

What's the Difference?



chapter

#1

God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.
{Genesis 1:27 NIV}

The doorbell rang, and Cassie hurried to greet her Sunday school teacher and the girls from her Sunday school class. Immediately the house was filled with hugs, giggles, and chatter.

Caleb looked at his dad and granddad. "I think it's time for us to leave."

Pop laughed, Dad grabbed the fishing gear, and the guys headed for the truck.

Let me tell you about Cassie's friends.

Kate loves frilly clothes and her favorite color is pink.

Abby never wears pink and she loves soccer.

Suzie plays softball, and she agrees with Kate about pink—she even has a pink batting helmet.

Heather is crazy about books and animals. Her room is stuffed with stuffed animals.

Rachel plays the piano and sings.

Mary lives across the street with her grandmother, Granny Grace. She has a very tender heart—just like Granny Grace's.

Maggie is gentle and sensitive. When there is a visitor in Sunday school, Maggie always sits with her and helps her feel welcome.

And what about Cassie? She's a little like all her friends, plus she likes to fish with Caleb.



These girls are very different, but they have something in common—they are all girls. And they are girls who love Jesus.

After playing games with the girls, Miss Karen gave them colored paper, pens, stickers, and glitter, and they made cards to send to missionary families. “Miss Karen, you are the best Sunday school teacher ever!” Rachel exclaimed.

Miss Karen’s eyes twinkled. “I never married and had children, but the Lord gave me you girls and I love you as if you were my own.” They finished making cards, and Cassie announced, “Now Mom and Miss Karen are going to teach us to decorate cupcakes.” Soon the girls were up to their elbows in frosting and sprinkles. It was a very girly afternoon.



Meanwhile, the guys sat on the edge of the dock enjoying a quiet afternoon of fishing.

“I’ve got a question,” Caleb whispered, being careful not to disturb the fish. “Why are girls so . . .” Caleb knew he was not supposed to say unkind things about others, and he was thinking words like *weird*, *annoying*, and *silly*. Finally he said, “So different?”

“I thought you were going to say ‘loud,’” Dad muttered.

Pop grinned and shook his head. “That’s a good question, Caleb, and there’s a good answer. Boys and girls are different because God made us to be different.”

Caleb thought long and hard about what Pop said. “So . . . which one is better?”

Dad made a perfect cast under an overhanging tree. “Men, but don’t tell your mom I said so.”

Pop laughed out loud. “I thought I taught you better than that!”

“It’s been that kind of morning getting ready for all those girls.” Dad chuckled. “Seriously, Caleb, women can be a complete mystery to us, but the Bible says that God created man in his own image and that He created them male and female. Since He created us both in His image we are equal, and since He created us male and female we are different.”

“Hey, I got one!” Caleb yelled as he reeled in a fish. He took the fish off the hook and returned to their conversation. “Equal but different—very interesting.”

“Yes,” Dad agreed. “And God said that it is very good.”

Let's Talk

DISCUSS

- * If you are a girl, which one of Cassie's friends are you like?
- * What were Caleb's questions?
- * What did his dad and granddad tell him?

READ PSALM 139:1-6

- * According to these verses, what does God know about us?
- * How does that make you feel?

PRAY

- * Guide your children to use the words of Psalm 139:1–6 to thank God that He made and knows them.





Plants and Pillars



chapter

#2

Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace.
{Psalm 144:12 NIV}

After dinner Dad opened his Bible and read Genesis 1:27: “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Then he continued. “Caleb asked an interesting question while we were fishing this afternoon.”

Mom raised one eyebrow. “I didn’t think talking was allowed while fishing.”

“Well, it’s not preferred, but it is allowed.”

Cassie looked at her brother. “What did you ask?”

“No offense, Cassie, but I asked why girls are so different.”

“What do you mean? We’re not different—it’s boys who are different.”

“Slow down, Cassie,” Dad said. “It’s a good question, and I think Pop and I had a good answer. Caleb, see if you can explain it to Cassie.”

“I can’t wait to hear this.” Cassie sighed a bit sarcastically.

Suddenly Caleb was in full-concentration mode as he tried to remember exactly what Dad and Pop had told him. He spoke slowly. “The Bible says that God created us in His image so we’re equal, and that He created us male and female so we’re different. Being different is not bad. God says it’s very good.”

Cassie looked puzzled. “Oh—so you’re not saying boys are better?”

“Well,” Caleb said, pretending to be serious, “I wouldn’t say that, but Dad did.”

“What!?!” Mom and Cassie gasped.

Dad smiled sheepishly. “Uhhh . . . let me explain.”

Mom was amused at Dad’s predicament. “We’re all listening.”

“Actually, Cassie, it’s wrong to say that boys or girls are better because we’re all created in God’s image. We’re equal, but He designed males and females for different functions.” He held up a red crayon and a green crayon and asked, “Are these crayons equal, or is one a better crayon than the other?”

“They’re equal,” Cassie answered.

“Are they the same?” Dad asked.

“Well, not exactly,” Caleb replied. “One is red, and one is green.”

“Exactly! Two things do not have to be the same to be equal. One crayon is designed to color things green, and one is designed to color things red—but one is not better than the other. They’re equal, and their different functions are equal.”

“Good explanation,” Mom exclaimed.

Cassie twisted a strand of hair around her finger. “This is really interesting.”



Dad read Psalm 144:12. “We’re going to memorize this verse and talk about it for our devotions the next few nights. It’s important for you to understand what it means to be created in God’s image and what it means to be male and female.”

He repeated the verse and then they all said it with him: “Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace” (Psalm 144:12 NIV).

“I like the way this verse sounds,” Cassie said. “So Caleb is a plant and I’m a pillar. Are we going to learn what that means?”

Dad nodded. “Yes, we are, and I think you’ll like it even more when you understand God’s design and plan for each of you as male and female. It really is very good.”

Let's Talk

DISCUSS

- * Do two things have to be the same to be equal?
- * Why are males and females equal?
- * Who designed males and females for different functions?

READ PSALM 139:13–18

- * What do these verses tell us about God?
- * What does the psalmist do in verse 14?

PRAY

- * Guide your children to use words from Psalm 139:13–18 to praise God.



