

## **MEN ARE NOT A THREAT TO WOMEN**

God has established separate and purposeful goals for the man, and different, purposeful goals for the woman, and I see no need for any kind of unnecessary competition to determine which is the greater. Yes, it is a new day and age, but God's plan does not need to change.

I will be the first one to acknowledge that there has been discrimination against women when it comes to being underpaid for the same job a man does, and for being mistreated in the work place, but this is not the topic or purpose of my article today. There are many people, and not just women, who want to go beyond what I just mentioned, and change God's plan for the two sexes. Their real concern is not over job titles, equal pay, etc., but they want to attack God's plan, and His inspired flow of authority in the family as put forth in the Bible. Today the emphasis of those attacking God's plan seems not to be on feminism any more, but on the definition of what a family is.

1 Corinthians 11:11-12, "In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God."

The first thing we notice here is this, men and women are equal as God's representatives. Second we notice that scripture never portrays either men or women as superior to the other in foundational issues, such as one's potential to glorify God. God's word says men and women both can glorify God and have eternal life, and there does not need to be any competition over superiority.

I will defend the man's position of authority in the family. You may be saying now, "But you just said in one breath that all are equal under God, that there is no need for competition of the sexes, and now you say that man has a place of authority in the family." That is exactly what I said. The problem for some people is that they dislike the word authority, and are making it a terrible word. This authority is not the picture of a master or a tyrant, but one of responsibility and love.

Back in Genesis it says that God created us male and female. In Matthew 19:5 it says the two genders become one in marriage, but they are still male and female. It's a jigsaw puzzle with only two pieces to it. Each piece makes a beautiful picture, but when they come together, the picture is even more beautiful. They are different, but compatible.

*Roy Goodlet is a retired minister and a member of Murphy Church of Christ. Email him at [royfcc@yahoo.com](mailto:royfcc@yahoo.com).*