyne Mahaney & Nicole Mahaney Whitacre, Girl Talk, (Crossway Books, Illinois, 2005)
- Shannon Ethridge & Stephen Arterburn, Every Young Woman's Battle, (WaterBrook Press, Colorado, 2004)
- Anne Atkins, Split Image, (Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1998)
- Linda Dillow, Calm my Anxious Heart, (Navpress, Colorado Springs, 1998)
- Noel Piper, Faithful Women and their Extraordinary God (Crossway, Wheaton, 2005)

Worldview- understanding the culture biblically

- Nancy Pearcey, Total Truth, Wheaton, Crossway, 2005