

XII. God's Blueprint in Biblical Perspective  
*Foundations from Genesis*  
Foundation #5 – The Sanctity of Gender – Part 4  
Masculinity and Christian Manhood  
Genesis 1–2  
Dr. Harry L. Reeder III  
January 23, 2022 • Sunday Evening Sermon

In this study we will be looking at what it means to be a man, whether married or single, have children, don't have children for this is why God made you and then we'll look at Christian manhood which is a result of God saving you as a man. Biblical masculinity reflects what God made a man to do as male and Biblical femininity is what God made a woman to be. This is how we get the doctrine of manhood. When God saves a man what does he do when he is redeemed from his sin and how does he live as a Christian man or as a woman which we'll cover in another study. This then leads to what it means to be single (man or woman) from a Christian world and life view, what it means to be married (man or woman) according to a Christian world and life view. Then we'll go to parenting for a father and mother and we might take a study to look at grandparenting, which is God's reward for not killing your children (smile) but raising them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

As I share a pastoral discouragement of so few who embrace the evening worship time when the Lord says to bring the morning and evening sacrifices of praise in the Sabbath Psalms, plus the subject matters that are covered. The normal course of life for me is expositional preaching, verse by verse, book by book of the Bible which I believe I have to do. I love God's Word and His people and I know the objective isn't to get a crowd but it's to preach the Word so what I pray for is that people have a hunger for that Word because that's what they need.

We are currently living in an LGBTQAI sexual revolution. Perhaps the most jagged edges in that sexual revolution that are coming out of progressive secularism aided in evangelical churches by progressive Christianity which is going to do the same thing to evangelical churches as liberalism did to mainline protestant churches, is this issue of gender dysphoria. Until this revolution about 20 years ago, the number of adolescences we ministered to with gender dysphoria was somewhere between three to six percent at most but closer to three percent where they feel like a female but have a male body etc. We used to treat that at what it is – a disorder. No longer do we do that because in the revolution of our culture the words 'rights' and 'liberties' are used and Progressivism delights in using vocabulary but uses a different dictionary so when they talk about rights and liberties, they aren't talking about God-given rights but what today is known as positive rights – which are man's positing of rights where we have a right to do this and you can't say we can't.

In this country, our forefathers, under the influences of multiple revivals not the least of which, the Great Awakening, realized as we see in the Declaration of Independence that rights are God-given and God revealed in His creation which is why I'm going to the book of Genesis. The book of Genesis gives us foundational axioms through the sanctities that God has created in His creation, for His glory and our well-being. It is no accident that the book of Genesis is avoided in many evangelical pulpits and most under attack even in our seminaries, because the rudiments of a Christian world and life view are established in the book of Genesis.

So far in this series we have gone through from the book of Genesis, the sanctity of Divine revelation, the sanctity of God, the sanctity of life, the sanctity of man made in the image

of God, the sanctity of gender – male and female, and the sanctity of creation. Now we will be going through the sanctity of masculinity and femineity and all of these are foundational. So, what does man do? Instead of looking at the God ordained sanctities, and building a life view that accompanies, affirms and reveals our God-given creation rights, man attacks the doctrine of creation and the doctrine of God and in the name of liberty declares positively from human imagination our rights and liberties but it doesn't mean right and liberty the way you do. Their definition is not the freedom to do what is right, for they assume the power and authority to declare their own rights. That is what we call autonomy – auto meaning self, nomos meaning law/rule. It is not God's law that they delight in as it is revealed in the Ten Commandments and creation sanctities (some call this natural law but I prefer creation mandates, but they declare self law – we will self rule.

We see this in the book of Judges for after the death of Joshua starting in Judges 2 it basically says 'they did what was right in their own eyes, they did evil in the sight of the Lord.' How does this book end? The very last verse in the book of Judges says in Judges 21:25, [25] *In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.* It also says this three other times in the book of Judges. That is autonomy which is being sold as rights and liberties. That is why lawyers search for jurors who don't interpret the constitution but will legislate through a supposed right and a constitution and reach for some absurdity like the right to kill an unborn child who is unwanted, inconvenient or imperfect.

These are crucial issues, yet so many seem not to care until it comes to their home, then they care as their daughter or son begins to embrace erotic same sex attractions or (here's the big one) the jagged edge of transgenderism. Gender dysphoria in the last ten years has risen, with the emphasis in the last five years, 600 percent and now has been found a right for children to undergo chemical or surgical "transgender" surgeries and treatments. I want to explain to you what the chemical treatments are. They are the very same drugs we use to castrate sex offenders in prison. That is being done to reject puberty in order to manipulate the body with hormones and chemicals. The rising surgical industry is top surgery for women and lower surgery for men with excruciating scarring and pain for the rest of one's life and it's irreversible with the right now being extended to children to do so without parental authority.

