

Biblical Manhood and Womanhood — Part 1

August 7, 2016

Great to have you. Welcome to what will probably be the most challenging sermon of your life. Ninety-five percent of you will either disagree with me or be angry with me by the end of the morning. I seriously considered parking my car facing the exit in case I need to make a fast get away after the sermon.

The only ray of sunshine I have going into this is I know at the end of the message God will smile. As a church we opened His word. I kept my finger in the text. Together we are seeking to follow God's words for his glory and for our good, even if they are hard to hear. I suggest you buckle up. It will be a rough ride.

If you are new, my name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. This morning we begin a new series for the month of August called #Trending. In this series we will study some of the hot topics in our culture. Today, we are looking at the extremely hot topic of masculinity and femininity according to the Bible. Next week we take a break to have the CrossWinds family reunion at Florence Park in Milford with our Spencer campus. We put this break after this message because it will take two weeks to cool down after this message. The following week we are back here and we return to our study of manhood and womanhood. This is one message in two weeks. Today is part one. My simple goal this morning is give you a survey of what the Bible says about the roles of men and women in the home, the church and society. and then stop with one reference to Paul. The Bible has 1,189 chapters so we will be here a while.

Sociologists say one of the most significant changes in all of human history happened in the last 40 years. It is called the gender revolution. Men are no longer masculine. Women are no longer feminine. The difference between men and women is much blurrier. We see this on the news with the push for transgender acceptance, when Bruce Jenner is called a hero. Companies are forced to offer unisex bathrooms or allow people of one biological gender to use the bathroom of the other gender because he or she feels like a different gender. The homosexual agenda redefined marriage. Marriage is no longer between a man and a woman but it can be between two men and two women. The gender revolution is about to hit your iPhone. This fall, when you download the new iPhone operating system, iOS 10, it won't just have male and female emoticons to use in your text messaging. It will also have transgender and cross-gender emoticons.

William Manchester, an American historian, said it this way:

“...the erasure of distinctions between the sexes is not only the most striking issue of our time, it may be the most profound issue our race has ever confronted.”

The erasure of distinct masculinity and femininity for men and women is not just something we read about on news feeds but it has already dramatically transformed the American church and the Christian faith. In a TIME Magazine article called “The Second Reformation,”¹ religious feminists claim they are part of the second great reformation of Christian history. In the first reformation, Martin Luther called the church back to the Bible. They claim in this second reformation the church — the last great bastion of male chauvinism — is finally allowing

¹ <http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,158420,00.html>

women their rightful place of leadership. After 2,000 years, many denominations are finally ordaining women as senior pastors and as church elders and leaders. Finally, the church is up to date with the rest of the world.

Is erasing the differences between men and women in the home, the church and society a great step forward? I don't think so. The first reformation was about getting back to the Bible. It was about putting your finger in the text. Modern religious feminists are about taking your finger out of the Bible and getting away from the clear teaching of the text.

Entire denominations have already walked away from clear biblical truth in this area. In modern Christendom there is a massive dividing line that divides Christians in half based on what they think of women and their God-given role in marriage, the church and life. Let me give you the names of these two camps. The first one is called complementarianism and the other is called egalitarianism. Let me explain these viewpoints before we put our fingers in the text.

Complementarianism — This view says men and women are equal in personhood and value before God. God didn't just give men and women different plumbing, he gave them different roles to play in life based on their genders. For example, men also have a specific role to play. They are to play the role of a husband, father, protector and provider for a wife and family. A man is to be head of his home before God. As a man, he is also to head his church family before God. He is to be a leader in society. Women are different. They have the God-given role of being a wife, mother, nurturer and homemaker. A woman was created to be a husband's helpmate. She has the God-given role of submitting to

and supporting her husband's leadership. This is the straightforward teaching of the Bible. It was the view held by Jesus. It was the view taught by the early church. It was also the view held by Christendom for the last 2,000 years, although it was sometimes misunderstood and misapplied. This is the view of CrossWinds Church, even though most modern Christians believe it is wrong.

