

What is Gender?

The gods We Imagine—part 3

October 11, 2026

Gendered at conception

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Our gendered selves are most *alive, seen, and felt* when we live and relate in a way that:

- a. Is other-centered, and
- b. Reflects something of the wonder of how Jesus lived and relates to us.

"When we know God well enough to value nothing greater than our opportunity to enjoy Him and reveal Him to others by the way we relate, we will then become more and more alive as masculine men and feminine women."
—Dr. Larry Crabb

Femininity, Alive with Beauty

A woman's inner beauty

1 Peter 3:3-5 Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful.

- Gentle spirit-

- Quiet spirit-

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us" So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male ("zakar") and female ("neqebah") he created them.

- “Nequbah” (Hebrew)-

A female that is most alive is a female open to receive relational movement for the purpose of deep relational connection and enjoyment.

Reflecting how God relates to people

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

What derails genuine femininity?

Proverbs 21:19 It is better to live in a desert land than with a contentious and vexing woman.

- Contentious-
- Vexing-

Genesis 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 for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Masculinity, Strength on the Move

Strength on the Move

1 Kings 2:2 ... "Be strong and show yourself a man."

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- "Zakar" (Hebrew) -
- "Arsen" (Greek) –

A genuine man remembers he bears God's image and is called to move with strength toward people and responsibilities to make an impact.

Reflecting how God relates to people

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He sent His Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

*Exodus 2:23 During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. ²⁴ God **heard** their groaning and he **remembered** his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. ²⁵ So God **looked on** the Israelites and was **concerned** about them. (He knew it was **time to act**).*

What derails genuine masculinity?

Genesis 3:17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."