

Gender roles play an increasingly complex, confusing, yet determinate role in modern society; transgender ideological athletics mixed into the LGBTQ movement adoption of longstanding feminist efforts to reform social mores play a substantial role in the American presidential campaign this year. John Knox, the Covenant Reformer, elucidates the relationship between human covenant and divine authority [<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/John-Knox-and-the-Covenant-Tradition-Greaves/931f003563bac8f4b3af1b590edcf36262f02d78>] that became a principal support for American democracy. However, he has oft' been decried as sexist wrongly due to his work entitled, The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Women [<https://founders.org/articles/reforming-sexuality-gender-leadership-and-the-bible-in-the-controversy-between-john-knox-queen-mary/>] There is nothing new under the sun.

Despite the modern attacks by well-meaning feminists [<https://feminismandreligion.com/2020/02/16/matriarchies-are-not-just-a-reversal-of-patriarchies-a-structural-analysis-by-heide-goettner-abendroth/>], coopted leaders [<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/is-the-bible-patriarchal-yes-and-no-an-excerpt-from-gender-roles-and-the-people-of-god/>] with erudite but poorly reasoned [<https://ms.fortresspress.com/downloads/9780800698072Chapter1.pdf>] and collapsible arguments [<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/unequal-family-lives/pathology-of-patriarchy-and-family-inequalities/C28AEAE826565E3F53B544B3A171BAD>], or others similarly motivated with acknowledged error [<https://thisvsthat.io/matriarchy-vs-patriarchy/>] who yet foist their thoughts to upend patriarchal social orders that our Creator-God instituted as normative by revelation through Israel [<https://emmausbibleministries.org/blog/2021/10/16/understanding-israels-culture-patriarchal-patrilocal-patrilocal/>] by those who left a matriarchal society justifying slave economics, [<https://www.doctorwoodhead.com/nimrod-the-founder-of-the-occult-and-babylon/>] Egypt [<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/who-was-semiramis-the-wife-of-nimrod.html>].

Salvation manifested in society for humankind depends upon men leading their families to obey God's commands rather than sidestep them for some easier way perceived less difficult [<https://relearn.org/biblical-patriarchy-vs-complementarianism-a-quick-look-at-their-distinctions/>].

As our Lord taught [*Mt. 19:14* - <https://www.gotquestions.org/let-the-little-children-come-to-me.html>] and George R.R. Martin echoed from [Psalm 8](#), "*Wisdom oft comes from the mouths of babes.*" During a Discovery Bible Study (DBS) reflection, an eight-year-old girl observed that sin entered the world when Adam ate the forbidden fruit. His and Eve's eyes were not opened when she ate from it on being tempted. The biblical narrative pierces the haze our modern world attempts to recreate and sustain between the roles of men and women. While equally charged for inhabiting and managing the earth, man had the God-ordained role to responsibly see such be done. This singularity of fault makes possible Salvation through Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, per the Apostle Paul. Verlin used the definitive Romans chapter 5 text to counsel a godly Christian father today to be strengthened to teach his children and his wife faithful obedience to God's Word and not change it to accommodate their self-interests.

While reality is influenced by women's participative role with men in providing for its management, what men permit promotes the end. As the leadership saying goes, **what you permit, you promote**. This governing role of men in the family is a norm for living life abundantly, as revealed in the biblical account of the Garden experience. Governance of the family is not solely an effect obliged after the fall. Equality of value before God to the end of accomplishing His purposes does not represent indistinguishably equal role play exchangeable by the sexes by force of will. Patriarchal social management makes possible abundant life. The failure to recognize this God-created reality leads to an eventual demonstration of the power of sin to destroy any society over time. While the management of property and things by women appears initially to promote a more gentle, equitable, and kind social order under their management, it always results in societies that have increased conflict over resources and war by poorer, subsistence societies. These, in turn, facilitate future feudal overlords to establish order later, to the great relief of all. This cyclical fact becomes increasingly obfuscated in historical research as good and bad patriarchal leadership styles get lumped together and judged as completely unredeemable in our time. It's a current intellectual fad; the cool thought to express to be accepted in polite society. The baby of the future gets tossed with the dirty water of today, and there is little to no recognition of the loss due to our ignorance of what has gone on before us during prior centuries. It becomes less and less popular to represent patriarchal social order as the norm established by God for human society, even though the destructive sociological effects of passive male leadership are better documented than ever. God sends us witnesses to the biblically shared patriarchal social ordering that gets popular support on occasion via authors and writers and unlikely lecturers like Dr. Jordan Peterson [<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/18/style/jordan-peterson-12-rules-for-life.html>]. However, men leading their families to hear God's Word and obey will lead future generations to choose rightly and experience God's blessing.

