

### Gender in the Home (Part 2): Girls and Motherhood

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The world's vision of the "warrior woman"
2. God's plan for women in their roles as mothers and daughters

#### BIBLICAL FOOTING

1. Big picture on gender – equal but not interchangeable

"We must and do deplore the stereotypes that caricature the divine distinctions [between men and women]. We deplore the abuses perpetrated by men against women . . . but have we forgotten the archetypes? Stereotype is a word generally used disparagingly to denote a fixed or conventional notion or pattern. An archetype is the original pattern or model . . . I am not here to defend stereotypes of femininity, but to try to focus on the Original Pattern.

The first woman was made specifically for the first man, a helper, to meet, respond to, surrender to, and complement him. . . . But Eve, in her refusal to accept the will of God, refused her femininity. Adam, in his capitulation to her suggestion, abdicated his masculine responsibility for her. It was the first instance of what we would recognize now as "role reversal." This definite disobedience ruined the original pattern and things have been in an awful mess ever since . . .

The world looks for happiness through self-assertion. The Christian knows that joy is found in self-abandonment" (Elisabeth Elliot, "The Essence of Femininity: A Personal Perspective," *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, 403–404).

2. The sufficiency of Scripture

# Parenthood

## Lesson 12

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### WHAT IS BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD, AND HOW DO WE TEACH IT?

“At the heart of mature femininity is a freeing disposition to affirm, receive and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in ways appropriate to women’s differing relationships” (John Piper, “A Vision of Biblical Complementarity,” *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, 29).

#### 1. Mothers must model these things

- a. Study to understand and embrace
- b. Set an example

#### 2. But to modeling add:

- a. Instruction

“In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, workers at home, kind, and in submission to their husbands, so that God’s word will not be slandered” (Titus 2:3–5).

- b. Prayers

- c. Training

- i. Purity

“Also, the women are to dress themselves in modest clothing, with decency and good sense, not with elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls, or expensive apparel, 10 but with good works, as is proper for women who profess to worship God” (1 Tim. 2:9–10).

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### ii. Kindness

“In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by the way their wives live 2 when they observe your pure, reverent lives. 3 Don’t let your beauty consist of outward things like elaborate hairstyles and wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes, 4 but rather what is inside the heart—the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight” (1 Pet. 3:1–4).

### d. Love

- i. Pray
- ii. Take an interest
- iii. Listen closely
- iv. Encourage, encourage, encourage
- v. Express affection
- vi. Make memories

## 3. Biblical femininity is “a freeing disposition”

- a. Mothers
- b. Daughters

## 4. Biblical femininity affirms and receives strength and leadership from worthy men

“A mature woman is glad when a respectful, caring, upright man offers sensitive strength and provides a pattern of appropriate initiatives in their relationship. She does not want to reverse these roles. She is glad when he is not passive. She feels herself enhanced and honored and freed by his caring strength and servant-leadership” (John Piper, “A Vision of Biblical Complementarity,” *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, 40).

- a. Mothers
- b. Daughters

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### 5. Biblical femininity nurtures (a woman's noble role as "helper")

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him" (Gen. 2:18).

A helper to her husband (Ps. 127; 1 Tim. 2:15; 5:14; Tit. 2:5)

A helper to her church (Tit. 3:14)

A helper to the world (Prov. 31).

- a. Mothers
- b. Daughters

### PREPARATION FOR NEXT LESSON:

- Read "The Family: Together in God's Presence" by John & Noel Piper at [desiringgod.org/articles/the-family-together-in-gods-presence](http://desiringgod.org/articles/the-family-together-in-gods-presence)