

# What Is Masculinity And Femininity?

**What do you think of when you hear the word “*masculine*”?**

Do you see a rugged, outdoor type who enjoys camping and backpacking?

The central star of your football team?

How about the boy who’s into studying and who gets high grades at college or university? Would you consider him masculine?

**What does “*feminine*” mean to you?**

The quiet, modest girl whose goal is to marry, be a housewife and raise a family?

Or the talented pianist or skilled gymnast?

The beautiful shapely girl who is never without a date?

Perhaps we do not often give these things much thought.

But each of us, realise it or not, has images of what masculine or feminine are.

**These images affect how we see ourselves as men or women, and thus how we relate to the world around us.**

**These images are acquired from various sources, parents, teachers, friends, television and films, and what we read in books and magazines.**

**But which of these images, if any, are valid?**

**Where can we look to find the answers?**

To be sure, there are physical differences that affect how men and women think, feel and act.

Science tells us that even our brains do **not** function exactly alike.

Girls seem to have more intuition, the ability to “*read*” people better.

Men are generally better with complex details, with maths, maps and puzzles.

**Women usually outlive men by three or four years.**

**Women bear children and have a more active thyroid gland that allows them to laugh and cry more easily.**

**Men have more physical strength in most cases.**

**But to understand masculinity and femininity better we need to see how the sexes originated.**

For this information we have to look into God’s Word, the Christian Bible, that is inspired by the Creator God Who created humans.

**Genesis 1:26-27, 31** [New King James] “*Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man*

*in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” ... “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”*

**Men and women are both created in the “image” of God and both are good in God’s eyes.**

**So any differences between men and women is not a matter of one being better than the other.**

**The only difference is the jobs the Creator God intends them to do in this physical life.**

Masculine and feminine traits accompany these different purposes.

Notice some of God’s instructions about how to fulfil the purposes for which He created us male and female.

**One important consideration is appearance.** God wants girls to look like girls and boys to look like boys.

**So the Christian Bible teaches men and women about hair length, dress and cleanliness.**

**1 Corinthians 11:14-16** [Amplified Bible] *“Does not experience, common sense, reason and native sense of propriety itself teach you that for a man to wear long hair is a dishonour, humiliating and degrading to him. But if a woman has long hair, it is her ornament and glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. Now if anyone is disposed to be argumentative and contentious about this, we hold to and recognise no other custom in worship than this, nor do the churches of God generally.”*

I need to clarify two things at this point, **both Samson and John the Baptist had long hair as part of the Nazirite vow they were under. The pictures of Jesus Christ with long hair are false for He would not have needed Judas to point Him out from among the disciples if He had long hair.**

God allows us to express our personality through our clothing, through modesty and good taste should always prevail, [1 Timothy 2:9; 1 Timothy 3:3-4].

**A woman should never dress in such a way that would allow her to be mistaken as a man or vice versa.**

Cleanliness and personal hygiene are musts in all cases.

Girls and women should always act like girls and women and boys and men should always act like boys and men.

**God has given us good examples to follow in His Word, the Christian Bible.**

**Girls and women should study the lives of Deborah, Ruth, Esther and the unnamed woman of Proverbs chapter 31.**

**You will then see what the Creator God expects of you, gentleness, beauty in personality, development of your talents and a determination to please God in all aspects of your life.**

**Boys and men should study the lives of Abel, Moses, David, Peter and Paul who set the standard for men, strength of character, wisdom, balance, proper leadership and loyalty to God’s way of life.**

Of course all boys and girls need to develop all these traits!

**And both boys and girls should look to the supreme example God the Father has given, Jesus Christ, to find out how they should think and act in every situation in life.**

In other words, looking and acting like a boy or girl, man or woman, is important to our Creator God.

**God's Word, the Christian Bible, shows both boys and girls, men and women, how to fulfil the life He has given you and how, when you are in harmony with His Word, you will enjoy great peace of mind and internal joy that no adverse circumstances will ever be able to take away from you.**