**CALL ME CRAZY**

**Men/Women- The Difference Makes a Difference**

Weekend of 11/18-19/2023

**WE Slide 1 Joe’s looking for an owner’s manual for life!** Since the beginning of time the principles for life found in the Bible have brought order/peace/purpose to societies- makes sense because God created, designed life. **It’s been done by sinful/selfish humans so it hasn’t worked perfectly, but it has worked.** Western civilization is what it is because it was built upon the social/civil/legal principles found in the Bible. **It’s why those who hate God are tearing down men/women/marriage/family- they’re attacking the foundation.** But don’t be fooled like many conservative politicians/talking heads. **This isn’t a political move, it’s a spiritual move which Satan began back in Genesis 3- tearing down what God has created and turning people from God’s truth.** This info is not ammo, it’s truth for you and me to bring to those who are destroying their lives/relationships trying to do life the world’s way.

**TODAY we want to talk about MEN/WOMEN.** Social influencers have men/women so confused about who they are that they think the answer is to try and be the other gender. **Men are toxic to society, men who want to be women/women who want to be men are awesome- man’s wisdom makes no sense.** This only brings more confusion, emotional trauma and broken lives/relationships. **Slide 2 As we talked about last week you/I have to make a couple of choices- #1- Who’s in charge- God or me?** **And #2-** If I say God then does He really mean what He says? The things we look at today may cause you to question whether God means what He says. **LET’S TEST IT:** **When I say, “Men’s primary purpose is to be the spiritual leader.”, men/women how do you react?** When I say, “Women’s primary purpose is to be spiritual encouragers”, what goes through your mind? **Did God really say that, does He really mean that?**

**AS WE SAW LAST WEEK- Slide 3 God IS in charge: He’s Designer/Creator, therefore He’s our authority.** Someone/thing will always be the authority and we need that to have order/peace/accomplish our purpose. **ILLUSTRATIONS:** **TRAFFIC LAWS**- order to driving. **SPORTS’ RULES**- order to games; authority/order not only help things get accomplished but makes things safer/enjoyable. **God is the authority whether people admit it or not. Slide 4**

**GOD**

1. **GOD IS THE AUTHORITY**
2. **He Is Creator/Designer- the One who knows how it all works together for the best results.**
3. I don’t tell you how to run your house/vice versa.
4. The world/all that’s in it is God’s house and people in society are saying they’re the authority in God’s house which is why we have chaos and destruction. **OT book of Judges- everyone did what was right in their own eyes.**
5. FYI- We do the same thing when we disobey God- do manhood/womanhood our way/world’s way.

**As the AUTHORITY what is God’s design? Slide 5 Not going to get technical here.**

1. **God’s Design- There is Only Men and Women**
2. Men have certain biological/physical/emotional attributes given by God to accomplish His purposes.
3. Women- different biological/physical/emotional attributes given by God to accomplish His purposes.

**It’s true that there are some who truly struggle with this transgender issue, it’s called… Slide 6**

1. Gender dysphoria- .01% of people, usually male children between 2-4 yo have this, 70% outgrow it naturally. **There are also a small number of people who are born intersex. Slide 7**
2. Intersex- born with partially/fully developed reproductive organs of both, on a spectrum of severity- .02%- 1.7% of the population; parents typically choose surgery to remove either male/female sex organs. https://magazine.hms.harvard.edu/articles/body-self

**If there are so few who are actually intersex what’s going on with those who are transgender? Slide 8**

1. **Any Other Gender/Sex Is Just “Feelings”**
2. Those who think/feel they are the opposite gender/sex/fluid are basing it on feelings, not truth.
3. They have their reasons- changing gender will somehow protect them/enable them.
4. In reality they’re hurting, confused- we need to be compassionate, understand their underlying hurt, and speak truth to them with patience.
5. This is difficult because people controlled by their emotions struggle to grasp truth/logic/science.
6. This isn’t just the trans issue, it’s every area of struggle- discontentment, depression, anxiety, addictions; people “feel/perceive” things to be one way, but because God exists so their perception is not necessarily true; there is a better life through faith in Jesus/following Him.
7. People who respond based on feelings need to 1st enter into a relationship with God and 2nd let Him renew their minds/change how they think/feel so He can transform their lives- get them back to living out what’s true, experiencing the purpose, peace, and contentment God offers. Romans 12:2

**If we want to experience what God offers, then we have to pursue who God made us to be no matter what we/others may think/feel. What does God say about what a man is and what a woman is?** To answer this, we have to go back to where we were last week- the beginning, creation- Genesis 2:1-5. **I’m not going to read it again; you can listen to last week’s message. Slide 9-** SUMMARY: God chose to create man first and then woman from man. **We don’t know why He created man first but it wasn’t some ploy by men with toxic masculinity looking to oppress women.** What we do know is that…

1. **GOD SET THE ORDER**
2. **God Chose to Create a Man 1st and a Woman from Man 2nd.**
3. Creating woman from man illustrates the oneness they’re to have in accomplishing God’s purpose.
4. Their oneness would help them/us have some understanding of the Trinity.
5. Shows man is spiritually responsible/the spiritual leader- God created man 1st and was given the command to cultivate, protect what God gave him- namely Eve.
6. Men being spiritual leaders is modeled throughout the Bible**.** **Slide 10 The slide is tight, sorry!**
7. God, who is spirit, expresses Himself in male pronouns.
8. God held Adam responsible for sin being in the world, Romans 5:12.
9. Throughout the OT God always chose men to lead and held them responsible.
10. God the Son came as a man, not a woman.
11. Jesus chose men to train/establish/lead His church.
12. The Holy Spirit told Paul/Peter to challenge husbands to take the spiritual lead in their marriages/homes.
13. The Holy Spirit told Paul/Peter to have spiritually qualified men lead Jesus’ church.

