

GENDER ROLES

Written by Calvin Fox

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Gender Roles

The primary gender roles are assigned by God. They are described after the Fall this way-

Genesis 3:16 [Female Role: subservient wife and suffering Mother] To the woman He said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Genesis 3:17 [Male Role: dominating, but hard working Provider] And to Adam he said, "...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground,

It is important to note that we say these roles are "described". They are not "prescribed". These roles, as described here in chapter 3, are among the consequences of the Fall. However, the roles prescribed and expected by God of men and women are found in chapters 1 and 2. Couples (male and female) are to reproduce and are to work together as equal partners to cultivate the earth.

The Fall

added a "curse" to their original roles.

Redemption removes that Curse and restores the original relationship and roles.

Marriage is meant to be redeemed in Christ.

See Eph. 5:21-32

I agree that many other and specific gender roles are culturally and arbitrarily assigned to men and women which are not innate, eg- housekeeping (female) and truck-driving (male). Such roles have changed through the centuries.

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The important point here is that sexuality or gender, and any traits and roles associated with gender, are not what sets human beings apart from all other beings. They are all elements with varying value to our physical and social and well-being, but they are not essential to who we are as persons. To repeat, we know this because God's Personhood does not require, indeed is perfect and complete, without a physical, sexual body. We are also sure of this because at death our body and soul are separated and our Soul (the Person we are) continues to live on in Heaven, with God, apart from the physical body we now have.

For example-

Acts 7:59 as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." cf Rev 6:9-11

Luke 20:37 But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. 38 Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him."

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

2 Cor 5:6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

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Matt 10:28 do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. [The soul, the person, is eternal. This is a warning, not about annihilation of the soul, the person; but, of it being sent into eternal punishment.]