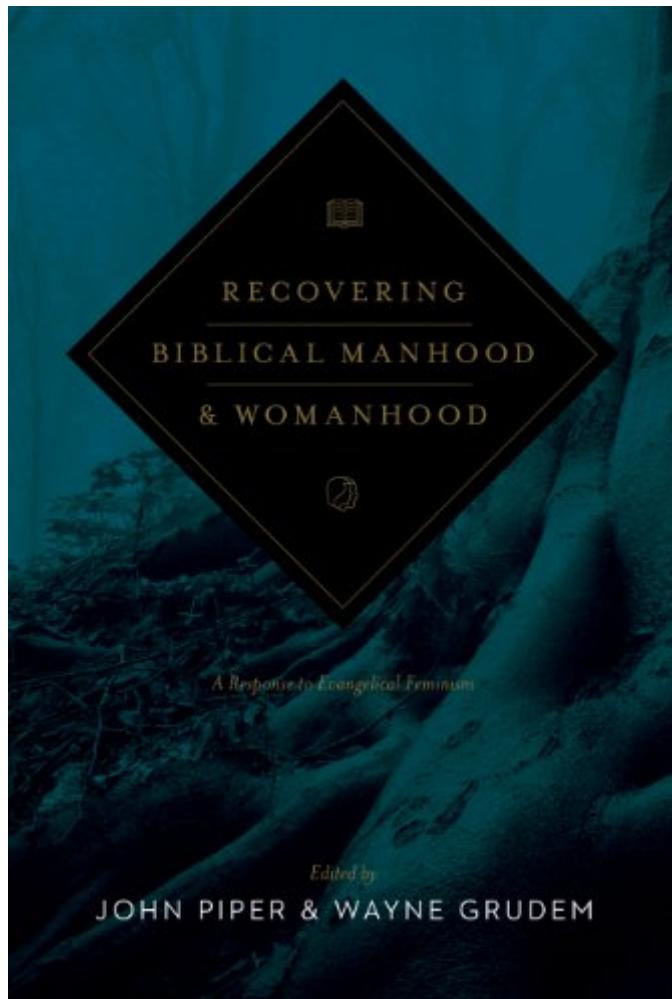


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Recovering Biblical Manhood And Womanhood: A Response To Evangelical Feminism



Synopsis

A controversy of major proportions has spread through the church. Recent generations bear witness to the rise of "evangelical feminism"-a movement that has had a profound impact on all of life, challenging some of our basic Christian beliefs. In this new edition of an influential and award-winning best-seller, more than twenty men and women have committed their talents to produce the most thorough response yet to this modern movement. Combining systematic argumentation with popular application, this volume deals with all of the main passages of Scripture brought forward in this controversy regarding gender-based role differences. Anyone concerned with the fundamental question of the proper relationship between men and women in home, church, and society will want to read this book. New preface included.

Book Information

File Size: 4367 KB

Print Length: 576 pages

Publisher: Crossway; Redesign edition (August 8, 2006)

Publication Date: August 15, 2006

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00265VGGO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #332,978 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #94 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Gender & Sexuality #290 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Gender & Sexuality #2509 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology

Customer Reviews

I've read a few of the other reviews here, and I frankly can't agree with the negative sentiments. Whether or not a person has a complementarian perspective, this book is still very informative and well written. It is not intended to be a book that is read from its beginning to its conclusion (although

I did). Instead, it serves more as a reference volume, addressing various issues of men and women in marriage and in ministry. There are five sections that comprise this work. The first section is an overview that moves rather quickly and sets the stage for the sections to follow. Exegetical and theological in nature, the second section is very meticulous and may be boring to some readers. The third section addresses male/female issues in church history, biology, psychology, sociology and law. After establishing a strong basis of support, the fourth section proceeds to apply the ways in which men and women can complement one another today in the church, in the home, and in society. The fifth section briefly summarizes and comments upon the many points that have been made. I recommend this title as a REFERENCE book. Reading it from cover to cover will prove challenging, much like trying to read an encyclopedia. Still, this work is a classic. I know of no other book on the market that provides such a strong, comprehensive explanation of the complementarian position. For the pastor or teacher who is dealing with the issues surrounding the roles of men and women in marriage and in ministry, this book is a MUST READ.

Ah the joys of this Christian debate. I only want to mention a few things. First, read this book if you are (1) a seminary student, (2) a pastor dealing with this issue in your ministry, and (3) interested in a variety of well written articles on this debate. If you are looking for easy answers, this is not the book for you. Second, I took a class with Grudem in seminary on this particular issue, and suffice it to say I am still working on this issue. It is important to say here that he does truly care about women and that this book is an out growth of that concern. I don't think anything said in this book does otherwise (regardless if you disagree with the views presented). However, I would suggest that you would also read books on the other side of the issue. Even the four views book on this topic. Be informed of all the positions' points so that you truly sort out what is your stance.

Reading many of the negative reviews, I couldn't help but think that the reviewers couldn't have read the words written. I did expect that there would have been some contrary views expressed but the antagonistic response of many Christian readers was surprising. I also wondered what kind of reviews would be given by the female elders at our church??? I found the book quite easy to read. I have found both Grudem and Piper lucid writers and I enjoy the challenge of following their arguments. In relation to the central issue of Sexual Complementarity and differing roles within sexually-differentiated equal beings created in the image of God with the same opportunities for salvation, I believe the work is compelling. As a Male, I was convicted again of Adam's failure to defend Eve in Genesis 3:1 and not compel the Serpent to direct his questions to him as God had

given him the command before Eve was created. This same weakness in the male version of Man is still evident in Churches where men defer to women to take on roles that they should take themselves. The pastor's heart of Dr Piper is evident in seeking to find a Biblical Answer to the child's question: "Dad, what does it mean to be a man and not a woman?" I am mindful that the need to answer this question is more pressing now in 2006 then it was in 1988 when they published the Danver Statement. There is excellent exegesis throughout and I am more comfortable with accepting the full counsel of God in Scripture and seek a rational explanation of seemingly contradictory statements than the argument to set aside the controversial sections referred to in this book.

To anyone who is reading these reviews without having an already established position on the roles of men and women, I would strongly encourage you to read this book. It is a thorough hermeneutically solid and Biblical exegesis of the numerous texts of Scripture that speak to this issue. Each chapter is written by a different NT Greek scholar and deals solely with one of the texts that lend information to the issue of gender roles. The book is extremely scholarly written, and to my knowledge there has been no rebuttal written to it. It stands unchallenged. What saddens me however, is reading the various reviews on the book. PROOF-TEXTING (like quoting "there is neither male nor female in Christ" without giving its context and meaning) dishonors God's Word! I have failed to see any negative reviews that in any way engage the arguments of the book. NONE!! I only have read people who quote a verse or two out of context and then proceed to condescendingly attack the complementarian view as a whole. I would encourage any open minded readers to see through this type of propaganda and read the book for themselves. Lastly I would like to disprove the false argument proosed by many reviewers that equality and subservience are contradictory notions. Here Go's.... 1. Jesus is fully God and completely equal with God and in no way inferior to Him (Phil 2:6) 2. Jesus is submissive (Luke 22:42) and obedient to God The Father, who is "Greater" (John 14:28) position and authority. In this way, male and female genders and gender roles reflect the image of God. Within the trinity itself there is complete equality but yet there is a clear authority structure. God the Fathers sends His Son, and They in turn send the Holy Spirit. This proves that the concept of total equality and of subservience are not multuly exclusive.

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