
Sunday, June 18, 2017
Did You Know?

More Than the Plumbing

This article first appeared on May 3, 2015. Now, just over two years later, it has become apparently clear that our society is significantly more confused about gender than it has ever been. Some of the content has been changed, but the essence is the same.

If I were to ask you, “What is the difference between a Christian man and a Christian woman?” or “Is there anything that is Biblically unique about a female follower of Christ in comparison to a male follower of Christ,” how would you answer? Would you say, “Just the plumbing.” meaning we are the same and the only thing that’s different is the hardware, the biology, the anatomy?” I don’t know, I think there’s something intuitively (and Biblically) within us that tells us that it must be more than that.

Let me probe this issue further by asking some questions. Men, is it important for you to know what your Biblical role is as a (future) husband and father? Women, isn’t it just as important to know what your Biblical role is as a wife and mother? Parents, is it important that your sons know what it means to be male and, later, a man, as well as for your daughters to know godly femininity, and to see that modeled by their parents and by the greater church community? I think all of us would answer collectively with a resounding, ‘Yes!’

The issue of gender is so important for all of us because we all have a gender given to us by God, at birth. However, sin has devastatingly corrupted and damaged both the genders and our view of gender and sexuality. Even our resistance to honestly face this question may be evidence of sin’s grip in this area. For the Christian, our perspectives toward gender must be shaped by Scripture and the place to begin is with God.

Scripture shows that our God is one in essence, but three in persons, or, what has otherwise been called, the doctrine of the Trinity. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit constitute our united, singular God. The Father is not the Son is not the Holy Spirit. Each of them is unique and distinct. What we also see is that there is a differentiation in roles between the members of the Godhead. It would be inaccurate to say, “Father, thank you for dying on the cross for my sins.” That’s an age-old heresy called patripassianism. It’d be the same as saying, “Dad, thank you for giving birth to me.” Can you imagine what mom would say!? This is where we begin our discussion on gender.

Pray that God would give us more clarity to form God-honoring, Biblical views on gender. And, pray especially for our children that they too would be raised up with a Biblical understanding of their maleness and femaleness, and embrace, as a gift, their God-given gender.

Soli Deo Gloria

Pastor Peter