Egalitarianism — This is the new view that is in-vogue. This view agrees with the complementarian position that says men and women are equal in personhood, value and worth before God but it differs on the idea of roles. Egalitarians believe a woman's submission to her husband's leadership comes from the fall. They believe submission is the result of sin. They believe Jesus came to take away the results of sin. Jesus came so a wife no longer needs to submit to her husband in marriage. They believe a husband and wife now submit to one another and there is no true leader in marriage in the home and before God. Since they believe gender-based roles came from sin and were taken away by Jesus they believe that men and women should now have equal opportunity for leadership in the church. They believe it is appropriate for a wife to lead her husband in marriage and for women to lead the church. This is why many denominations see nothing wrong with ordaining women to ministry or having a woman as the senior pastor of a church. This is extremely popular in many churches and denominations because it matches our culture. Unfortunately, it is unbiblical. This morning you will find out why.

Let's jump into our study at Genesis and learn what the Bible says.

What does Genesis teach us about masculinity and femininity?

Genesis 1

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and 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. Genesis 1:26–27 (ESV)

Genesis 1 is a panoramic overview of the creation story. We find God created two sexes, male and female. He made both sexes bear his image. While both sexes bear God’s image, he called the human race by the name of one of the sexes. God said, “Let us make *man* in our image.” Man, the male of the first man and women pair, was the representative head by which God referred to the entire human race. From the beginning God chose the male gender to be head of the human race. Some of you may think this is a weak argument. This point is made even clearer when we look at Genesis 5:1-2 and you find the name for mankind in general and Adam in particular being one and the same because Adam was given representative leadership of both genders in the human race because he was a man. I put the Hebrew in parentheses to show you my point.

This is the book of the generations of Adam (Adam). When God created man (Adam), he made him in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man (Adam) when they were created. Genesis 5:1–2 (ESV)

God never said, “Let us make woman in our image,” or “Let us make mortals in our image.” He said, “Let us make man in our image.” From the very beginning of the Bible, when only Adam and Eve existed, God gave Adam the position of representative head of the human race, not his wife.

Genesis 2

This chapter is a zoom into the specific details of the creation of man and woman. This is probably the most important chapter in the Bible for understanding the different God-given roles of men and women. I will briefly show you how the rest of the Bible constantly refers back to this chapter.

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."
Genesis 2:18–23 (ESV)

In this chapter man named the animals, which means Adam was given authority over the animals. What you name is what you have authority over. This is why parents give their children a name. They have authority over their new child. Adam didn't just name the animals but he also named his wife, which means he had authority over her.

It was only after Adam realized no animal was the right fit to help him, and he desperately needed a helper, that the female gender, the woman, his wife, was created for him.

Notice that the man was not created for the woman. The woman was created last to fulfill a man's need for a helpmate after it was apparent that no other animals would fit the bill. The reasons the female gender was created this way was to emphasize there was no other possible helpmate for Adam in

creation other than a woman. This is crucial to understand. The purpose of the female gender's creation is a response to a man's need for a helpmate. A woman is the only suitable helpmate for a man on the planet. That is a woman's original role. That is the purpose the female gender was created. None of these are incidental facts. Paul saw the order which men and women were created and the reason why the two different genders were created as essential to help us understand the different roles men and women should exercise today.

I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve... 1 Timothy 2:12–13 (ESV)

Male leadership in the home and the church doesn't come from sin. It comes from Genesis 1 and 2. Adam was formed first. Adam was given the role of leadership in the first home. Woman was created to be the necessary helper of a man, not to exercise authority over a man. Paul was not bowing to pagan culture. He was thoroughly biblical. He was basing his words on the Genesis creation story before sin entered the world.

