



Divine Design: God's Complementary Roles for Men and Women

John F. MacArthur Jr.

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For decades culture has blurred the lines between men and women, all in the name of equality. Yet instead of creating harmony, this approach has caused frustration and confusion, leaving families broken and hurting. *Divine Design* draws reader back to God's intention for men and women, and tackles big issues such as authority in marriage, mothers in the home, and the innate differences between males and females. Readers will discover how embracing their unique design can foster security, balance, and love in a marriage and family.

Divine Design: God's Complementary Roles for Men and Women Details

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From Reader Review Divine Design: God's Complementary Roles for Men and Women for online ebook

Bonnie Smith says

Not even worth the time it would take me to write a scathing review.

A.C. Thompson says

Very well written, and the author backed up his thoughts with a lot of scripture. While I didn't agree with everything presented, there are a lot of great aspects and thoughts for how we as believers can better relate to each other in our relationships.

Until next time, stay safe, and above all, be true to yourself.

That Aaron Guy

Heather Denigan says

Did I just criticize John MacArthur?

Meh

The chapter on singleness made it sound like having a spouse gets in the way of serving the Lord -- rather than focusing on the unique ministry of singles (especially in a world that regards chastity as inhumane), the author focused on the negatives of marriage. But I watch my momma make every word, thought, gesture, and feeling captive to the obedience of Christ, while I struggle to work for God and not for man as a single person (before I was ever in a relationship).

Also, instead of the negatives of feminism, how are the beauties of God's design so blinding so as to show how ugly feminism has been from the beginning? Pointing upwards would make better evangelism.

The first half was helpful. The section on the Proverbs 31 woman was exhausting. How do I become this woman? Mere sleep deprivation won't make me like her. His exegesis on deaconesses was interesting.

CS Lewis' *That Hideous Strength*, Keller's *The Meaning of Marriage*, and Gary Thomas' *Sacred Marriage* make a far more convincing case for the beauty of God's design for men and women.

Raquel says

It's not that I disagree. I just found it a very accusatory writing style which isn't easy to keep reading.

Susanne says

I agree with MacArthur's assessment about roles, overreach of the radical feminist movement and how it's tainting the church and its ministry. I read this as a e-book and didn't realize it had discussion points for each chapter until I was finished with the whole book. Seeing it now, I would like to have studied it with others. I'm sure with the influence feminism has had in society, it would be a lively discussion!

Luis Alexandre Ribeiro Branco says

Very sound theologically, well based not exclusively in the Scriptures, but also in harmony with science. Two things I enjoyed reading: 1. The likeness and difference between male and female. 2. The description of women serving as deacon.

Mike/Diane Davis says

Great book for all Family

I like the context supported with bible verses historical references and reference authors. The study section as great to go through with my spouse

Allison Anderson Armstrong says

Not my favorite. I felt like this book should have been title "all the do's and don'ts of women in Christianity." Too dogmatic for my tastes. He also wasn't super consistent in his views on women in the home.... Lots of scripture quoted which I can use to look up later, but I didn't really like the tone of this book... But maybe I'm just a touchy feminist.

Malia says

This was recommended to me by my pastor because I have recently been raising questions about the roles of women. It's a strong exposition of scripture, mainly 2 Timothy. I was affirmed in my decision to stay home with my children and challenged to value the impact I have in supporting my husband and investing in my kids.

Crystal says

Though I didn't agree with every single sentence, this book tackles a not-often-discussed subject and was an interesting read. I appreciated the many Scripture references and direct, bold statements on female and male leadership within the home and church. Good brain food.

Noel Burke says

I thought this was very well done. It provided a lot of useful insight into the topic of manhood and womanhood. It even went into roles within the church. I appreciated the discussion about eldership. The discussion about deacons was good except I was very surprised that MacArthur held the view that women could be deacons. The two passages in question (Romans 16:1 and 1 Tim 3:11) just don't seem to point to a clear connection for women to be deacons. It's clear that men are to fulfill this role but I find those passages as weak in making a case for women as deacons. I did appreciate this book though and highly recommend it!

Gretchen says

As always, MacArthur brings a STRONG exposition of scripture and backs up everything that is said in the book with scriptures that aren't taken out of context but rather have been taken back to their original roots and meanings. There is no possibility of misunderstanding the intent of the Bible when discussing male/female roles after reading this book. MacArthur's Biblical stance is always the same and one that I admire: one may not LIKE what it says, but that doesn't make it less true or one less responsible for living its precepts if one claims to be a Bible-believing Christian. Highly recommend.

Hope says

Frankly, when I downloaded this book I was expecting a book about gender differences from a biblical standpoint to shed light on the chaos of modern "gender free" culture. The opening lines, "The fact that men and women are different by design is no surprise to those who are committed to reality," seemed to tell me I was heading the right direction. But the entire book ended up being about male headship/female submission. I have no problem with discussing these issues from a biblical viewpoint, but they were not what I was expecting.

You've got to hand it to MacArthur for tackling every difficult passage on male and female roles (Proverbs 31, Ephesians 5, Titus 2, 1 Peter 3, etc.). His very traditional views are hard for most modern women to hear since they (myself included) have been conditioned to feminist thinking in many areas. I agree with him that many women have put self-fulfillment outside the home above being faithful keepers of the home, but still found his cut-and-dry judgments to be irksome at times.

While mostly writing about marriage, MacArthur also addresses widowhood, singleness and women in ministry.

One quote: "Man's authority over woman is delegated to him by God to be used for His purposes and in His way. As a fellow creature, man has no innate superiority to woman and has no right to use his authority tyrannically or selfishly. Male chauvinism is no more biblical than feminism. Both are perversions of God's plan." (p. 54)

Christina Smith says

Infuriating!!

Nancy DeValve says

I have very mixed feelings about this book. First, I struggle with John MacArthur and his style. He just has a tone of legalism and harshness that I don't find winning. Things are one way only and if you don't see it that way you are sinning. I think he could convince more people if he had a more winsome tone. On the other hand, he did say some things I agree with, so it's not that I hate everything he said.

I do think that he sees marriage as looking one way only: you must home school, Mom must stay at home, and if Dad isn't the main bread winner he's not doing his job. In my family, raised by very godly people, my parents were very much a team. They both worked outside the home, they both worked on chores in the home (my dad was just as likely to cook supper as my mom), they talked through every major decision together, they both gave 100% to their marriage, and they both deeply loved and respected each other. John and I are pretty much the same way. And I don't feel that a Team approach to marriage is not biblical. I think that is what God intended when he gave Eve to Adam.

Yes, it's true that Eve sinned and a tension of leadership/submission was introduced. Pain in childbirth entered the arena and work became a struggle and a toil. But just as it is not wrong to use methods in childbirth to reduce pain or methods in the work place to reduce the struggle to work, I don't think it's wrong to work in marriage to restore the Team Relationship.

I think that MacArthur also thinks that adultery happens because women in the church are not dressing modestly. One could almost believe that only immodest people have affairs. And maybe he didn't mean to make it sound like it's usually the woman's fault, but that's how it sounded to me.

I do agree that men and women aren't the same and there is no reason to try to force us to be each other. We just never will be and we are happier when we accept our differences.