Do you not think that 600 percent is coming to Birmingham, to our church and our families? These are highly impressionable teenagers grappling with all of the difficulties and challenges of adolescence. It could be a valid dysphoria but not what would have never been there has to be there because now in the culture it is cool. How do you deal with that as a parent from a Biblical world and life view? Then comes the phone call, then the email and then the pastoral ministry along with our other pastors and elders who are glad to give it, but maybe it hadn't been there if we had had a Biblical world and life view that had been informing our parenting and what we could see coming and move the toward so that they weren't huskers for this sexual revolution that produces nothing but sexual anarchy, not in the name of rights and liberties but in the name of autonomy.

As we start in this matter of gender it will lead us to Biblical masculinity and Biblical femineity to the doctrine of Christian manhood and the doctrine of Christian womanhood which will carries us further in those relationships to women who are women of God, daughters of Sarah and men who are men of God. In other words, I want to go on the offense so it becomes an opportunity to minister to those who have been drawn out of their own sin nature into it to bring the Good News of the Gospel that cancels the power of sin as well as the cancellation of

the shame and guilt of sin so that people might see something different, even if it's an island in the midst of a tsunami of a cultural death spiral.

This isn't simply if our culture keeps doing this then it's coming under the judgment of God for I believe what you see our culture doing is the judgment of God. "God gave them over" to the desires of their heart, is what I think is happening today in our culture. For me that phrase and 'depart from Me' are the most frightening words in the Bible. But we have the great message of the Gospel, the power of salvation unto everyone who believes. It is the glorious message that if we confess our sins, He cleanses us from all unrighteousness and changes us. The church needs to stay on mission and our mission isn't cultural transformation for that's a consequence. Our mission is sinner transformation that turns out Christians who are salt of the earth and light of the world. Our narrow mission with our comprehensive message of how to eat and drink or whatever we do we do to the glory of God, turns out Christians with a broad mission in life.

One of those things to learn from the whole counsel of God is the sanctity of gender and I want to carry that in this study into Biblical masculinity. Let's get into our text. Just a little context in how Genesis 1 is laid out. Genesis 1:1-11 is done as a narrative but as we get to Genesis 1:26 and beyond we see it written in a more poetic way, almost like a doxology for what He has done in the creation of man.

Genesis 1:26-31 says [26] *Then God said, "Let us make man in **Our image, after Our likeness**. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

[27] *So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* (Just as God is One in three Persons, man is one in two genders)

[28] *And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and **multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."* (a three-fold creation mandate) [29] *And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. [30] And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. [31] And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

Here is the sanctity of man. God has made man to image Him – male and female. What is there male and female? There are two reasons why. Number one, God made them male and female to properly image the Trinity, our one God who dwells in three Persons. We can see that male and female are granted equality of existence in their roll of imagining God yet their equality is not interchangeability, not sameness. If equality is sameness expressed in interchangeability (what a man does a woman does, and what a woman does a man does) then they wouldn't have been created differently mentally, physically, emotionally and biologically.

Why create the other gender? If they are interchangeable then they are not needed. You would just have God imaged in the one if the two are the same. Equality is there by status of creation but it is not interchangeability or sameness for there is difference. The obvious difference is physically, biologically and sexually but it extends beyond that. I realize I am treading on dangerous ground here. I have been a pastor long enough where I have been on trips

with men and trips with women. If I can get women talking they are going to love their time together because they build relationships through the currency of language. Whereas this doesn't happen with men for they have to go do something together – go hunting, play golf, go places. Men and women are different and that's not superiority and inferiority, it's just different. Why is it that that is not desired and battle against that? It's called the curse of sin.

Here is an illustration of the distinctive between male and female as well as the unity of male and female and the equality of male and female. When Jesus says He is going to give us the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Christ in the New Covenant, what does He name Him? Jesus says in John 14:16, *[16] And I will ask the Father, and He will give you **another (or other) Helper**, to be with you forever.* If the Holy Spirit is the other Helper who do you think Jesus is referring to as Helper 1? It would be Himself. Christ is sending His Spirit, the other Helper for He has come as God's solution to your sin and He sends us the One who be our Solution, which is Him and we can't be saved without Him for you have to be born again by the Spirit. As we look at creation and God makes man – male and female – which one of the genders does God give the title 'helper.' It is the female. Both male and female bear the image of the Trinity but there is a particular gravitas to the woman's role in imaging the work of grace, mercy and nurture in Christ in the Holy Spirit.