**We can’t get away from the fact that men are to be spiritual leaders- Slide 11 in their home, church, and society and MEN we’ll answer to God for how well we lead.** I don’t know about you but that’s a scary position to be in.

1. **Men Are to Be Spiritual Leaders**
2. God says men are responsible to lead/set the spiritual environment in their homes/church/society.
3. Men, YOU are responsible to cultivate/serve and protect what God has given YOU by obeying Him- doing your life His way, not how you think it should be done.
4. To be a spiritual FOLLOWER is to NOT obey God and puts you at odds with God.

**Sadly, most men either don’t know how to lead spiritually, or they are too selfish/lazy to lead, they think they know better than God how to be a man.** They’ll pursue work over God/family, toys, video games, sports, hobbies, women, partying or whatever else their friends/world says is manly, but those things won’t stand a chance when you stand before God. **I want to take you to 3 of the many places where God tells us what a real man looks like. READ Joshua 1:3-9, 1 Kings 2:1-3, 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Slide 12-21** I’ll just summarize what we’ve read.

1. Men lead by following God’s lead.
2. Real men know/obey/apply God’s Word/the Bible.
3. Real men love God/trust His promises- sacrifice what they think for what God says.
4. Real men love others- serve in their home/church/society.
5. Real men walk with/encourage other men, Titus 2.
6. Real men are strong/courageous/go against the tide of society.

**I PRAISE GOD for the men in our church who are real men- spiritual leaders.** I pray for the men in our church who are struggling with being strong/courageous/to stand against what they/their upbringing/society is telling them. **I pray that they’ll pursue God, realize the great privilege He’s giving them to join Him in accomplishing His purpose in this world and trust that God’s way is the only way to experience the satisfaction/contentment/purpose they are looking for. Women, what does God say about what a real woman is? Slide 22** In Genesis 2 God calls the woman He created from man- a “helper”- women are to be spiritual encouragers.

1. **Women Are to Be Spiritual Encouragers**
2. A position of power to accomplish God’s purpose.
3. **Ladies do you realize the power you have over men?** You can be a spiritual encourager or a spiritual discourager simply with the words you say/how you say them/how you respond to the men in your life.
4. Your godly words/wisdom are needed to encourage those who are discouraged/hurting.
5. Kim’s encouraging words/actions/her wisdom, not nitpicking/verbally manipulative words/actions, especially when I haven’t led well, has kept me on track and spiritually leading well.
6. My daughters’ encouraging words/wisdom have encouraged and pushed me to success- they learned that from their godly mother BTW.
7. Godly women throughout my life have done this- mom, family, church family, ladies at GP.
8. Compassionately speaking God’s truth is your greatest power.

**Ladies, I have a couple of passages for you to consider where God describes what a woman is.** Whenever the Bible speaks about women- married/single- and how they live it always goes back to their heart for God. **Slide 23 A woman who has a heart committed to God/His ways will stand against the tide of society and respond as God commands- a woman who spiritually encourage not just their husband but others.** **Remember Ruth in the OT?** Not going to read it but will give a quick summary. **Slide 24**

1. Women whose hearts are committed to God encourage.
2. Ruth- a non-Jew, trusted in God, acted wisely, initiated a relationship with Boaz who expressed how much he appreciated her desire to marry him, she was a woman of excellence, he married/protected her/Naomi, also in the line of Jesus.
3. Then there’s the woman of Proverbs 31- **READ Slide 25-27** strong, wise, kind, praise by God for serving others in obedience to God.
4. God also says it in the NT, 1 Peter 3:3-4 **READ Slide 29-30** in a world where women are encouraged to be loud, brash, in-your-face, godly women are known for their calm/confident/peaceful spirit.

**I praise God for the women in our church who respond to life fueled by their love/commitment to Jesus and not their thoughts/feelings.** I pray for the women of our church who think they/world knows better than God what will bring them satisfaction, contentment, and purpose. **Next week we’re going to see how God uses spiritually leading husbands/spiritually encouraging wives to reveal Him to each other and to those around them.** The following week we’ll see how that impacts our families. **You don’t want to miss it and you’ll want to invite family/friends to join you but for now what are the TAKEAWAYS for us? 1st of all for ALL OF US- Men and women… Slide 31**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

1. **For all of us… be all in for God!**
* Society is *all in* on tearing down what God has created.
* Being ½ hearted will get you crushed- society will run right over you.
* We need to be *all in* to show people there’s hope- God has a better way and we get to be the ones who bring it.
1. **Men- Slide 32 Man up! Be strong and courageous.**
* Get to know Him by taking advantage of the opportunities- time with Him, get to the Men’s Bible study, do the Men’s Leadership Group- check your emails!
* Then LEAD! This isn’t a game! Your family, friends, co-workers are being crushed by society and someone needs to man up and show them the way to safety
* Represent Him- live out your hope in front of others. **We have tats, hats, jerseys, window stickers… so willing to represent who we are or our favorite team but God commands us to represent Him!**
* Society is crushing people- show them the way out.
1. **Women- Slide 33 Show the power of godly words/wisdom!**
* Get to know Him- take advantage of the opportunities- time with Him, get to Women’s Bible study, walk with other women.
* Show your heart for God through your obedience.
* Encourage others to turn to God with your God-empowered calm/confident spirit.

**Our family, friends, co-workers are suffering under the weight of a crumbling society and God’s called you/me to bring them hope- let’s show them the way out, the way to God.**

**PODCAST- Men/Women- the difference makes a difference.** Genesis 2:15–25; Joshua 1:6–9; Ruth 3:10-11; 1 Kings 2:1–3; Proverbs 31:25–26, 30; 1 Corinthians 16:13–14; 1 Peter 3:3–4