**Panel Discussion**

**Review:**

* In **Genesis 1**, we saw that God created both men and women in His image, being equal in value, worth, dignity, and importance.
* Yet in **Genesis 2**, we see that God in His perfect, sovereign wisdom has given men and women different *roles* and *dispositions*, each unique to their God-given gender, and is to be lived out in the various callings that find themselves in.

The definitions we’ve been working with throughout our class that show these unique roles and dispositions are as follows:

* The essence of Biblical **masculinity** is a sense of benevolent responsibility to tend God’s creation, provide for and protect others, and express loving, sacrificial leadership in particular contexts prescribed by God’s Word.

* The essence of Biblical **femininity** is a gracious disposition to cultivate life, to help others flourish, and to affirm, receive and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in particular contexts prescribed by God’s Word.
* But we also recognize from **Genesis 3**, that mankind rebelled against God and the consequences of sin distorted men and women’s fundamental identities and roles as God’s image bearers on the earth. The man’s working of the ground would be cursed and the woman was cursed in area of child-bearing; And added to that, conflict over roles of authority would perpetually ensue between them.
* But praise be to God for His glorious grace and powerful work redemption! Jesus’ work on our behalf doesn’t obliterate or nullify gender distinctions, but instead redeems them. In the kingdom of God, there is no superiority or inferiority because of one’s gender. Both men and women are treated as sons and daughters that are equally loved and valued through faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ. And as Christians filled with the Holy Spirit, men and women are able to live out their God’s given roles with grace, conviction, and beauty.
  + - 🡪 In the Home: Husbands are called to lead their wives through sacrificial love and providing for them and protecting them for the good of their overall welfare; and Wives are called to respectfully submit and help their husbands. And as his helper, she will use her talents and skills for the good of her household and exercising wisdom to be a blessing to her husband’s leadership. In the Church: Both men and women are called to encourage and build one another up through a variety of ministries, while qualified male elders lead the church through teaching and oversight. And in the Workplace: Men and women will provide for their needs and try to bless their family and others in distinctively masculine and feminine ways, which will vary depending on whether one is married or not, what responsibilities they have at church, and what the present needs are in their particular season of life.

Introductions: *Tell us your name, what you do for work, married/children and how long you’ve been at CHBC.*

**Questions:**

**To everyone:** *Tell us about how you came to embrace the Bible’s view of manhood and womanhood. Was scripture’s teaching something you learned about growing up? Or did you only learn about this later in life? Was there an adjustment process - if so, what was that like? Give us the 60 second version, not the 10 minute version.*

**To husbands:** *Can you give us a practical example of how the Bible’s call for husbands to provide for and protect their families has influenced you to change something in the way you live in your marriage?*

**To wives**: *Can you give us a practical example of how the Bible’s call for wives to help and submit to their husbands has influenced you to change something in the way you live in your marriage?*

**To single man**: *How has the Biblical calling to provide for and protect women informed the way you interact with women in the church? What about in how you think about dating relationships?*

**To single woman**: *What opportunities do you have as a single woman (whether in the church or at work) to nurture life in others? What does that look like for you? (What about if you are a ministry leader or deaconess and manage male volunteers – how do you do that in a feminine way?)*

**To all:** *Do you face any challenges living out your masculinity or femininity in the workplace? How so, and what has helped you fulfill your role at work in a distinctly masculine or feminine way? (For women – if you supervise men at work, how do you do that in a feminine manner?)*

**Open up to class for questions**