The second reason He created them male and female is to do the task He gave them. He gave them three things in the creation mandate – have dominion, be fruitful and multiply and subdue the earth. God has made their home and now He wants them to be a good steward of this home. Now, we can't create but we can be creative in the image of God. Genesis 2 gives us the microscope of the home of Adam and Eve that God made called Eden or paradise. Here they have fellowship with God and Adam shows his authority by naming the animals as he tends and defends the Garden and this is where God makes the suitable helper for Adam because it isn't good for him to be alone but that does not mean relationally. I love to relate to my wife and if I'm gone for a length of time, I feel a relational emptiness but the reality is there was not a relational emptiness because before Eve, Adam had intimate fellowship with God with no barriers of sin and its consequences so there wasn't something missing relationally or psychologically. The thing missing was the one necessary to get his job done, his co-regent, made in the image of God to steward and govern creation. The most obvious thing he could not without her is to be fruitful and multiply.

We also see that God made Eve from Adam's rib, his side. Adam was made from the dust of the ground and his job was to subdue, fill and have dominion over that earth from which he was taken. Do you see how the way he was created fit his task? Then he can't do that alone for he needs the fullness of bearing God's image to do those three things. So Ish (man - Adam) is used to bring forth Isha (woman – Eve) and Isha means the reflection of man. It is similar but different. As Adam awakes Genesis 2:23 says *[23] Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."* The woman is the helper completer to her husband in the covenant of marriage therefore she is created with certain gifts that show up in all of life and not just marriage. She has this dynamic in her life as how she is made. She is made from his side to come alongside of him because she completes him. She is not from his head, she is not over him and she is not from his feet, because she is not under him. For the creation mandate to be fulfilled we need male and female. For God to be imaged we need male and female.

What is the genderism of our day? It's androgyny and it's driven by autonomy. They say they will not have God as God. How do you attack God as distinct from His creation and

His creatures? You attack all of the distinctions God put in creation. The distinctions are sexual, in marriage and in gender. This entire revolution is nothing more than the selling of a bag of air in the name of cosmic treason against God. That is at the root of it for nobody has discovered anything that we have had it wrong for 4,000 years about sexuality and marriage. We are in a culture that says 'no' to being under God and now wants to be God. They attack the distinction of the Creator over His creation by attacking the distinctions He has put within His creation.

The one under clear assault because it is directly related to all the other sexual anarchy promotions in today's cultural revolution, is in fact male and female. Now, instead of a Biblical view of gender in which when God made male and female, He said it was good and blessed it, the culture says 'no, it's not good' and they engage in chemical manipulation upon the body and surgical mutilation upon the body and that's not good. Therefore, in rebellion the culture declares good evil and evil good as they remove any statement of authority that would prevent that, even at the cost of the entire life of a child with these irreversible chemical suppressive manipulative hormone treatments as well as surgical mutilation. I believe what is happening here is nothing less than child abuse. I believe it's criminal and why the authorities are attacked on this to get out from under criminal charges. We are willing to sacrifice our children in the womb and now in their adolescence in order to state our rebellion against God.

As believers, we need to understand the sanctity of gender. As we look further into Biblical masculinity and femineity, the way you were made shows up in what God expects of you as a man or woman. There is a reason God made man physically, emotionally, verbally and psychologically, not superior, different than a woman and why He made a woman physically, biologically, psychologically, verbally, mentally different than a man. It shows up with how we function in our homes, our church and when we are salt and light it will make a difference in our society.

I will give you one example. I'm going to betray myself. Let's say my wife Cindy and I go home tonight, watch our movie then go bed and then hear someone breaking into our back door. Cindy then says 'They are coming into our house.' I say to her 'Then go get them.' What would you think of me as a man and as a pastor if I sent my wife to do that? Although I know my wife and she is probably already on her way and I would have to run to get ahead of her. She is small but she is wiry. Yet that is where we are as a culture. We are now setting up our wives and daughters to go fight the battles that our politicians keep dreaming up that we never win even though we have great warriors. I don't want you to say that I said women can't be involved in the military because that is not what I am saying, but I think men were made to tend and defend.

I know the proverbial mother bear for I pastor about 2,000 of them. I also know who was equipped and called to do it and not just who is willing to do it. What does it mean to be a rightly ordered culture? It starts with rightly ordered families and rightly ordered churches that say 'no' to an offshoot of progressivism which is egalitarianism – where men and women are equal and therefore interchangeable. We have a different world and life view and God made us different for a reason.

