



Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood

John Piper, Wayne A. Grudem (Editor)

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The "evangelical feminism" movement is addressed by 22 men and women who have committed their talents to produce the most thorough response yet to the issues raised. All main passages of Scripture that are relevant to the questions are considered.

Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood Details

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From Reader Review Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood for online ebook

Stephen says

While I ultimately disagree with the conclusions of this book, it is a well-written and argued case for complementarianism. The greatest strength of the book is its exegetical work and its breadth (including forays in law, psychology, and biology). I found the core biblical argument unconvincing, but again, well-stated. I cannot recommend this book as a resource for better understanding the roles of men and women in the church, but I do recommend it as the classic statement of the complementarian position which should be engaged by those arguing for evangelical egalitarianism. A thought-provoking read.

Chad Barnes says

The single most thorough work I've seen on biblical manhood and womanhood. Arguing from a complementarian perspective, Piper and Grudem's work is practical, but also a difficult, thoroughly exegetical, theologically rich read that is not for the faint of heart. I would venture to call this the finest work on biblical manhood and womanhood in print outside of the Bible itself, but would warn that it's content is undoubtedly on par with that of a seminary course.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: Because Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood is written from a complementarian perspective, some will inevitably argue that the book is chauvinist. Since chauvinism is the belief that one gender is superior to another, even a quick read of the book would reveal that the contributors could not be further from chauvinist. They soundly squash such an understanding and, in fact, argue that men and women have equal value as God's image bearers (p.95). They also argue that men and women have distinct roles. Some people insist that affirming role distinctions is inherently chauvinist. To do that, though, one must also argue that Jesus' voluntary submission to His Father ("not my will, but yours be done") means that the second member of the Trinity is inferior to the first, which has long been rejected as a heresy. One must also argue that children are less valuable than parents, that employees are less valuable than employers, and that ordinary citizens are less valuable than government officials because all of those relationships involve differing roles.

Alexis Neal says

An excellent text on, well, biblical manhood and womanhood. The authors are not trying to convince the secular world of the validity of complementarian gender roles--they seek only to defend complementarianism against the egalitarianism popular among evangelical feminists. Some of the essays were more persuasive than others (as is often the case), and I do wish they'd spent a little time encouraging women of God's sovereign ability to bless their efforts at biblical womanhood (since so many of us grew up in the age of feminism and thus feel better-equipped for a career in the world than for marriage and motherhood). Still, an clear and thorough presentation of complementarian theology. The appendix on the exegesis of 'kephale' was particularly. I appreciated the authors' attempts to explain their views humbly and without malice. Vitriol tends to accompany any discussion of such a hot button issue, and the authors were careful not to villainize their opponents. I was encouraged to see that they distinguished loving leadership from domination in a way

that completely disarms all claims of misogyny. I also appreciated the focus on evangelism and the gospel as the chief priorities.

Definitely worth a read. Or, if the length and density is a deterrent, worth having around for reference purposes.

♥ Ibrahim ♥ says

My manhood has to be recovered? Once a man always a man. I don't have to stress my manhood to any woman. She should feel safe and secure around me as I lead by example, by being a man of prayer fully devoted to the spiritual life. If she sees that, it will be she who will head over with heels for anything going on in my spiritual life. But if I keep reminding the lady about who is head and how much of a "head" I have, she will be pushed away. Why put a wedge between the genders? Why not seek unity and intimacy instead of bemoaning my lost manhood that I have to go on an adventure of recovering? Hurray, I read the book and I got my manhood back! This kind of book stresses the Arab patriarchal mindset that I myself tried to be rid of by converting to Christianity. Are we moving forward or going backward? If we are in Christ, there is no male or female. I say that as an Arab Christian guy who has practiced the new life and want to renew me from within in every aspect. This kind of a book is divisive and chauvinistic. It breaks my heart that there are even Christians who think along such chauvinistic lines. What kind of Christianity is that?! I wonder! Not my type!

