

## Woman Gender and Identity

*Frank L. Reed*

Sex – male or female characteristics determined by God in accordance with and identified by biology. (It is best not to use the word “sex” more than is absolutely necessary. It contains connotations and implications not always intended – use “gender” instead).

Gender – personal perception of and acceptance of gender as a gift from God and responsibility of role as male or female.

Femininity – Expressions of girlhood and womanhood that display characteristics and qualities for building individual and societal values. **These are quantitative qualities.** Virtues such as – grace, dignity, submission, diligence, love, respect, modesty, purity, chastity, contentment, confidence, hospitality, wisdom, kindness, competence, courage, communicative ...

Godly femininity – The Holy Spirit of God filling the heart and changing the life and creating an aura of God surrounding a Godly woman and making her unique in womanhood and all it entails. This “aura” is similar to the glory of God that shrouded and “clothed” Eve when she was created. **This is a qualitative value.** It is a difference, not in more of a virtue, but in a unique quality that sets her apart from “good” women of the world and makes her a true child of God because her heart is changed and she is an “ex-nihilo” new creation.

Roles of a Godly woman

Daughter – of God

Daughter - of parents

Sister – of all believers especially of husband

Sister – of siblings

Wife – of husband (of potential husband if not married)

Keeper – of her home

Mother – to her children

Mother – to the needy

Grandmother – to grandchildren

Servant – of God

Servant – to family

Servant – to local Church

Submission is not passivity.

Submission is power under direction.

Wise men will value the gifts of the women in their lives.

If women do not develop femininity they tend to revert to "femaleness."