

3. True Masculinity, True Femininity

We do want to acknowledge that there are cultural aspects of masculinity and femininity. As followers of Christ, we want the foundation of our lives and the foundation of masculinity and femininity to be Bible based.

How society defines masculinity and femininity

Masculine refers to someone who

- has short hair, likes sports,
- is loud and
- aggressive,
- wants to get ahead and be successful.

Feminine is often seen as someone who

- has long hair,
- likes color,
- flowers,
- is neat, delicate, and passive.

None of these characteristics have anything to do with biblical masculinity or femininity.

Biblical examples:

- femininity, we will focus on Proverbs 31
- masculinity, we will look at the example of Christ.

I. True Femininity

Femininity in the historical transition

Life in a rural setting

Vs

Life in the city

The World's definition of Femininity

The ideal woman of our society:

- She has a good education and has gone to university.
- Has a job, developing a career.
- Hopefully single.
- She has a sense of style and color. She knows how to decorate herself and her house.
- If married, she is independent of her husband: has her own activities, bank account, gym membership, circle of friends. Married, but not limited to one man, free to have affairs.
- Open to having an abortion if not the right time.
- If children, they are given to a nanny or put in school as soon as possible, so she can return to what's important – her job.
- She has a maid or cleaning service to clean the house.

- Usually eats out or frozen food. Each member of the family eats apart from the others.
- Makes sure the kids each have a TV and video games so they don't disturb her.
- Be involved in as many outside activities and responsibilities as possible.
- Have a psychologist to talk with.
- Be on tranquilizers to help her sleep and carry on.
- Be on her second or third marriage.
- **All of this in an effort to be 'fulfilled'.**

The Bible's definition of Femininity

What does God think of women? We have seen in our study of Genesis 1-3:

1. He thinks they are best when part of a team. Gen 2:18
2. God chose woman to share His attribute of creating life.
3. God believes the status of a woman is based on her character rather than her physical appearance or her accomplishments.
4. God considers an excellent wife the greatest asset a king can have. Prov. 31:10
5. Grants them equal partnership in the Gospel, as his child and in eternity. Galatians 3:28

What was Paul thinking?

In some Christian circles, there is the idea, based on biblical teaching, that women should be simple housewives. It is based on *Titus 2:3-5 (NASB95)*

3 *Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, **workers at home**, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*

This can give the idea that the husband has a good job, that pays a salary that is sufficient for the entire family and the wife stays at home, inside the four walls of an apartment all day. She spends the day cleaning and cooking, so that when her husband comes home, he has a clean, comfortable home and a hot meal waiting for him.

Is it possible that Paul, a great scholar of the Bible, was thinking of Proverbs 31 when he wrote the words "*workers at home*"?

We find a great example of true femininity in Proverbs 31. What is a woman? Simply, she is a mature female human. She is not a male. She is not a girl/child. She is not a slave.

Proverbs: beginning chapters show the adulterous woman, the rebellious woman, the foolish woman, the noisy woman, the quarrelsome woman and then Proverbs ends with the virtuous woman.

Proverbs 31:10–31 (ESV)

¹⁰ An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.

1. **She is rare.**

¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ¹² She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

2. **She is faithful.**

3. **She is family centered.**

¹³ *She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.*

¹⁴ *She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.*

¹⁵ *She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.*

¹⁶ *She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.*

¹⁷ *She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.*

¹⁸ *She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.*

4. **She is diligent.**

¹⁹ *She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.*

²⁰ *She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.*

5. **She is generous.**

²¹ *She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.*

²² *She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.*

6. **She is Modest**, not overly interested in appearance, but not slovenly.

²³ *Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.*

²⁴ *She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.*

²⁵ *Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.*

²⁶ *She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

7. **She is a wise counselor**

²⁷ *She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

8. **She knows her family.**

²⁸ *Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:*

9. **She is respected by others.**

10. **She is smart.**

²⁹ *“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”*

11. **She has a great reputation.** *‘Behind every great man is a greater woman’.*

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

12. **She fears the Lord.**

Biblical femininity :

1. It is rare in the world. Really only found among believers.
2. Faithful, devoted to one man.
3. Submission and humility, service to others. Not in competition with her husband.
4. She is family centered, not self-centered.
5. Diligent, not afraid of hard work
6. Modest, not slovenly, but appropriately well-dressed
7. Ingenuity, intelligent.
8. Wise, a counselor
9. She is intensely involved in ensuring the prosperity of her household.
10. Respected, dignity

Everything she does is centered around her home. She provides a great value to her home. She is a co-contributor to the wealth of the family. She has turned her home into an enterprise. She is vitally engaged in her neighborhood. She is a home-based worker.

II. True masculinity

A Wordly concept of masculinity

John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, James Bond, Rambo.

The definition of masculinity: The word man speaks of a mature adult male human. He is not a boy. He is not female.

Maturity means that he assumes the responsibility of an adult. He is independent regarding:

- Finances
- The use of time.
- Work and a job
- The pursuit of his own holiness and walk with God.

We see this illustrated when Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:11 (ESV)

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

Psalm 45 gives these masculine qualities of a king:

*Gird Your sword on Your thigh, O ^bMighty One,
In Your splendor and Your majesty!*

*4 And in Your majesty ride on victoriously,
For the cause of truth and humility and righteousness;*

He is a protector of truth, His life is characterized by humility and righteousness, the opposite of lying, self-centered pride, macho, and immoral living.

The Masculine Life of Jesus Christ

1. He was not passive. John 5:17
2. He had a plan to accomplish his life's purpose. Luke 19:10
3. He worked and cared for his mother until his death. John 19:27 when he turned care over to John.
4. He was content with the lifestyle necessary to accomplish his mission. Matthew 8:20
5. He was compassionate towards the poor and needy. Luke 17:11-19
6. He wasn't afraid to break cultural norms to minister to the needs of outcasts. Matt 9:11
7. He was concerned for the needs of others and provided for them. Matt 14:13-21
8. He empathized with the situations of others. John 11:35
9. He never compromised his convictions. Matthew 4:1-10
10. He spoke out against corruption. Matthew 23:15
11. He never fought physically with anyone. John 2:15 even in the Temple we don't read that Jesus hit anyone. But no one would ever say that Jesus wasn't masculine.
12. He was ready to sacrifice himself to protect/save others. John 10:18

true biblical masculinity is:

A *worker*, caring, contentment, compassionate towards those weaker, strong convictions, empathy, against corruption, not physically aggressive or combative, sacrificial. He is a protector, willing to sacrifice himself and his life for others.

We see the qualities that should be evident in the life of an elder: (1Timothy 3)

- Respectable
- Committed to one woman
- Temperate
- Prudent
- Hospitable
- Knowledgeable in the Word
- Not a drunkard
- Not a fighter
- Gentle
- Generous

All of these are qualities that make a man truly masculine according to God's Word.

The example of the Apostle Paul Acts 17

1. **Paul had a purpose in life.** Acts 13:2, Galatians 2:7, He knew what he wanted to accomplish.
2. **He had a plan.** Major cities, starting in the synagogues.
3. **He was prudent.** He didn't put himself or others in unnecessary danger. Acts 17

Qualities we see in true masculine men, as opposed to what we often see in foolish young boys.

The exhortation of Scripture

The example of Daniel

A young teenager with deep convictions.

1 John 2:14. We read, “ *I have written to you young men because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*” Three masculine qualities for the young man:

- overcome the evil one,
- have the word of God abiding in you, and
- be strong.

Three traps the world lays before young men:

Money, power, and sex.

Men, remember that we are not

“Stronger than Samson, holier than David, wiser than Solomon”