

GENDER: Equal Value, Design Differences

Galatians 3:28, Genesis 3, 1 Timothy 2

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February 7, 2016

I. GENDER IDENTITY: Redemption into the Church

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

A. What does Galatians 3:28 say about men and women?

B. What does the Bible say about men and women?

- *THEREFORE: Gender distinctions and gender roles did not come from the fall; rather, in the fall, the very things that were natural in our lives become perverted by pain and distorted by difficulty. These common pains and difficulties are designed by God to cause us to ask, "Why?" And so perhaps turn to God.*

C. What does all this mean?

1. It does not mean that there is no hierarchy.
 - One of the most destructive effects of the fall is to distort God's good authority in our lives and along with that all other authorities.
 - Authority well administered blesses and gives life to those under it—with God being the prime example. Good authority sometimes grants, and at other times denies requests.
 - ✓ *In the 1st garden, man rejects the Father's will and it results in death.*
 - ✓ *In the 2nd garden, the Second Adam, Jesus accepts the Father's will and in so doing brings forth life.*
2. Our genders help us to understand God.
3. Our genders help us to understand Jesus and salvation.

II. GENDER IDENTITY: Roles within the Church

Are there reasons for distinctive roles in the church and home?

- 1) It was God's idea before the fall. (1 Tim. 2:13)
- 2) It is still God's ideal after the fall.
 - God's grace will act on our behalf. God's grace will triumph over both the enemy and our failure!