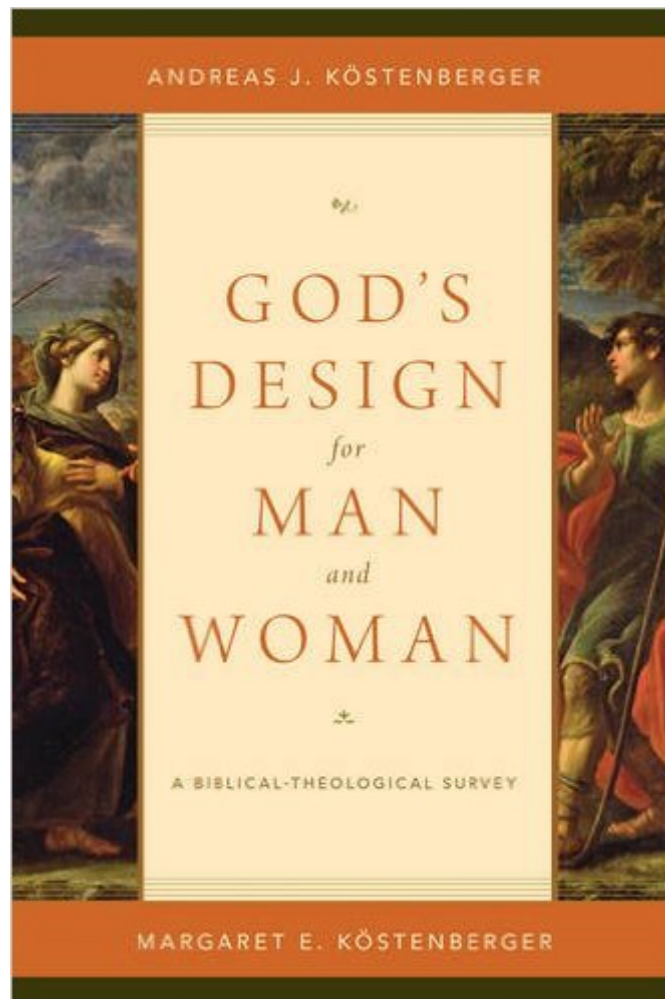


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# God's Design For Man And Woman: A Biblical-Theological Survey



## Synopsis

Equipping a New Generation to Live Out God's Design This thorough study of the Bible's teaching on men and women aims to help a new generation of Christians live for Christ in today's world. Moving beyond other treatments that primarily focus on select passages, this winsome volume traces Scripture's overarching pattern related to male-female relationships in both the Old and New Testaments. Those interested in careful discussion rather than caustic debate will discover that God's design is not confining or discriminatory but beautiful, wise, liberating, and good.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Andreas J. Kästner is founder of Biblical Foundations and Senior Research Professor of New Testament and Biblical Theology at SEBTS. Andreas and his wife Margaret aren't new to the discussion of manhood and womanhood. In 2008 she wrote, *Jesus and the Feminists: Who Do They Say That He Is?* Which was followed by Andreas' work, *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. They come together at an important time and provide us with an sure foundation in their new book, *God's Design for Man and Woman: A Biblical Theological Survey*, and produce an exhaustive and biblical look at gender roles. Let me say from the top, don't be intimidated by the title. The phrase biblical theology can be intimidating, and perhaps cause some people to bypass this work. I've been in those shoes before, and I've read those books that are like a slow walking through mud. But I was pleasantly surprised to find this book easy to read. You won't need a dictionary to accompany you on your trip. And it's that readability that makes it so

useful to the everyday man and woman. You can speak the truth until you're blue in the face, but if you can't say it in a way that is easily understood than you're doing it wrong. When I say this work is exhaustive, I mean ex-hau-stive. Have you ever wanted to know every single interaction Jesus had with a woman, regardless of how seemingly insignificant? There's a table for that. How about Jesus' interactions with men? Or the men and women in his parables? There's a table for that too. There's nothing skipped. And even though you may not ever need to reference such a table, the effort shows the care and precision the author's took to be thorough.

In *God's Design for Man and Woman*, the Kostenbergers lay out a theological survey of what both the Old and New Testaments say about the battles of the sexes. In short, their basic premise is that God set up Adam as the head of humanity before the fall, set up men as leaders of Israel as priests and kings, set up 12 male tribe leaders and 12 male apostles, and that he could have changed that to include women at any time if it were just a cultural situation. The book includes an appendix on the history of women's rights, particularly in America, on Biblical interpretation, and on special issues regarding gender passages. The Kostenbergers give great detailed defenses from Scripture and summaries of their points, which I thoroughly agree with. I recommend their book for anyone wishing to truly explore what the Bible has to say on the very prevalent issue of sexuality. But a warning to all: it is an academic read. The text itself is easy to read, but the Kostenbergers leave very little white space (reserved for pull quotes) and divide the book into chapters that could have been further divided into parts. I realize that the book is already very long, but I do wish the authors had trimmed some of the unnecessary biblical character profiles for the sake of adding more to other sections. They go into very little detail on the defense of the Bible, for example, and while they include a chapter on practical application, I would have appreciated more examples. They refer to deacons and offices in the early church, but give little detail on what those entailed. While their appendix on women's rights was useful and extensive, an appendix on homosexuality would have been just as useful. And the book still left me with many questions.

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