

TITLE: EQUALITY IN THE TRINITY, EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN

Message #1

Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

DEFINITIONS

- The Effeminate Left – There are **NO** differences between male and female. “All is one.” This is the extreme left.
- Egalitarianism – The removal or denial of many differences, roles between men and women. This is the link between the Bible’s position and the extreme left. Is an overemphasis on equality to the denial of some of the differences between male and female.
- Complementarianism – There is equality and differences between the male and the female which results in unity.
- The Dominant-Male-Position – Is the overemphasis on the differences between the male and the female with various degrees of denying equality.
- The Violent Right – There is **NO** equality between male and female, “might makes right.”

THE VIEWS OF EVANGELICALISM AND FUNDAMENTALISM

There are three groups within New Evangelicalism regarding their views on Biblical manhood and womanhood:

1. There are the Complementarians.
 - a. 1-point complementarians – Men and women are equal but have different roles (1) in the home.
 - b. 2-point complementarians – Men and women are equal but have different roles (1) in the home and (2) in the church.
2. There are the Egalitarians (O-points). Men and women are equal and have equal roles for both the home and the church.
3. There are the Undecided or Uncommitted

There is only one group within the fundamentalist movement:
2-point complementarians.

MALE AND FEMALE ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

- **Genesis 1:27, So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**
- We are to be like God in some ways (our being).
- We are to represent God (our doing).
- We alone are His image bearers. This is best done by obeying God (i.e. love) in carrying out God's designated responsibilities/roles.
- Men and women share equally in the image of God.
- Men and women exhibit full and equal humanness as the image of God while being distinguished as "male and female."

THE UNIQUENESS OF MAN

- **Genesis 1:26, And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.**

- 1. Man is the pinnacle of God's creative work.
- 2. God uses the plural reference to Himself as the creator of the singular "man."
- 3. The "image of God" is not used for any other aspect of God's creation.
- 4. Man is given a place of rulership over all other created beings on the earth.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

- **Deuteronomy 6:4, Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:**
 - **Isaiah 45:18, For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.**
1. God is one being, in contrast to many beings. There is only one God (monotheism) as opposed to many gods (polytheism). He is the only God!
 2. There are three Persons in the one God. There is a tri-unity.

THE UNITY OF GOD

- Infinity implies Unity – “The Bible affirms that God is infinite in His Being, and there can not be two or more infinite beings. If there were, then there would be more than an infinite, which is impossible. To be two there must be a difference, and two simple beings of the very same kind cannot differ in their being.”
- Absolute perfection implies Unity – “there cannot be two beings who are absolutely perfect, for to be two they must differ; otherwise they would be the same. To differ, one would have to possess some perfection that the other lacked. However, the one that lacked some perfection would not be absolutely perfect; therefore there can be only one Being is absolutely perfect.”
- The Uni-verse implies that there is only one God – “The cosmos is created by God, and the cosmos is a universe, not a multi-verse. Throughout the universe there is unity, order and design. Oneness of universe implies one Mind behind it; thus, there is but one God.”

THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD

- The doctrine of the Trinity is based on two basic biblical teachings:
 - (1) There is one and only one God.
 - (2) There are three distinct persons who are God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. All three have the essential characteristics of a Person (i.e. intellect – power to think, feelings – power to feel, and will – power to choose). All three of these characteristics are attributed to all three members.

THE NATURE OF THE TRINITY

THERE IS EQUALITY

- There is **Equality** between the Persons of the Trinity.
- There are **Different Roles** performed by the Persons of the Trinity.
- There is perfect **Unity** between the Persons of the Trinity.

EQUALITY – DIFFERENCES – UNITY

EXAMPLES OF EQUALITY IN THE TRINITY

- Each Person of the Trinity is equal in Deity. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God.
- Each Person of the Trinity is equal in attributes.
- Jesus claimed to be Yahweh (John 8:58; Isaiah 44:6 – Revelation 1:17).
- Jesus claimed to be equal with God (Mark 2:55ff – Jesus forgives sinners; John 5:23).
- In John 5, Jesus claimed to be the giver of life (I Samuel 2:6), the one who would raise the dead (Psalm 2:7) and the only Judge (Joel 3:12). Jesus boldly assumed for Himself powers that God only has.
- Jesus claimed to have equal authority with God (Matthew 5:21-22; John 13:34).

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

- He possesses the names of God (Acts 5:3-4)
- He has the same attributes of God. The attributes of life (Romans 8:2); truth (John 16:43); love (Romans 15:30); holiness (Ephesians 4:30); eternality (Hebrews 9:14 – “eternal Spirit”); omnipresence (Psalm 139:7) and omniscience (I Corinthians 2:11).
- He performs the acts of God: creation (Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30); the acts of redemption (Isaiah 63:10-11; Ephesians 4:30; I Corinthians 12:13); the performance of miracles by His own power (Galatians 3:2-5) and the bestowal of supernatural gifts (Acts 2:4; I Corinthians 12).
- He is associated on an equal standing with God in the baptismal formula and in benedictions (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14).

BEING – ESSENCE - EQUALITY



THE EQUALITY
BETWEEN MEN AND
WOMEN REFLECTS
THE EQUALITY IN
THE TRINITY

MALE AND FEMALE ARE EQUAL

- Men and women share equal worth.
- Our worth/value is found in the fact that we are created in the image of God.
- For the believers our worth/value is also found in our redemption in Christ. We have been redeemed/purchased by the precious blood of Jesus.
- Sin devalues men and women.
- Beware of the pitfalls of the self-esteem movement.

AREAS WHERE THE BIBLE ADDRESSES THE EQUALITY OF MALE AND FEMALE

1. Spiritually, men and women are “one” in Christ through justification and spiritual baptism.
2. The Holy Spirit indwells men and women in the church age (Acts 2:17-18).
3. Both male and female believers are baptized into membership in the body of Christ (Acts 2:41). In the Old Testament, the outward sign of the old covenant was the rite of circumcision (men only).
4. Both men and women in Christ receive spiritual gifts for use in the church (I Corinthians 12:7, 11; I Peter 4:10).

MORE AREAS ILLUSTRATING THE EQUALITY OF MALE AND FEMALE

5. Galatians 3:28 makes it clear that gender distinctions (along with race and class distinctions) are irrelevant in relation to our spiritual position in Christ.
6. Husbands and wives stand on exactly equal footing in Christ. Both saved by faith, both fully united with Christ, and both fully heirs of all the riches of Christ (1 Peter 3:7).

PRACTICAL WAYS TO DEMONSTRATE OUR EQUALITY

1. We are called to be “image” bearers. There is equality in the Trinity. We can teach this truth by demonstrating the equality of male and female.
2. This can be done by mutually respecting and honoring the other. The man is to honor his wife as fully equal and a fellow inheritor of Christ’s riches. To violate this principle the man’s prayer will not be heard by God (I Peter 3). The woman is to respect the man’s role as the spiritual leader of the home and in the church.
3. This can be done when we do not compete with one another or fight. This mars the picture of unity and typically illustrates the pride of one, if not both to be seen as the superior.
4. This can be done by working together with the man leading and the woman coming alongside of him to help.
5. There is no place for disparaging one another.