

Newness of Life Lesson 9

God Created Gender

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

- I. Review/Introduction
 1. We have been on a journey in the Newness of Life, from the starting point of wanting to go to heaven and being born of the water and Spirit.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

2. We've had lessons on Victory in the New Life, Prayer, Spiritual Warfare, Trust the Bible, Jesus is God, Godliness and Morality, If You

Love Me (regarding commandments on biblical morality). See handout on Biblical Morality.

3. I also have a handout that summarizes a lesson on principles of modesty which govern how we are to cover our body in public, primarily before members of the opposite sex.
4. We should not willfully tempt others to the sin of lusting with their eyes, so public modesty is the goal in our new life.
5. Wearing modest clothing demonstrates that we honor and respect our body and avoid shaming ourselves. Wearing modest clothing expresses that we respect our bodies for what they are—a temple.

1 Cor 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

6. Tonight we continue the topic of honoring our temple as we discuss the biblical principal of gender distinction.

II. Gender distinction

A. Cultural war against gender distinction

1. Before will consider what the Bible says about gender distinction, let's first consider the contrast of where our modern culture has come to on this issue.
2. From my own experience, I was born when John Kennedy was president, and my earliest memories was periods of riots and revolts of people seriously challenging the morals of the previous generation.
3. A motto that was popular during that era was: "Question Authority," rather than "respect authority."
4. That cultural war brought the sexual revolution that sought to remove "old-fashioned" restraints on sexual behaviors as well as an explosion of recreational drug use.

5. An outgrowth of that revolution was a challenge to the norms of distinct male and female garments with the onset of what was called “unisex” apparel.
6. That hit our Texas community when I was in 3rd grade. I remember a girl in my class shocked everyone by wearing pants and not a dress. She was in violation of our school’s dress code, so my teacher sent her home.
7. Her mother petitioned the school board and in that year, 1970, our school district changed the policy and allowed girls to wear what was then called “pant suits,” a matching pants-and-jacket set.
8. It was called “catching up with the times,” and “progressive,” but from our elementary school to the nations of the world, it began a serious reevaluation of what it meant to be male and female.
9. The Dress Code for Clay County School Corporation Elementary Schools appeared in yesterday’s Brazil Times. I see they retain a

standard that asks for: “Modesty: Clothes should not be see-through, overly revealing, or sexually suggestive. Shoulders should be covered.”

Appropriate Imagery: Avoid clothing with crude, vulgar, or inappropriate images or messages....”

- B. Marriage/Gender battles in the courts
 - 1. Then in June 2015 when the US Supreme Court of the United States legalized homosexual marriage, it has also led to opening the door to further questions about what makes a man a man and what makes a woman a woman.
 - 2. When the doctor announces, “It’s a boy!,” there are many who say, “That’s not necessarily so.”
 - 3. That is because, in this worldview, the biological reality they were born with is not as important as the illusion they choose to identify with.

4. And in that worldview, others are also expected to accept that person's illusion as if it were reality.
 5. That is a very brief view of where our culture stands on the issue. But where does the scripture stand on the issue of gender? What should a Christian believe?
 6. Should we look at marriage and gender as a civil right that we can change up as we wish, or are there any moral anchor points in scripture that frame what we should believe about them?
- III. God made them male and female
- A. Is gender a choice?
 1. We read that God from the beginning of creation, God authored gender distinction: *Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

2. God made people in two genders, male and female, and did not leave it open for His creation to choose which they were.
3. And coinciding with set genders for His creation, He also set a framework for who was eligible to marry whom:
Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
4. A man joins to a woman. The practice of a man joining a man did arise in ancient times, and or a woman to a woman.
5. Homosexual practices did show up early in the history of mankind in the days of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 19:5 in the city of Sodom, when their city was destroyed by fire. And was also addressed in Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, where it is called an abomination, something hated by God.
6. That practice also existed in Jesus' day, but when He spoke about marriage, he

reaffirmed the marriage standard given in the beginning.

7. When Jesus was asked about his position on divorce, He said:

Matt 19:4-6

4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

8. Marriage was not modified in the couple of thousand years between Abraham and Jesus. The standard remained. Jesus recognized the firmness of the genders that were not subject to changing opinions.

- B. Gender appropriate apparel

1. The blurring of the gender lines is certainly evident in our culture, but we need to be ready to honor the Word of God in that area.
2. We also need to remind ourselves of the change made in our culture with regard, not only to marriage, and male/female identity, but also with regard to gender distinction with regard to clothing.
3. Deuteronomy 22:5 lays down a moral standard that distinguishes what is appropriate for a man and what is acceptable for a woman in apparel choices.

Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a women's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.

