

**Manhood and Womanhood in Creation and Marriage**  
**5 Key issues**

For more information see: Wayne Grudem, *Evangelical Feminism and Biblical Truth: An Analysis of More Than 100 Disputed Questions* (Multnomah, 2004) (856 pages)

Wayne Grudem, *Countering the Claims of Evangelical Feminism* (2006) (316 pages)

John Piper and Wayne Grudem, eds., *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* (1991)

**A. Key Issue #1: Men and woman are equal in value and dignity. (Gen. 1:27)**

Prof. Amartya Sen: There are now more than 100,000,000 women "missing" in the population of the world *USA Today: International Edition* (Sept. 6, 1994):

Campus Crusade for Christ: In a marriage lived according to these truths, the love between husband and wife will show itself in listening to each other's viewpoints, valuing each other's gifts, wisdom, and desires, honoring one another in public and in private, and always seeking to bring benefit, not harm, to one another (July, 1999 policy statement)

**B. Key Issue #2: Men and women have different roles in marriage as part of the created order.**

But before talking about marriage: A word to singles

**Ten Reasons Showing Male Headship in Marriage Before the Fall:**

- **1. The Order:** Adam was created first, then Eve (Genesis 2:7, 18-23).
- **2. The representation:** Adam, not Eve, had a special role in representing the human race.
- 1 Cor. 15:22: For as *in Adam* all die, so also *in Christ* shall all be made alive.
- **3. The naming of woman:** Adam named Eve: Gen. 2:23:
- **4. The naming of the human race:** (Gen 5:1-2)
- God named the human race "Man," not "Woman" or "Humanity"
- **5. The Primary Accountability:** God spoke to Adam first after the Fall. (Gen 3:9)
- **6. The purpose:** Eve was created as a helper for Adam, not Adam as a helper for Eve.
- Gen. 2:18: "Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a *helper* (Hebrew 'ezer) fit for him" (Genesis 2:18).
- **7. The Conflict:** The curse brought a distortion of previous roles, not the introduction of new roles.
- Gen. 3:16 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 [or: against] (*teshuqah + el*) your husband, and he shall rule over you." (see same words on Gen. 4:7)
- **8. The Restoration:** Salvation in Christ reaffirms the creation order. (Col 3:18-19)
- **9. The Mystery:** Marriage from the beginning of creation was a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church. (Eph 5:31)
- **10. The parallel with the Trinity:** The equality, differences, and unity between men and women reflect the equality, differences and unity in the Trinity. (1 Cor 11:3)

**But how does it work in practice?**

**A note on other differences:**

The husband has *primary responsibility* to provide for and protect (including protection from all abuse!), and the wife has *primary responsibility* to care for the home and to nurture children (see *EFBT* discussion)

**Some egalitarian objections to male headship in marriage**

- 1. Gal. 3:28 abolishes role distinctions in marriage.  
→ this teaches unity, not sameness
- 2. "Mutual submission" in Eph. 5:21 nullifies male authority in marriage.  
--> context shows 3 kinds of submission: → Not one is reversible
- --> "submit" (Greek *hupotasso*) always means to submit to an authority

--> "one another" (Greek *allelous*) can mean "some to others"

- 3. In "the husband is the head of the wife" (Eph. 5:23) "head," means "source," not "person in authority."
- --> 2,336 examples of *kephale* ("head") in Greek
- --> over 50 times: person in authority --> not one example ever discovered where "Person A is the head of Person B" and Person A is not in authority over B

**Summary of Key Issue #2: Men and women have different roles in marriage as part of the created order.**

**C. Key Issue #3: The equality and differences between men and women reflect the equality and differences in the Trinity.**

- 1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to understand that the *head* of every man is Christ, the *head* of a wife is her husband, and the *head* of Christ is God.

When did the idea of headship and submission begin? --> It has existed eternally in the very being of God The idea of headship and submission never began!

**D. Key Issue #4: The equality and differences between men and women are very good.**

- This created order is fair. This created order is best for us. This created order is beautiful.

**E. Key Issue #5: Our view of manhood and womanhood is a watershed issue that tests our obedience to the Bible.**

- Egalitarianism does not advance on the strength of exegetical arguments  
How does egalitarianism advance?

- 1. Through incorrect interpretations of Scripture
- 2. Through reading into Scripture things that aren't there
- 3. Through incorrect assumptions about the meanings of words in the Bible
- 4. Through incorrect assumptions about the history of the ancient world
- 5. Through methods of interpretation that reject the authority of Scripture and lead toward liberalism → see: Grudem, *Evangelical Feminism: A New Path to Liberalism* (Crossway: Sept. 8, 2006)
- 6. Through rejecting Scripture as our authority and deciding on the basis of personal experience or indination
- 7. Through suppression of information

Egalitarianism has two significant allies: (1) Much of the secular culture (2) Christian leaders who are complementarian but who lack courage to teach on it or take a stand

- Note Acts 20:26-27: Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

Expectations:

- The egalitarian position will continue to harm many people
- But I do not think for a minute that it will win:
- Matthew 16:18: "I will build my church"
- Ephesians 5:27: so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

To order CD's e-mail Trent Poling [ctpoling@msn.com](mailto:ctpoling@msn.com) or talk to Trent in the sound booth before or after class. Trent also has electronic copies of these outlines starting in about June, 2005, and the outlines are posted on the web site [www.christianessentialsbc.com](http://www.christianessentialsbc.com)