

Counter Culture 5
Sanctity of Gender Part Two
Biblical Femininity
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Shania Twain illustration

Genesis 1:27 - "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

1 Peter 3:3,4 - "Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious."

When this is what you are about, you have missed the mark.

"Many in today's society view femininity as being personality-driven, as though being a shopaholic, a flirt, disinterested in sports, pre-occupied with high heels and make up, or loving interior design and baking is what determines a woman's femininity. However, we do not see in Scripture that a woman's personality, interests, hobbies, or what colors she prefers are indicative of her femininity."

D'Ann Davis

"Where our inequalities are seen as essentials to the image of God, for it is in male and female, in male as males and females as female, not as two identical and interchangeable halves, that the image of God is manifested."

Elisabeth Elliott

BIBLICALLY FEMININE WOMEN REVEAL GOD BY...

1. Being Relational

Genesis 2:18 - "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'"

First crisis in scripture - "not good"

Genesis 2:20 - "The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him." Aware of his loneliness.

Genesis 2:23 - "Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.'"

A picture of the Trinity in relationship.

The most important relationship in your life is the one you were created to reveal; God.

Isaiah 49:15-16a - "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold I have engraved you on the palms of my hands."

"We see in Genesis 2:18-25 that we [women] were created with the express purpose of providing relationship for another. It is in our nature to want to connect. That is why girls love to talk for hours and do not need an activity to keep them busy while doing it like men might."
D'Ann Davis

Cursed in relationship. Curses are different.

Genesis 3:16-19 - "'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.'" And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'"

Created to reveal the relational God.

Prov 31:10-12 - "An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life."

2. Being Open to Receive

Genesis 1:27 - "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

"Female" - "neqebah", receptivity, openness

Stark difference between two biblical women.

Mary - Luke 1:38 - "And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."

Luke 1:46-48 - "And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my

Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed."

Are we open to saying to God, "whatever you want from me...?"

"Femininity receives. It's says, "May it be done to me as you have said." It takes what God gives- a special place, a special honor, a special function and glory, different from that of masculinity, meant to be a help. It is for us women to receive the given as Mary did, not to insist on the not given as Eve did."

Elisabeth Elliott

Eve - Genesis 3:6 - "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate."

Closed to God and opened to the things of the world. Took away the beauty of what she had received. Satan tempts us to be what we are not.

Men are supposed to be drawn to action; Women open to receive.

Matt 11:29 - "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

What is God calling you to reveal to those around you?

3. Being a Helper

Genesis 2:18

"Ezer" - a help, a helper

Is she less-than, inferior?

Used in OT 21 times, twice to describe women.

16 other times it is used of God Himself. God calls Himself the same word he calls women!

Psalm 33:20 - "Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield."

Psalm 124:8 - "Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth."

Psalm 146:5 - "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God."

Being a helper does not change the value of a woman any more than it changes the value of God to be described as our help.

Not about housekeeping. It was not the core reason for her creation. Revealing and glorifying the Father. Same as men but we do it in different ways.

"Being an ezer is not what a woman does, but who she is created to be...It is her God-given design, thereby reflecting the image and the glory of God in uniquely feminine ways."

Isaiah 43:6,7 - "I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my glory**, whom I formed and made."

Desire to rule; desire for power. See the beauty in helper. Who you are, not what you do.

Ladies, I wonder what it would look like when your brother is dealing with a difficult situation in his life to come alongside him and help him glorify and reveal God? What it would look like in a marriage if as wives you step in that supportive role to help your husband reveal the glory of God? What would it look like if rather than striving for power, would allow God to reveal Himself in a quiet and gentle beauty? There is a great humility that is part of the calling, as was so beautifully put on display by our Savior.

You don't lose your voice, place or value.

"These two people together represent the image of God—one of them in a special way of initiator, the other the responder. Neither the one nor the other was adequate alone to bear the image."

Elisabeth Elliott

"In a society where the family unit is decreasing in its stability, we need women who will forsake worldly definitions of what a woman is and embrace the glorious identity God has bestowed upon us...His daughters. As women of God, we need to operate out of our femininity and embrace all the facets of it."

D'Ann Davis