The female gender was created for Adam and given to Adam to be his essential helpmate to assist him in the task of populating the earth and subduing the earth. In the same way today a woman's core role in life is to be the helpmate of her husband assisting him in procreation and in subduing the earth. Of course she is also his necessary complement in friendship and companionship.

I also want you to notice God formed the woman out of the man, not as a separate piece of creation from the dust of the earth. This means men and women are equal in personhood and worth because they are made of the same stuff. When a man and woman come together in marriage they are designed to

complete one another. The only thing in creation that God made to complete a man is his woman. The Bible is very clear that the way men and women were created casts them into different roles for life. Let me show you what Paul said about this.

For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 1 Corinthians 11:7–9 (ESV)

The Bible says woman was created to be for a man's, a husband's, glory. That means she was created to be his best friend, his delight sexually, the mother of his children, the homemaker he desperately needs. A wife is to be the delight of a husband when she functions in her God-given role of helpmate, wife, mother, homemaker and friend. Paul pointed this out in 1 Corinthians 11, and it comes from Genesis 2.

The role of male leadership and women functioning as a helpmate cannot be reversed. Woman was created for man, not man for woman.

Male headship and leadership in God's creation didn't come from a chauvinistic culture. It didn't come from sin entering the world. It came from Genesis 1 and 2. God made a woman from a man to be the perfect complement for him. A woman was created for man and to be his helpmate and his glory. A woman's unique God-given role is to help her husband with the task of filling the earth and subduing the earth.

Woman was created not just from Adam's side but for Adam's side. Singleness was not good for Adam. He needed a helper. The idea of Eve being Adam's helper is not demeaning for a woman. God is called the very same word

in Psalm 121 when he is called the helper of his people. If God is called our necessary helper, there is nothing demeaning about a wife being called her husband's necessary helper. God designed women to have the necessary abilities, gifts, fitness, resources and strength to be the perfectly suited helper for a husband. Eve was created not just from Adam's side but to be the perfect helper for Adam's side. The New Testament is clear this was all done purposefully by God.

Remember all this is before sin entered the world. Man and woman had equality of personhood but different roles in life before sin entered the world. Man was given the role of leadership in his home. Woman was created from him and for him to be his perfect and necessary helper. That is not demeaning.

Genesis 3

Satan tempted Eve in order to subvert Adam's role of leadership in the family. In Genesis 3 we find Satan tempting Adam and Eve to sin. Who did Satan approach when he sought to lead the first family astray? He went to the woman. By appealing to the woman he was undermining Adam's role as leader and protector of his family.

Why did Satan approach Eve instead of Adam? Satan knew a woman's natural disposition as a helpmate made her more naturally inclined to be deceived. Some of you think that is a chauvinistic statement. All I did was quote the Bible. Paul made the case that a woman's natural temperament as a helpmate makes her more open to Satan's deceptions.

For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. 1 Timothy 2:13–14 (ESV)

Even though Eve sinned first, who did God call to account for that sin? Adam. While Eve led the way, Adam was the one to pay. Adam was in charge of his home. Adam didn't protect his wife. He allowed her to be led into sin. He followed her into sin.

Eve sinned first, but as the head of the home Adam bore the responsibility for the sin in the home.

Sin made the core roles of men and women difficult. While I can't dig into this, but can only mention it in passing, the Bible tells us the consequence of that first sin tainted the way men and women functioned in their core roles. For man his core role was to be the provider and protector of his family. The pain introduced by sin into that area of his life meant he would now eat by the sweat of his brow. Instead of the earth naturally producing food, there would be weeds. Now a job to provide for a family is hard work, not just fun work.

Pain was also introduced into a woman's core role. Since her core was bearing and raising children, now a woman has pain in childbirth and pain in child rearing.

Sin didn't create roles for men and women, it caused rebellion against God's roles for men and women. In addition, it says in Genesis 3 that sin will cause a woman to rebel against her core, God-given role of being a helpmate for her husband. Instead of finding joy in being the helpmate for her man, sin will tempt her to take leadership over her husband. In a similar way sin discourages a man from being a sacrificial, loving leader of his wife and encourages him to become an abusive, heavy-handed thug over his wife.

