

Introduction:

From your personal experience, what was the hardest puzzle or problem that you ever worked on? What made the puzzle or problem so challenging? Were you able to complete or solve it? Were there ever times that you became confused while trying to solve it? If so, what was the cause of confusion?

The point of this study for the next few weeks is for us to learn how our sexuality and role as a man or woman has been defined by God. Just as in all areas of our lives, when we become followers of Christ, we begin to live under His authority and to see the world through the lens of Scripture and not from our personal opinions. This study will help us to see how God has specifically defined these roles.

1. Design- God's Purpose

Genesis 1:1

Why is this verse foundational to our understanding of Scripture? Why has the world tried to throw away this verse? What impact does it make in our lives to know that all things began and will end with God?

As you read the passage, how is God's orderly design in this account of creation? How does it make your feel to know that God created you with a specific purpose in mind? What does that say about how God views you? (He loves us, He has a plan for us) Why can there be confusion about God's plan for us? (Have volunteers to read Proverbs 14:12; Psalm 16:11; John 10:10 to see God's plan for His people.)

2. Image Bearers- God's Picture

Genesis 1:24-31.

When you hear the phrase image bearer, what comes to your mind? What does it mean to be image bearers?

Why is it important to know that we are made in the image of God today? From the discussion today, how has your understanding of being an image bearer changed? What are ways that you see the culture has rejected the image of God in their lives?

Galatians 6:1.

Has anything that has been said challenged your view of being an image bearer? How does a better understanding of being made in the image of God affect the roles of men and women? What impact does it make in our culture today?

3. Redemption- God's Purpose

Galatians 3:26-29.

Some of the main points are:

- 1. We are equally justified by the Father verse 26
- 2. We are equally the children of God. verse 26
- 3. We are equally baptized with Christ. verse 27
- 4. We are equally saved through Christ. verse 28
- 5. We are equal co-heirs with Christ. verse 29

Read Romans 13:11-14; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3 to see the call to put off our old lives and put on Christ as our identity.

Application

What does the Bible mean for us to live according to God's plan, picture, and purpose as men and women?

1. Our redemption in Christ does not abolish gender that was established by God but redeems in Christ!

2. Roles and responsibilities may vary on earth, but value in heaven does not—and we should regard each other from this heavenly point of view (2 Cor. 5:16).

3. Now we have the motivation and the power to be what God has made us, uniquely male and uniquely female! We are together for the gospel!