

IMAGING GOD THROUGH MALE LEADERSHIP

Introduction:

1. The world has never really cared what God has to say about male headship / leadership

A) There is a growing movement

> Among the “evangelical”—committed to the gospel

> Among the “orthodox”—holding to the “fundamentals of the faith” without which Christianity is nothing

... who hold that gender distinctions in relationship to leadership / headship are no longer necessary

Some would say that the distinction in function was a result of the fall that redemption undoes

Some would say that redemption moves a culture forward so that it gets rid of primitive or undesirable cultural baggage

Some use slavery to validate their claim

Some use polygamy to validate their claim

In truth, anything in the Bible would have the potential to be changed

Homosexuality – as long as it is monogamous and loving

Tonight I want to remind you of a few foundational truths which seem to be pretty substantial in answering questions we may have about male / female and husband / wife relationship

Is “Male leadership” an assumption or God’s design?

The New Testament texts which acknowledge / teach male leadership

In the church

1 Corinthians 11:3

1 Corinthians 14:26-35

1 Timothy 2:8-15

1 Timothy 3:1-5

In the home

Ephesians 5:22-24 / Colossians 3:18-19

1 Peter 3:1-7

The Pattern for male leadership is found in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28)

Just as there is equality in essence and diversity in function in the Triune God

God the Son submits to God the Father (Matthew 26:39-42; John 6:38)

So there is equality in essence and diversity in function in those created in His image

Man / Woman (1 Cor. 11:3)

Carries over to the Parent / Child relationship (Ephesians 6:1-3)

Although the child is under the parents authority, every child – even a child in the womb, is equal in essence with the mother as image of God

Why did God decide to put males in the role of leader?

How many males deserve that position?

How many males have abandoned that responsibility?

How many females are capable and willing to fill the gap created by irresponsible males?

So, why did God determine this structure?

For His glory

Everything that God does is for His glory

By imaging God we glorify God

Because He wanted to

There are a lot of why questions which aren't very good

Adelyn is a thinker and wants to know why

Sometimes it is helpful ... sometimes it is annoying

Like children some of the questions we pose to God are helpful ... sometimes they are nothing more than annoying ... bordering on disrespect and obedience.

Why did God make grass green and not blue?

Why was I born into a stable middle class Christian home in the U.S. and not as an orphan destined to live on the streets in a Muslim country?

Why couldn't Adam and Eve eat from every tree of the garden?

Why can't two adults choose a same sex marriage if they love each other?

Well, maybe the continuation of the human race has something to do with that answer!

Because it is good

When God created the man / woman He called it good ... very good.

When He reiterated His plan for the husband / wife relationship it was because it still reflected His image and was / is good.

Because it is necessary

Leadership structures are necessary to provide unity, security, love, and blessing for those created in His image

Government (Romans 13:1-5)

Context – a pagan Roman government

Work place (Ephesians 6:5-8)

Church (Hebrews 13:17)

Home

Husband / wife

Parent / child

* Take away leadership in any one of these contexts and it endangers all involved

Chaos, conflict, and evil will abound

God's gifts to those created in His image are authority structures

The sinful bent of fallen man is to resist and reject God's authority mediated through His appointed leaders

The Problem isn't so much what God has said but how it has been / is abused

Wicked governments who oppress their people - practicing lawlessness and injustice

Church leaders who use their position of power to oppress and make merchandise of the people
(2 Peter 2:1-3)

Males who abuse or abandon their place of leadership

Foolish men like Nabal the husband of Abigail (1 Samuel 25:23-28)

Males who abuse their place of leadership to serve their selfish desires instead of being servant
leaders (Ephesians 5:25ff.; John 13:12-17)

Females who resent God's design

In the church and in the home

More and more today I hear women who are preparing to be pastors or are already in
ministry say, "I am using the gifts God gave and finding fulfillment in the way He made
me."

With all due respect, that sounds like the same reasoning of the homosexual movement

God made you to image Him and glorify Him.

You cannot refuse to image Him and still glorify Him or worship Him

I cannot help but think of Nadab / Abihu in Leviticus 10:1-3

OR Korah in Numbers 16:1-7

* God doesn't approve of people who resist / rebel against His structures

That's enough for this week – making sure that we understand the premise

Next week we'll come back and consider how we can encourage male leadership in the church / home