4. That verse includes a phrase that raises the emphasis to a level that we cannot ignore calling violations an abomination unto the Lord thy God.

c. Abomination

1. The last part of the verse adds that violation of that standard is an “*abomination unto the Lord thy God.*”
2. This phrase puts the prohibition in this verse in the same category as those New Testament prohibitions that indicate a person will miss heaven if they violate them.
3. In a former lesson, we discussed several lists in the New Testament that describe specific sins people will miss heaven for. Like:
Gal 5:21 ...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
4. Deuteronomy 22:5 is one such verse in the Old Testament.
5. And just because it is found in the Old Testament, does not mean it is less important. Remember, Jesus came to fulfil, or embed the law in us engraving it on our hearts, not do away with it.
Deut 22:5 says: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.

6. Notice how the New Testament treats these abominations:

Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

7. And as we have said before, God is serious about violations of His moral standards, to the point that abominations will not be in the Lamb's book of life and will not enter the New Jerusalem:

Rev 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

8. So when we learn in God's instructions that God calls a behavior an abomination, we need to give that serious regard.

D. Pertaineth

1. The first part uses the phrase, “that which pertaineth.”

Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

2. “That which pertaineth means unto a man” means “men’s clothing,” or something prepared for, the implements of, the dress of, furnishings of, the things of, a man.
3. This verse is talking about garments, so “that which pertains to a man” simply means those garments that are a part of the image of a man.
4. The key of understanding that verse is, that regardless of cultural shifts in clothing styles, those who desire to honor God and His word, should focus their desires on what honors God and not popular culture.

5. While the Bible outlined clear standards of modesty, and also the importance of gender distinctions in creation and in marriage, is there anything that says what kind of garment pertains to a man, or describes what a woman's garment is? Yes, in the Old and New Testaments.
 - E. Gird up like a man
 1. Job mentions the man wore a garment on the loin that was "girded up", or pulled up or restricted about his legs.

Job 38:3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.
 2. The hem of the long garment or robe would be pulled up between the legs and tucked into the front belt for free movement of the legs. (Also Elijah in 1 Kings 18:46)
 3. The opposite is true about the women's apparel, which was a garment that was "let down." That comes from the definition of the Greek words that is translated "modest

apparel” in 1 Timothy 2:

*1 Tim 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest apparel**, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;*

4. Modest apparel comes from the Greek words “katastolee kosmioo”. The word apparel is specifically referring to the garment of a female that is a wrap that is “let down,” or “put down” reaching down to the feet, specifically a long robe with dignity and is respectable.
5. Her whole demeanor is respectable and is even reflected in her outward appearance and apparel choice. This a garment that is proper or appropriate for the female and is distinct from the male garment.
6. The male garment included “breeches” (Ex 28:42) or trousers (Dan 3:21) that was clinging to their body.

7. The distinctly male garment was girded in the sense that modern pants do. The female garment was let down as a robe, in the sense of a modern dress or skirt.
8. That is why it was a popular teaching in churches for the first 1900 years of the church's history, that the appropriate apparel for a male was pants and the appropriate apparel for a woman was the dress or skirt.

F. Male/Female Distinction in the New Testament

1. As you saw, the idea of gender distinction was also mentioned in the New Testament in the discussion about modest apparel.

2. That distinction is repeated in:

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

*9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **effeminate**, nor abusers of*

*themselves with mankind,
10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards,
nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the
kingdom of God.*

3. Effeminate means "to make like a woman, to make womanish." Other translations translate the word as homosexuals.
4. Men who make themselves like women cannot enter the kingdom of God.
5. "Effeminate" then includes the manners as well as the look or apparel of women.
6. 1 Cor 11 also makes note of a difference between the look of men and women in hair styles:

1 Corinthians 11:14-15

*14 Doth not even nature itself teach you,
that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame
unto him?*

*15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory
to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.*

7. There should be a difference between men and women's hairstyles as well as clothing styles.
8. A careful study of this teaching in 1 Corinthians 11 reveals that nature itself teaches that a man should keep his hair cut short, and a woman should allow her hair to grow long and not cut it.
9. The woman's long hair is her glory and given for her covering.
10. Men should be men and women should be women.

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

IV. Summary

1. As the culture of the world has strongly sought to separate itself from any morality teaching of scripture, it has had serious impacts in many areas of living.

2. Immoral lifestyles have harmed families, neighborhoods, and cities.
3. Lack of moral standards in schools, business, and politics have devastated countries.
4. And when moral standards with regard to the distinctions between men and women are ignored, it has left the modern generation with an identity crisis that has increased anxiety, depression, dysphoria, and suicide.
5. But there is something simple and pure when we avoid that which goes against nature, but instead, do by nature do the things contained in the law.
6. We read this last week:
Rom 2:14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:
7. We as Gentiles filled with the Holy Ghost, have the law written within ourselves, that reveals to us what nature itself teaches us:

love and honor your Creator. Don't resist the one who designed you and gave you life!

8. Love Him with your life!

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

9. Even when it goes against the trends of society.