

**Prayer:**

Father, please forgive us for abandoning your Word and grant us your grace to repent and walk forward faithfully.

**Overview of the Course:**

Vocation: What Am I Called to Do and to Be?

1. **The Caller and the Called:** *What is the Context of Calling?*
  - Your life is not your own. God is the Caller; we are the called. Find your calling in His Word.
  - Love Christ by obedience to His call and thus pursue your purpose: to glorify and enjoy Him forever.
2. **The Meaning of Means:** *What is the Concept of Calling?*
  - You are part of a royal priesthood. All work for the Lord is sacred – it has meaning and worth.
  - God loves His people through His people. Loving your neighbor is the framework of faithful calling.
3. **The Scope of the Summons:** *What is the Content of Calling?*
  - Christ is Lord over every sphere of life. You are called to glorify and enjoy Him in all things.
  - The Dominion Mandate and the Great Commission are equally ultimate ends.
4. **Calling Lived Out – In Our Work**
  - The framework applied to our work – in all our labor, including our jobs, and in our rest.
  - Common pitfalls: idolatry, identity, and indifference. Truths we must not forget in our work.
5. **Calling Lived Out – In Our Families**
  - The family is the basic unit of all society; it's the institution through which humanity lives on.
  - Abandoning God's Word as to the structure and functions of the family is devastating to all.
6. Calling Lived Out – In Our Church
7. Calling Lived Out – In Our Society
8. Wrong Way: How NOT to Discern God's Will
9. Proper Path: How to Discern God's Will
10. Productivity: Stewarding Our Most Limited Resource (Time)

**Goal of Lesson 5:**

In this lesson, we will examine the basic structure and function of the family as prescribed and modelled in the special revelation of God's inspired Word and in the general revelation of God's created world.

The intent is that we all might better understand God's intention for the family, how His standards apply to our individual circumstances, the degree to which we're in obedience (or not) with His commands, and the hope of Christ's redemption of our families through God's grace of repentance and forgiveness and the fruit of His Holy Spirit.

**Warning – Preliminary Disclaimer**

This is a hard lesson. There is not a single point with which someone will not take offense. God's Word is convicting to each of us. We have all fallen short of His holy standard. We all battle the selfish sin within our own hearts. We all are impacted by the corrupt culture around us. We all desire to please man rather than God and to seek our own idols rather than submit to God through daily taking up our crosses and following after Christ.

Though you may feel otherwise, there is no desire in my heart to discourage or clobber any one through this lesson. Quite the opposite. My desire is to be faithful to God's Word and to trust His Holy Spirit to use that Word to our good and His glory – to conform our lives to His will for us in Christ. But, the bitter must come before the sweet.

We necessarily have to be brief on each topic; therefore, please use this as fodder for your prayers and private study.

**Lesson 5: Calling Lived Out – In Our Families**

If you recall from our last lesson, we discussed a 5-point framework for making ethical decisions about life.

This framework consists of 5 questions to ask ourselves as we're making decisions proactively about future changes we might make, as well as reactively during regular times of self-audit and assessment so that we might not be guilty of drifting along through life by the winds and waves of the world, but that we might be intentional followers of Christ.

The 5 questions to cycle through in our thinking are:

1. By what **standard**?
2. To what **end**?
3. At what **cost**?
4. Through what **means**?
5. From what **motive**?

Scripture teaches us in many ways. It is our only inerrant, absolute authority for faith and life.

*Remember:*      **WSC Q3:**      What do the Scriptures principally teach?

**A:**      *What man is to believe concerning God and what duties God requires of man.*

And how to the scriptures go about doing that? What is contained within them for us to learn from?

- **Explicit, unwavering commands**
  - The preceptive will of God – i.e., the 10 Commandments; the household rules (Eph. 5-6; 1 Cor 7)
- **Norms and principles which give general, directional truths.**
  - e.g., Proverbs: not promises, but wise formulas for life.
- **Examples from which to learn.**
  - Narrative stories and models – some good, some bad.

God has also provided for us through His creation – His general revelation. While it does not hold the explicit clarity of the special revelation found in the scriptures, it nonetheless teaches us about God's will and design for life.

Scripture itself appeals to this in numerous ways to show us both that we can and should learn from the creational work of God found in nature. *Examples:*

**Rom 1:18-20**      <sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup>For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse.

**Rom 2:14-15**      <sup>14</sup>For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. <sup>15</sup>They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them...

