

COURSES THAT WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE SERIES 2022

Masculinity and Femininity in the 21st Century **By Brother and Sister Dana & Phillip Hampton**

Introduction:

Today's current social and political landscape is awash and raging with conflict on issues of Femininity and Masculinity in today's World. Constantly changing as our children, parents, and church leaders try to navigate what is the Christian's response.

Many of these issues are not new, but continue to contribute to the divide between Men and Women.

Examples—

1. In general, current beliefs convey that religion suppresses a woman's rights, in particular as it relates to reproductive and abortion rights.
2. Several studies confirm the role of the modern "Man" has adopted several cultural trends related to the working class man and their occupations, families, and spiritual lives. The prevailing theme is *detachment*; detachment from parental obligations, romantic partners, and religious commitments.

Goals of this Lesson

- How should a Christian think and act regarding Femininity and Masculinity
- What does the bible say about Femininity and Masculinity? Gender Roles?
- What is Hypermasculinity? Feminism?
- Did God create the sexes? Male and Female? How do we coexist?
- What is the current Social impact upon Christian families? The Church?

Femininity defined: Also called womanliness or girlishness. A set of attributes, behaviors, and roles generally associated with women and girls. Although Sociologists believe it is socially constructed, there is recognition that some behaviors are biological and cultural. Traditional traits include gracefulness, empathy, humility, nurturing, and sensitivity.

Masculinity defined: Also called manliness. A set of attributes, behaviors, and roles generally associated with men and boys. Although Sociologists believe it is socially constructed, there is recognition that some behaviors are biological and cultural. Traditional traits include assertiveness, competitiveness, physicality, leadership, and being protective.

Gender defined: Either of two sexes (male or female), especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences. Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls, and boys.

What does the Bible say about Femininity and Masculinity? The Bible—God’s word is the ultimate authority.

Let’s start from the Beginning; In the Beginning, God created the Heaven’s and the Earth Gen 1:1.

Gen 1: 26-27—God made Man in his Image, after his likeness, and let him have dominion. Verse 27-- In the Image of God he created them (Mankind) both Male and Female he created them-- Humanity.

Gen 1: 28—For what purpose was mankind created? God blessed them and said to the “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Finally, regarding his creations, (Verse 31); God saw all that he had made was very good.

Gen 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to WORK it and take of It. RESPONSIBILITY.

Gen 2:18 And God said, it is not good for man to alone. I will make a helper SUITABLE for him. Verse 22; Then the Lord God made a Woman from the rib taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

Gen 2:24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Did God create Woman to be less than Man? Subservient? Weak? **Absolutely not!** Helper in Hebrew is ***Ezer Kenegdo***...which is used 21 times in the Hebrew Old Testament. The translation means “Suitable for Him” A corresponding and equal partner for Adam—together fulfilling the original purpose of Genesis 1:28, to Be fruitful and subdue the earth.

Ezer is also described in the noun form as “God is the one who helps his people”. The Woman was to be an indispensable companion, essential counterpart, or corresponding strength. This is God’s original intent-- complementary roles for both men and women for his expressed purpose!

Before we expand on the Biblical qualities, let’s consider 21st Century view of femininity and masculinity.

Feminism today-- Femme Theory argues that women are devalued and projected as subordinate to men due to how society views or treats women.

Feminism further believes that femininity has a negative connotation, being seen as emotional, weak, confrontational, etc. Ultimately, it sets up men as the ENEMY of Women. Many feminist consider the institution of marriage as sexist.

Masculinity today—Masculinity is under attack. Some behaviors face re-examination. What does it mean to be a Man?

Let's discuss how the following issues affect today's men and women:

- Current College and University enrollment is overwhelmingly female
- Wages have significantly declined among men
- Increased suicide rate among boys/men
- Absent role models
- Homicide rate 90% male
- Me too Movement—and inappropriate interactions with women

Hyper-masculinity and Black Males-- The constant need to overtly perform masculine behaviors, and reject anything seen as feminine. Over exaggerated characteristics of anger, manly-aggression, detached emotions, and callous and sexist behaviors toward women.

Back to the Bible—

The Bible's gender specific passages give us insight into the appropriate behaviors that point to God's original intent—One of unity —How our behaviors/and roles are to complement one another.

Proverbs 31:26 As a Godly woman, " When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness."

Proverbs 14:1 Every wise woman builds her house; but the foolish plucks it down with her hands.

Proverbs 18:22 Whoso finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor with the Lord.

1 Tim 1:2 Rebuke not an Elder, but entreat his as a Father—(Responsible leader), and the younger men as brethren. Verse 2 The Elder women as Mothers, the younger as sisters, with all purity.

In conclusion, our God has blessed us with his word, and countless Biblical heroes and sheroes as examples to emulate and learn from. What can we learn as men and women from Ruth, Hannah, or Moses?

In the final analysis, both men and women are to draw closer to Christ. Galations 3:28 tells us "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male or female, for all are ONE in Christ Jesus.