

# Building On The Foundation, part 3

## Building On The Foundation 3: Message

Men and women are ontologically equal as God's image bearers

To enable them to carry out their respective roles, God has gifted them with various complementary strengths. Where one is weak, the other is strong.

## Role vs Nature

**Emphasize role  
instead of nature**

**Role determines  
nature**

**Nature does not  
determine role**

# Galatians 3:26-29

## Four results of God's saving work

**We are all  
full sons of  
God (26)**

**We have  
exchanged  
our natural  
character  
with Christ's  
character  
(27)**

**The  
distinctions  
that used to  
divide should  
divide us no  
longer (28)**

**We inherit  
the promise  
in the  
Abrahamic  
Covenant  
(29)**

## Ancient views of women

“How difficult it is to find any statement about the equality of the sexes, however weak, in any ancient texts except those of Christianity”

A common morning prayer among Jewish men included this, “I thank God that thou has not made me a woman”

James Boice, *Expositor's*, vol. 10, p. 469



# Ontology at its deepest level

In Christ, there is no ontological distinction. There is no difference in worth, essence or relationship to God.

# Differing aspects of our human nature

- Maleness is the unique giftedness from God that enables a man to glorify God by leading, providing and protecting those under his care
- Femaleness is the unique giftedness from God that enables a woman to glorify God by helping, giving life and nurturing those in her care





# Masculinity and Femininity

“True masculinity and femininity are grounded in a man’s or woman’s underlying God-given purpose and roles. We should be careful to avoid stereotypes of masculinity and femininity that owe more to cultural perceptions than to biblical guidelines”

“The intelligence or the teaching or administrative ability of men or women isn’t determinative in God’s assigning of men’s and women’s roles. It’s simply a matter of his sovereign discretion and deliberate design”

Andreas and Margaret Kostenberger, *God’s Design for Man and Woman*, pp. 258 and 260