**Two Basic Rules for Life as a Christian:**

1. If you live contrary to an **explicit command** of scripture, you're in sin and must repent.
2. If you decide it's right for your individual circumstances to veer from a **non-explicit teaching** of scripture (meaning some normal way of things which is not necessarily required in ALL cases), then you need to know why you believe your course of action to be righteous, and you need to be able to explain, both to yourself and others, how it is that you're not contradicting explicit teachings before you go down that path.

*Examples:*

It is normal, meaning it is the standard mode of living baked into the design of God in creation, that men and women get married and have children and thus fulfill the dominion mandate.

**ABRAM:**        **Gen 15:6**        Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

**Gen 21:5**        Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Was Abraham sinful before the LORD for the first 100 years of his life because he and Sarah hadn't yet had any children?

- No. God is the giver of life. God controls if and when couples have children.
- So, for a century of his life, Abram broke from the norm of the function of family life, but he did so through God's providence – it was outside of Abram's control.

**PAUL:**        **Gen 2:18**        Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

**1 Cor 7:7**        I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

Was Paul sinful before the LORD because he wasn't married? Was he defiant against God in not even seeking to marry?

- No. Paul had a special calling from God and was equipped with a special gift.
- So, there are times in life and special circumstances or situations wherein unique callings may lead a person or family outside of the norm. That does happen. But we need to recognize that it's uncommon and not what we ought to aspire to unless God intervenes in our lives to providentially call us to a path that veers from the normative model.

**Questions:**

We don't have time for these today.

## The Vocations of the Family

"Every Christian – indeed, every human being – has been called by God into a family. Our very existence came about by means of our parents, who conceived us and brought us into the world. ... God could have populated the earth by creating each new person separately from the dust; but instead He chose to bring forth and care for new life by means of the family.

The family is the most basic of all vocations [think here of vocation in terms of a role or station in life], the one in which God's creative power and His providential care are most dramatically conveyed through human beings. Anthropologists point out that the family is the basic unit of every culture. The family, with its God-delegated authorities, is likewise the basis for every other human authority. Thus the vocation of citizenship has its foundation in the family, and the father's calling to provide for his children gives rise to his calling in the workplace. And even in the Church, the family is lifted up as an image for the intimate relationship that God has with His people: God is our Father in Heaven; the Church is the Bride of Christ.

We were born into a family, our very existence being due to a mother and a father. Being a child is a vocation, according to the Reformers, and we will always be the child to our parents. And it may be that we children, in turn, will be called into marriage – another lifetime relationship – and that we will be called to be parents, with children of our own. All of these are holy, divine vocations from the Lord."

- Gene Edward Veith, *God at Work* (pg. 78)

## 4 Roles and 4 Responsibilities in the Family

This is not an exhaustive list. This is just us trying to major on the majors in this overview lesson.

### Roles:

1. Marriage
2. Parenthood
3. Childhood (*the only one in Jesus' humanity*)
4. Grandparenthood

### Responsibilities:

1. Welfare
2. Education
3. Economy
4. Community

## I. Marriage

### a. Scripture:

- i. **Genesis 2:24** – "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."
- ii. **Matthew 19:4-6** – "He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."
- iii. **Hebrews 13:4** – "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."

- b. Roles of husbands (Kevin Swanson, *Family Life*. Pg. 27):
- i. **The husband is responsible for the material well-being of the family.**
    1. **1 Tim. 5:8** – “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
  - ii. **The husband is to be the “resident theologian” in the home and be able to answer questions his wife may have concerning what they have learned in the church.**
    1. **1 Cor. 14:34-35** – “The women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.”
  - iii. **The husband is primarily responsible for bringing the children up in the nurture of the Lord.**
    1. **Eph. 6:4** – “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
    2. **Deut. 6:7** – “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”
  - iv. **The husband is to love his wife sacrificially, as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her.**
    1. **Eph. 5:25** – “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...”
  - v. **The husband is to live with his wife in an understanding way and treat her with gentleness and respect.**
    1. **1 Pet. 3:7** – “Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”
  - vi. **The husband is responsible for providing the conjugal needs of his wife.**
    1. **1 Cor. 7:3** – “The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.”
  - vii. **The husband is responsible for taking dominion over God’s creation, with his wife as his help made appropriate for him in the task.**
    1. **Gen 1:28** – “And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

