



Defining Manhood and Womanhood

It's been said that there's no reconciling with those who do not believe that one's sex is a binary matter. But what if one were to presume for a moment that those who are wanting to fully embrace traits of both manhood and womanhood, putting aside the physical for a moment, were feeding a deep hunger to express God? Maybe this person is unconsciously yearning for their own divinity? When Jesus implored us to be perfect, one might assume this would include having at least some of the traditional strengths of the other sex. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48.

Genesis has two different stories of creation, the first being very brief and stating in part "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:..." No distinction being made between man and woman. And with God as the *cause*, which includes traits of both male and female (again, speaking of qualities only, not physical), can we not presume the *effect* would be expressing both sets of qualities? In a perfectly spiritual sense?

It's clear to me, mankind's current efforts to recast what God has made is ignorant and dangerous, to say the least. But for those simply ignorant and humble enough to grow, maybe we can all cherish some of the observations below. Here you will find definitions of manhood and womanhood, celebrating their unique and terrific traits.

1. "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." John 3:13
2. "When we say of someone 'He's a real man', we mean that he measures up to our ideal of courage and integrity and intelligence, that he is in full command of himself and therefore can help others; his manhood is displayed in dominion over animal instincts and tendencies, - over fear and greed and envy and beastliness." Rosalie Maas, *The Bible for Everyman*.
3. "Cherish the qualities which constitute your own manhood, and lift them up in your thinking – truthfulness, honesty, sincerity, moral courage, moral strength, steadfastness, singleness of purpose and motive, perseverance, loyalty to an ideal, ability to stand firm in the face of aggressive mental suggestion, and to overcome difficulties and carry through to a right conclusion. When these qualities have been lifted up to the point of spiritual discernment, they will be found to be the qualities which constitute womanhood. They will be one with devotion, love, generosity, faithfulness, sweetness, tenderness, peace, joyousness, the all complete one, the kingdom of God within you – seeking for nothing outside of itself." Bicknell Young, CSB.



4. “Man...the generic term for all that reflects God’s image and likeness;...” “These different elements conjoin naturally with each other, and their true harmony is in spiritual oneness.”
Mary Baker Eddy, Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures.
5. “The manhood of God is life, strength, pure consciousness, spiritual understanding, vitality, vigour. This is your manhood. The womanhood of God is tenderness, love, beauty, loveliness, sweetness, spiritual bliss, purity and innocence. This is your womanhood. The reflection of the Father-Mother is the man who is the full expression of divine manhood and the full expression of the divine womanhood, all in one. Doris Henty, CSB.