Micah Lugg says

This book was originally written a decade ago, but it still stands as the best work on the biblical roles of men and women. The authors present sound exegesis and cogent theological reasoning. The church needs to be speaking to these issues of sexuality, equality, and personhood, for they are some of the most decisive issues of our day.

I heartily recommend all Christians to read this book, for believers need to be reminded what the Bible says about the roles of men and women.

Sarah Casbeer says

Maddening, but to be fair...comprehensive and well written.

Ariana says

Important, solid biblical instruction for Christians. As others have mentioned, this is more of a textbook or reference guide than a sit-down-and-read-cover-to-cover book, but if you can do the latter, DO. This is such

valuable work. From a personal standpoint, it gave me so much hope that eventually Christians, and one day the world, can see eye to eye on this integral issue.

Would love to see an updated version with notes containing recent statistics, as the book was written in the early nineties and much has changed in the past 20 years.

Mary says

I read this volume as part of an individual study with a former student of mine at Temple U. She was interested in the evangelical "biblical equality" movement and included this book on her reading list. (She also included another anthology by later antagonists: Discovering Biblical Equality, eds. Pierce and Groothuis.)

A few of the chapters in Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood are written by the editor, John Piper. This was my first encounter with Piper, and in the past few years, I have become increasingly astonished with how popular Piper is! He is joining a long tradition of celebrity preachers. (I believe that you can even get a feed on your blog now with daily Piper quotes.)

The rating: The two stars are primarily for educational value. If I rated this solely based on inspirational usefulness, it certainly would have received less than that, as I do not agree with many of the position statements. I am also uncomfortable with both its exegetical style and the broader evangelical tendency to treat the Bible as the fourth member of the Godhead.

However, this is an historically important piece of literature in the history of white American Protestantism. It's especially useful for illustrating clearly the main elements of the culture wars and theological debates that have popped up within the evangelical subculture in the last few decades. Reading Piper's anthology with Discovering Biblical Equality makes for some good sport.

Leeann Head says

Does not follow Christ's example of sincere & servant-hearted equality of male & female believers. Disappointed. Phoebe, a female deacon, is praised by Paul, plus other female Christians as active in God's work. Recent search for a balanced bible church uncovered one with this motto listed as what they strive for..i.e.subjugating Christian women in all roles-even secular (!! vs. empowering women to go beyond dangerously lukewarm participation in all areas of life. A dismal gag-order for over half the church population based on sex, not competency.

Pastor Matt says

At the risk of being unduly repetitive, this is a work that EVERY minister needs to have at hand.

Kirsten Kinnell says

i couldn't disagree with Piper and Grudem more.

Jaclynn says

22 contributing authors including Elisabeth Elliot, John Piper, Wayne Grudem, and Ray Ortlund Jr. Not written to necessarily be read in its entirety. (I skipped the appendixes and notes) Very in depth study of what Biblical manhood and womanhood is-an examination of aythe culture, meanings of the Greek words and a realistic view of to apply all of that in today's world. Topics/chapters include: Male-Female equality, Male headship, What it means not to teach or have authority over men, Rearing masculine boys and feminine girls, The high calling of wife and mother, Essence of Femininity, and Biological Basis in gender specific behavior. Beware though, this book my challenge your current ideas on what God's order is for the man and woman and how that should play out in today's families!

Andrew Bradbeer says

Didn't agree with everything written by every contributor - in particular some of the suggestions that women should relate to all men with respectful submission, encouraging them to lead. Even if the woman was in a position of authority in a secular job.

That seemed to be taking it too far, and beyond what the Bible says.

However, as I get older I am more and more sympathetic to the perspectives put forward by most of the authors. I also respect the biblical sholarship of Grudem et. al. An important book.

Kj says

it's for research...my response will probably be "No Comment"

Kim Winters says

The reason christian fellowship has become boring and two-dimensional is in part owing to our individual and corporate ignorance of our God-designed biblical manhood and womanhood and the ways in which our embracing (and/or rejecting) that design impacts intimacy between believers. This book guides us back to the soul satisfying fellowship Jesus Christ died to make possible.