There are many implications in West Africa, as for the husband Verlin counseled today with an argumentative and possessive wife. In Cote d'Ivoire, tribal culture retains a matriarchal system of inheritance, while the overarching law of the nation is patriarchal. This creates healthier familial relations than those existing in Ghana where men can work all their lives for their family and retain no material property after their lifetime of work purchased it if their wife should decide to leave them. In Cote d'Ivoire, an equitable distribution happens if that terrible end comes to a marriage. One key difference is the treatment of women. There is more wife beating and abuse knowingly allowed in Ghana at times when marital strife happens as men try to force their ways and impose them upon women. Also, other women frequently entice men to leave their existing wives so the new wife's family can profit from his labor rather than the former's family! This cunning and treachery is not noted in modern Western authors promoting matriarchal orders as good for Western culture. While I forgive them for not knowing what they do, I cannot say they speak true.

To escape the downward spiral of sin that impoverishes societies where women's priorities are considered pre-eminent rather than God's through the understanding of His Word given to men in covenant to do good, men must actively lead their families to hear and obey God's Word. This is what Verlin counseled the troubled husband today. Whereas sin entered the world through a single man, Adam, it was saved by a single man known as Jesus Christ, the second Adam ([Romans 5: 12-21](#)). Similarly, suppose his family is to be

saved, blessed, and redeemed through generations. It will be because husbands sacrifice their time and efforts to lead and direct their work and family per God's revealed Word. The world's redemption is effected because one person pays the price for all by not passively accepting the *status quo* but by actively establishing God's desired order. While all men and women are equal, they do not carry the same role, or sin would have entered the world by Eve, and the Savior would have been female, not male. While men and women are equally crucial for accomplishing God's design to rule the earth, men carry the responsibility reinforced by the chromosomes to rule.

So, as we look forward to worship tomorrow during the last weekend hullabaloo of competing U.S. office seekers whose selection will influence our nation and many others in the world, realize they can only promote what men in covenant permit. This is God's order for the good of families when understood and obeyed or their ill and eventual destruction when ignored. I will pray that God's will will be done on earth as it is in heaven, in my family, and in those within the reach of our influence.

The events bringing this subject to the forefront of thought this week is not solely the man Verlin counseled today. Another was the terminal struggle to get authorization to use land for the agricultural project. The bifurcated understanding of matriarchal and patriarchal land ownership in Cote d'Ivoire is in play. While the patriarchal legal system of the republican government of Cote d'Ivoire is definitively on the side of those offering over twenty-five contiguous hectares for the long-planned project to teach income-making strategies to believing families and fund CHE training workers and meetings, matriarchal tribal authorities must also be respected to evade inhibiting social tensions that can shut down any good work begun. While the government has been satisfied, a matriarchal family dispute remains simmering after seven years of ongoing tribal chief interventions, which were thought to have been successfully finished two years ago. It appears through current actions about to be taken due to oppositional others failing to enact given tribal counsel that the problem will be resolved in the following weeks by a declaration made by the responsible matriarchal chief. Such a decision will provide the prayed-for union of governmental and tribal blessings for the project to meet the need for Ivorian income sources to fund CHE activities that individuals cannot fund themselves and so create and sustain the developing civil service pride. Profits will be dedicated to support expanding and sending training teams throughout the nation as expenses are paid and facilities are built. Those willingly offering the land provide their labor and agree that 50% of profits will eventually support the construction of additional demonstration farms and diverse CHE strategies until the nation is evangelized. The believers with us are learning from experience that God blesses his own to be a blessing to others.

In other news, Debbie rejoiced this week because her mother is feeling better. She moved into an accepted facility to rehabilitate some of her strengths. While Debbie has occupied herself with facilitating the care of her mother most of this week, she finished today completing a shower for a grandchild expected next year through our firstborn's family.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your sustaining gifts. We are in need, but Verlin has yet to get the numbers evaluated to know the exact amount. May God bless you this weekend and in the months to come to be a blessing to yet others.