

Biblical Womanhood

by Shirley Rose

There is a growing worldview that gender is not as simple as male and female—man and woman.

The Biblical Mandate

Genesis 1 states, “*God created man in His own image—male and female ...*” God made the first man and then He recognized that man needed a helper, so God supplied the perfect partner for man by creating woman. The first definition then of woman is man’s God-ordained partner.

The Power of Womanhood

One government official stated he wanted a “woman” on the United States Supreme Court. The nominee herself either *could not* or *would not* define the term “woman” when asked the question—and she is seemingly on board to replace the word “woman” with “birthing person” in future governmental references.

Another elected official reduced womanhood to a physical condition by referring to them as “menstruating people.” Defining a woman as simply being a breeder is an unthinkable insult.

Womanhood is certainly connected to giving birth. God did not equip *men* to do so. It is a gift of God that is a part of women’s identity, destiny, and yes, power. From the beginning, women were designed by God with the unique ability to conceive, sustain life in the womb, and then continue to sustain the child after birth.

It is important to note, however, that motherhood is only one aspect of womanhood.

All women are not mothers. But females also possess God-given qualities that most males do not. Instincts such as sensitivity, nurturing, empathy, and nesting are strong in the female gender. While every person is unique and I speak in generalities, there are qualities both physical, emotional, mental, and social that identify us as women.

Women and Wisdom

One additional *significant* concept of womanhood is our gift of wisdom, good judgment, discernment, and kindness. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 31:26, “*She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*” God has gifted women with wisdom. Consider these beautiful verses from Proverbs 3:15–18:

*She is more precious than rubies ...
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life
To those who take hold of her,
And happy are all who retain her.*

These words describe wisdom, a most desirable virtue. It’s interesting that wisdom is described as a feminine trait. It is no coincidence that throughout Jewish and Christian history, wisdom is often described as a woman.

Women in the Bible

To further understand the power of womanhood, consider the roles that women have played in biblical history.

A woman first appeared in Genesis as an integral part of God's creation. **Eve** was man's companion and became "the mother of all mankind." Unfortunately, she was also a key player in the tragic fall of mankind, but God chose to use a woman to provide God's *redemption* ... *The woman will have a son who will crush the serpent's head* (Genesis 3:15).

Jesus could have simply appeared one day as an adult. He may even have been more readily accepted as the Messiah. But God chose a young woman to conceive, go through pregnancy, and give birth to this special baby who was all God and all man ... the Messiah.

Women show up again and again to rescue God's plan of redemption. While women in the culture of biblical times were not revered and respected like men, God honored women and gave them the unique role of preserving the priestly lineage that led to the birth of our Savior. Consider these biblical women:

- **Ruth:** the Gentile woman who became the great-grandmother of King David
- **Esther:** the woman who courageously rescued the Jewish race from extinction
- **Abigail:** the woman who prevented David from murdering an entire clan
- **Mary:** the earthly mother of Jesus who is the most famous woman in history
- **Anna:** the prophetess who announced Jesus as the promised Messiah

There are many other women who served the Lord in different ways—like **Mary Magdalene** and **Joanna** who gave of their personal resources to support the earthly ministry of Jesus.

The Power of Women Today

In our present world, the power of womanhood is critically needed. Using the gifts God has given us, we must be the "voice shouting in the wilderness." More than just influencers, we must be the voice of reason in a world devoid of morals and common sense. We must cling to Judeo-Christian principles as though our lives depended on them, because they do—along with the lives of future generations. **Whether single or married, mother or childless, we can use our womanhood to pass along the values we have learned from the Bible to this troubled and hurting generation.**

A woman's role has not changed all that much over the centuries. Proverbs 31 does not describe a mousy little housewife that is nothing more than a "birthing person." That extraordinary woman looks after her husband and helps provide for their needs. She juggles her family, a home, a business, gives to charity, and leaves a legacy to her children.

The godly woman today still sets the tone of her household. She teaches others the ways of God. She is not afraid to declare what is right and wrong based on God's Word—even if that message is unpopular. It is noteworthy that it is women who are standing up for parental rights in our schools.

What is a woman? She is the one her children, husband, and friends look to for reason, common sense, wisdom, and judgment. She is the compass of righteousness in a world devoid of conscience. She is the one they look upon and call "blessed."

