

Series outline:

1) Male and female made in the image of God

- Unity → made in the image of God :: cultural mandate
- Diversity → complementarian order in marriage
- Order grounded in the Trinity and in pre-Fall creation

2) The Fall and the perversion of the created order

- Strikes at the heart of marriage and family: twisting gender relations
- The church has always been tempted to worldliness
- Secular humanism: the individual will trumps community and everything
- Is the push for women in office a result of our perversion of the Word?

3) God's preservation of the created order: marriage, family and beyond

- God's rule over his two kingdoms in Christ
- Imaging God in community
- Relational order in communities in both kingdoms

4) Corresponding gender roles in marriage and in the church

5) Why Scripture sanctions ordination of men only

6) The error of a hermeneutic of social justice

7) Addressing some objections

Corresponding gender roles in marriage & in the church

- Who will we take our cues from? Scripture or culture?
 - Pressures of modern life to conform to, among other things:
 - Erroneous conceptions of freedom
 - Pressures on marriage and family
 - Men and women are not sure of their roles
 - Lack of male leadership in the home

:: Gender roles in marriage

- Civil kingdom and stewardship of the earth
 - Fulfilling the cultural mandate: prophet, priest and king

- Marriage and family
 - Covenant
 - Male headship/ representation (cf. Gen. 1-2)

- General comments of masculinity and femininity
 - Physiological make-up of deeper differences
 - Psychic and spiritual
 - Remember unity and diversity as image-bearers

- Gender roles in marriage
 - Not attempting an exhaustive definition
 - Comment on singleness
 - Jesus Christ as most fully human person ever

 - Husband as *servant-leader*
 - Order of creation (Gen. 1-2)

 - Husband is head of the wife even as Christ the church (Eph. 5:23)
 - Taking the lead: taking general pattern of initiative
 - Does not equal unilateral decision-making

 - Husband as servant
 - Love & sanctify his wife as Christ does the church (Eph. 5:25-27)
 - Love her as he does his own body (v28-33)
 - Live with her in an understanding way (1 Peter 3:7)

 - Domain: provision for and protection of the family
 - Curse in Gen. 3
 - Responsibility to provide in 1 Tim. 5:8
 - Qualifications for elders/deacons
 - Manage his household (1 Tim. 3)

 - Examples in practice (remembering Christian liberty and wisdom)
 - Leading family worship
 - Leading in matters of discipline
 - Taking initiative in personal safety

- *Wife as submissive help-mate*
 - Submission as unto the Lord Jesus (Eph. 5:22,24; 1 Peter 3)
 - Includes respect (Eph. 5:33)
 - Encouraging and deferring to leadership of husband
 - Help-mate (Gen. 1-2)
 - Support :: sensitivity :: softness :: intuition
 - Domain: home and child-rearing
 - See curse in Gen. 3 :: Prov. 31
 - Examples in practice (remember Christian liberty and wisdom)
 - What society has taken away from the woman
 - Women feeling unfulfilled
 - Society taken away many roles women used to perform
 - By impersonal hospitals, businesses, schools and governments
 - Raising and teaching children
 - Taking care of administration of finances
 - Buying and selling property/ merchandise
 - Taking care of grandchildren
 - Taking care of the poor in the community
 - How does my choice of work outside the home further my calling?
- Comment on impersonal spheres of other institutions
 - How are gender roles worked out here?
- Family life as a microcosm of the church
- Family like as oriented toward the church
 - Raising a godly seed

:: Gender roles in the church

- Importance of recovering vocation outside the church
 - Sacred and secular
 - Contentment with the ordinary

- Tendency to want radical and revolution
 - Selfish ambition
 - Not more spiritual to serve church
- Priesthood of all believers
 - Members of the body of Christ with gifts (Eph. 4 and Rom. 12)
 - Does not obliterate special office
 - As much as our pop culture of equal rights would like to suggest
- All servants for (witnesses to) the gospel
 - Specifically women
 - Examples from Scripture:
 - Phoebe: servant of the church at Cenchreae (Rom. 16:1)
 - Priscilla & Aquila: fellow workers in Christ (Rom. 16:3; cf. Acts 18)
 - Euodia and Syntyche (Phil. 4) :: partnership in gospel (Phil. 1:5)
 - Examples of service
 - Teach younger women (Titus 2:3-5)
 - Teach children
 - Intuition and sensitivity on pastoral matters
 - Reading others
 - Insights on the human condition
 - Finances
 - Mercy
 - Visiting the sick
 - Opportunities in SA context
 - Show hospitality
 - Carry burdens of others
 - Prayer
 - Fellowship
 - Witness to the world
- Male headship and special office
 - Revisiting critical texts: 1 Tim. 2:11-15 :: 1 Tim. 3
- What is at stake?
 - Assimilating gospel to social and political aspirations