What is Biblical masculinity that is transformed by the grace of God into Christian manhood? I just want to get you thinking about it. Here is where we are headed on Biblical masculinity that we will pick up on in our next study. I want to teach you from God's Word what God made men to do – how He created them and why He created them. We will see the two virtues of Christian manhood, the five traits of Christian manhood and one essential

doctrine. I know the Gospel of God is the most essential but there is another doctrine for men to be men.

Before we look at I Corinthians 16 I want to take you back to the Civil War. I want to recommend to you a biography on a man named Colonel Robert Gould Shaw. Colonel Shaw was a native of Boston and finally in 1863 the northern government in the midst of the Civil War decided they were going to have “colored” regiments but the congress said they had to be officered by white officers. Probably the most renown of this unit was the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts. The biography on Shaw follows the development of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts and was made into a movie titled Glory. I love the TV version of this movie because it is relatively historically accurate and it contains two of my favorite actors – Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman, who I think turned in stellar performances.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts had begged for combat duty and finally received it. I had the privilege to go to where they made the charge against Fort Wagner that was an ancillary fort next to Fort Sumpter in the Charleston harbor. It was well defended and every assault had failed. Now at the request of Robert Gould Shaw, the 54<sup>th</sup> was going to be the lead regiment on the assault the next day. It would be assured of 70 percent casualties. So the night before as was their habit in any anticipation of combat they would have a revival service and this service was pretty faithfully recorded in the movie Glory. In that service was one runaway slave that had joined the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts. This slave is played by Denzel Washington and in the service he is called to give a testimony, a witness but he refuses so others did. The fever pitch of the revival kept rising as they were singing occasionally stopping for testimonies. They finally got him to stand up and he says ‘I ain’t got no much dealing with religion but the 54<sup>th</sup> is my family. I don’t have a family, never have. Tomorrow we gonna face the enemy and we gonna face them like men. We’re men ain’t we?’

They had been in a culture that had told them ‘no, you’re kind of part man, part property, you’re 3/5ths of a man. In the midst of that combat, they showed it because the 54<sup>th</sup> manifested the two virtues that I believe under good Biblical masculinity but when taken hold of by God’s grace become two glorious virtues. We sum it up in our culture with this word ‘gentlemen’ and that’s not just a name on a bathroom door – gentle men. Now, let’s look at I Corinthians 16.

I Corinthians 16:13-14 says [13] *Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.* [14] *Let all that you do be done in love.* This passage calls men, as believers, who understand their role in Biblical masculinity, to act like men. The old King James version interprets the phrase ‘act like men’ to play the man.

In their 80s Bishop Latimer and Bishop Ridley stood at this point on many occasions. Outside a wall at Oxford, it is there that the counter Reformation and at the rule of Queen Mary that they were arrested along with Thomas Cranmer who is actually in a jail watching what is about to take place. In 1555 Latimer and Ridley were called upon to recant their commitment to salvation by grace alone, by faith alone in Christ alone and they said ‘we will not and cannot.’ So they were attached to a post, put the kindling and bound their hands to the post and Ridley says to his captors ‘tie my bonds tight for I do not want to leave the post that God has called me to at the moment of trial.’ When Latimer heard that he said to him, ‘Master Ridley be of good cheer, **play the man**, for today by God’s grace you and I shall light a candle for Christ that cannot be put out in all of England.’ This is the text he quoted and it is also found four other times in the Bible.

If the Bible says ‘act like a man’ then does it not affirm something called ‘act like a woman’? One is not superior and the other inferior. It is how God made us. He made us to be

men. Our problem today is not simply toxic masculinity, but it's the lack of Biblical masculinity displayed by Christian men with Christian manhood. The captivating of it is with the word gentlemen so in preparation for our next study meditate on the text in I Corinthians 16. Play the man. Be strong. Let all you do be done in love and the two virtues are embedded in those two verses. I believe those two virtues are foundational and crucial.

I want you as husbands, wives, fathers and mothers to grasp it, not only for you, but so that we can teach our children. What does it mean to be a man of God? Our daughters will no longer by God's grace look to the entertainment and media world for their mentors and models, but they begin to look to the Bible, godly mothers, godly grandmothers. You will see the modesty issue dealt with and matters of men dealt with as different lifestyles that will give glory to God and demonstrate the image of God when men are men and women are women by the grace of God to the glory of God. We are not going to fall prey to stereotyping from the culture, but usually stereotypes are there because of a kernel that needs to be understood Biblically. Please join me in the next study on Biblical masculinity. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time we could be together in Your Word. As we go through this wonderful journey I pray that You would guide us, direct us, fill us, teach us, convict us, encourage us, admonish us and call us that we might love to hear 'you are men of God and women of God who live by the grace of God according to the Word of God for the glory of God,' I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.