

MALE AND FEMALE

HE CREATED THEM

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Human beings, made in God's image, are relational beings, analogous to how God is a relational being. But unlike the triune God, who is entirely fulfilled by the eternal relationship that exists between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, humans are not relationally self-sufficient. We require external relationships in order to flourish:

God created humans as male and female.

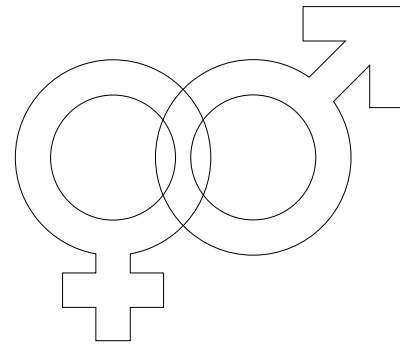
Specific cultural definitions and understandings of masculinity and femininity change, but God's design does not. As such, we should recognize and celebrate this truth as a good gift from Him.

God created males and females as equals.

They are alike, formed from the same substance, both living creatures that are distinct from the rest of creation, and equally sharing in the responsibility to cultivate and care for God's creation as His image-bearers.

God created males and females as distinct from one another.

While sharing the same essential equality, we are not the same—and not just because we are different genders. Our differing personalities, gifts, and capabilities all serve to distinguish us from one another. Our distinction from one another allows us to flourish as God's image-bearers in this world.



God created males and females dependent upon one another.

Just as it was not good for the man to be alone, no human being can fully bear God's image apart from others.

God created males and females for intimacy.

Intimacy is to fully know and be fully known, a deep knowledge and abiding love that can be found in both platonic and marital relationships.

God created males and females for His own glory.

Human beings bear God's image as a crown of glory, yet this serves chiefly as a reflection of God's glory, to return to Him what He has creatively bestowed upon us. Males and females glorify God in their equality and their differences.