2. **Gen 2:18-22** – “Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.”
- viii. **The husband is responsible for defending his wife, sons, and daughters from deadly force.**
1. **Neh. 4:14** – “And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”
- c. Roles of wives (Kevin Swanson, Family Life. Pg. 28):
- i. **The wife is the help appropriate for her husband in his dominion tasks.**
    1. **Gen. 2:20b-22** – “But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.”
  - ii. **The wife is the home manager or home administrator.**
    1. **1 Tim. 5:14** – “I would have younger widows marry, bear children, **manage their households**, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.”
    2. **Prov. 31:27** – “She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.”
  - iii. **The wife is called to be a “homemaker.”**
    1. **Titus 2:4-5** – “...to be self-controlled, pure, **working at home**, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.”
  - iv. **The wife is called to submit to her husband in the Lord.**
    1. **Eph. 5:22, 33** – “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord... However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”
  - v. **The wife is called to love her husband and her children.**
    1. **Titus 2:4** – “and so train the young women to love their husbands and children”

vi. **The wife is called to seek the betterment of the household economy.**

1. **Prov. 31:11-27** – “The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.”

vii. **The wife is responsible for providing the conjugal needs of her husband.**

1. **1 Cor. 7:3** – “The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.”

II. **Parenthood**

## a. Scripture:

- i. **Gen. 1:27-28** – “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- ii. **Gen. 9:7** – “As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.”
- iii. **Proverbs 22:6** – “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
- iv. **Proverbs 13:24** – “Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.”
- v. **Eph. 6:4** – “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
- vi. **2 Cor. 12:14** – “Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.”

- vii. **Mal. 4:5-6** – “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

b. Summary thoughts:

- i. Parenthood is a great blessing and a great responsibility.
- ii. We are all sinful and that impacts how we serve (or don't serve) our families. In the case of parenthood, it is our children who are our neighbors and we are called to love them.
- iii. God provides that love, not us. We must rely on Him to meet every need – and to define how that love is to be lived out (it's not all feel-good moments).
- iv. For those who want to have children and for whatever reason God has thus far not provided, please remember the goodness of your Lord.
  - 1. R.C. Sproul once said, “God never does anything that is not perfectly good.”
  - 2. John Newton said, “Everything is needful that He sends; nothing can be needful that He withholds.”
  - 3. And an adage that has helped me over the years to remember is this: God will always answer your prayers by giving you exactly what you would have asked for if you knew everything that He knows.

### III. Childhood

a. Scripture:

- i. **Exodus 20:12** – “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”
- ii. **Eph 6:1-3** – “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”
- iii. **Luke 2:40** – “And the child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.”
- iv. **Luke 2:52** – “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”
- v. **Prov 15:15** – “A fool spurns a parent's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.”
- vi. **1 Tim 5:1-2** – Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.



- b. In Luther's catechism he writes how children need to "realize that they have received their bodies and lives from their parents and have been nourished and nurtured by their parents when otherwise they would have perished a hundred times in their own filth."
  - i. He goes on to say that "those who look at the matter in this way and think about it will, without compulsion, give all honor to their parents and esteem them as the ones through whom God has given them every good."
  - ii. He also recognizes that parents have their failings and it can be difficult to honor them: "It must therefore be impressed on young people that they revere their parents as God's representatives, and to remember that, however lowly, poor, feeble, and eccentric they may be, they are still their mother and father, given by God. They are not deprived of their honor because of their ways or failings. Therefore, we are not to think of their persons, whatever they may be, but of the will of God, who has created and ordained it so."

#### IV. Grandparenthood

- a. Scripture:
  - i. **Psalm 145:4** – "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."
  - ii. **Genesis 17:9** – "And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations."
  - iii. **1 Chron. 16:14-15** – "He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. Remember his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations..."
  - iv. **Deut. 4:9** – "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children..."
  - v. **Prov. 13:22** – "A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous."
  - vi. **Prov. 17:6** – "Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children."
- b. Summary thoughts:
  - i. You're never too old to be faithful.
  - ii. Just because your kids are grown does not mean you've missed your opportunity to impact the generations that follow.
  - iii. At the very least (and, as God would have it, with the very most power), you should pray for your family constantly. Intercede on their behalf. Plead with the Lord and never stop.

#### V. Welfare

- a. Scripture:

- i. **1 Timothy 5:8** – “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
  - ii. **Proverbs 31** – (see above on the model mother)
  - iii. **Psalms 37:25** – “I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.”
- b. Summary thoughts:
- i. **Socialism** is growing in our world today. It is both the cause and effect of what’s known as “post-familialism.”
    - 1. **Effect:** if you have no one to fall back on (in the family), then you need a big government to take care of you.
    - 2. **Cause:** because government is growing to fill that gap, people proactively move away from planning families (a type of moral hazard).
  - ii. Everything that we have comes from the Lord. We are to care for those who God has entrusted to us. It is an overwhelming, and even impossible, task in our own strength, but our strength and provision come from the Lord. He is faithful. Trust in Him.

## VI. Education

- a. Scripture:
- i. **1 Cor. 7:14** – “For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.” (Christian children are consecrated, set apart, unto the Lord.)
  - ii. **Deut. 6:1-2** – “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, **that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son**, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.”
  - iii. **Deut. 6:4-7a** – “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **You shall teach them diligently to your children...**”
  - iv. **Prov. 9:10** – “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”
  - v. **Col. 2:3** – “...in [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
  - vi. **Luke 6:40** – “A student is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.” (It’s not whether, but which. Teachers aren’t just people, but content and context as well.)

- vii. **Eph 6:4** – “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

b. Summary thoughts:

- i. Christian parents are responsible for ensuring that their children receive an explicitly Christian education – one founded upon the fear of the Lord (as it is the beginning, the very first step towards and the foundation, of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding).
- ii. This may take on different forms in each family as circumstances, resources, and schedules are different and as every child is a unique soul with different needs for training; however, in no case and in no arrangement is instruction to occur that denies the truth of God.
- iii. Remember the framework:
  1. **By what standard?** Scripture alone.
  2. **To what end?** To make disciples of Christ (seek first His kingdom).
  3. **At what cost?** Christ calls us to give up everything to follow Him.
  4. **Through what means?** Those which God prescribes and provides.
  5. **From what motive?** Love for God and love for our children.

## VII. Economy

a. **The household economy is pound-for-pound the greatest unit of production in the world.**

- i. Not individuals – a family’s output is greater than the sum of the parts.
  1. **Gen. 2:18** – “Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”
  2. **Ecc. 4:9** – “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil”
- ii. Not businesses – no covenant love, no devotion, no inheritance, no sacrifice for others.
  1. **John 8:35** – “The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.”
  2. **Gal. 4:7** – “So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”
- iii. Not governments – they produce nothing, only redistribute.
  1. **1 Samuel 8:10-18** – Samuel’s warnings against kings
    - a. So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking for a king from him. He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots

and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

**b. The kingdoms of this world do not want strong families in service of the LORD.**

- i. **Rev. 13:16-17** – "Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be **marked on the right hand or the forehead**, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name."
- ii. **Deut. 6:6, 8** – "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart... You shall bind them as a sign **on your hand**, and they shall be as frontlets **between your eyes**."
  1. Nero, Rome, "the beast" – one of this world with controlling power, wanted the type of submission (of everything thought and done – forehead and hand) from people that God demands we give to only Him.
  2. Punishment for failing to obey the culture impacts the family economy ("that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark").
    - a. Sounds exactly like the cancel culture we live in today.

**c. The culture is against God and against His family design, just as His Word said it would be.**

- i. It seeks to destroy Christ's kingdom by undermining the order He commands.
- ii. **Gen. 3:16** – "To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."
  1. Betty Friedan, author of *The Feminine Mystique*, expressed the feminist socio-economic vision in 1963 with these words, "It is better for a woman to compete impersonally in society, as men do, than to compete for dominance in her own home with her husband, compete with her neighbors for empty status, and so smother her son that he cannot compete at all."
  2. Gloria Steinem, second-wave feminist writer who is still alive today, wrote: "A liberated woman is one who has sex before marriage and a job after."

- iii. **Deut. 22:5** – “A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God.”
- iv. **Isaiah 3:12** – “My people—infants are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, your guides mislead you and they have swallowed up the course of your paths.”
  - 1. Disordered living, men drifting towards effeminacy and women drifting towards masculinity, is cursed by God. He uses that very thing to judge His people when they act wickedly.

## VIII. Community

### a. Scripture:

- i. **1 Peter 4:9** – “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.”
- ii. **Matt. 22:38-39** – “This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- iii. **John 13:34-35** – “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### b. Summary thoughts:

- i. Loving your neighbor and showing hospitality to strangers is always done in the context of the family household.
- ii. It's a share of resources, proving to us God's provision and teaching our families to rely on God to meet all of our needs. God's economy is not a zero-sum equation.
- iii. It's a testimony of Christ within us. Fallen man is not generous or loving or in any way vulnerable voluntarily.
- iv. It's a reflection of God's great hospitality towards us (making a place for us in this world) and His trinitarian existence (He exists in perfect community within Himself).