Sin didn't create different roles for men and women to play in this world. It made men and women rebel against their God-given roles.

In summary, in Genesis 1, Adam was given the role of representative head over both genders of mankind. Genesis 2 introduced the different roles men and women are to play in life. This is all before sin entered the world. A woman is a man's equal but her core role is to be a helpmate, because the female gender was created to help the male gender subdue and populate the earth. A woman is the only perfect fit for a man on the planet.

Woman was created for man, not man for woman. That order is important to understanding the God-given roles of men and women.

In Genesis 3 sin enters the world. It entered by Satan undermining the God-ordained structure of the home and appealing to Eve instead of Adam. Even though Eve sinned first, Adam was responsible before God because he was given headship. Now sin manifests itself by giving wives the desire to rule over their husbands instead of find joy in being the helpmate of their husbands. Sin manifests itself in a husband abusively leading his wife rather than sacrificially loving his wife. Sin gives men and women the desire to rebel against their God-given, gender-assigned roles in this world. Sin didn't create different gender roles. Sin gives us the desire to rebel against the God given gender roles that were in place before sin entered the world.

Old Testament

The Old Testament is a big book. We could spend a lot of time on this but we won't. Let me skim through it.

All the prominent leaders in the Old Testament were men: Noah, Abraham, Job, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Saul, Samuel, David, Solomon, Ezra, Nehemiah, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, just to name a few. They were not men because God is a chauvinistic. They were men because God planned in Genesis 1 and 2 that men, by their gender, would have positions of leadership and authority in the the home, the church and society. All I am doing is pointing out the obvious.

Did you notice all worship of Israel was male-orientated? Even though God is genderless, we are told to address God in a masculine way. We pray to God our Father, not God our mother. We address God as male because the masculine gender was given the position of headship and authority in this world.

While both sexes are equal in personhood, men were given the role of leadership in Old Testament worship. This is why all of Israel's Old Testament priests were male.

We need to see this in contrast to the nations around Israel. The nations around Israel worshipped gods and goddesses. They had priests and priestesses. Ancient Israel lived in an egalitarian world without gender roles. Israel alone worshipped one God called the Father and all the priests that led in worship were male. This did not come from a being part of an ancient, uninformed culture. It came from Genesis 1 and 2.

Did you notice all the kings of Israel were male, except for Athaliah and Jezebel, who both stole the throne. Both of those women were assassinated and

replaced by rightful male kings. God never desired a woman to be in leadership over a man as king over his people.

All national prophets in the Old Testament were men. There are a few rare exceptions, such as Deborah the prophetess. Women were prophetesses at a time when male leadership was poor. All Deborah did was communicate God's word to Barak, the commander of the army. She refused to lead the people into battle because that was not her role.

Women were not second class citizens in the Old Testament. They prayed with great effectiveness. They offered sacrifices through priests and walked closely with God. The simple point is the primary, God-given role of women in the Old Testament was that of wife and mother. Proverbs 31 praises a woman who was an excellent wife and mother.

The Old Testament prophets didn't look forward to a time of no gender roles but to a time of godly male leadership. They looked forward to a time when godly, sacrificial male leadership would manifest itself in the one called the Messiah. The preferred future was not the elimination of male leadership but sacrificial, loving, godly and strong male leadership.

It is an inescapable conclusion that in all of Old Testament history the biblical heroes, kings, priests, elders and prophets were exclusively male, with rare exceptions. This was not a cultural concession. This stood in opposition to other cultures in existence at the time of Israel. Male leadership took place in Israel because that is what God planned and designed in Genesis 1 and 2.

The New Testament

As we turn to the New Testament, I want to begin with a question. Could Jesus have been a woman and died for our sin? Could Jesus have been the daughter of God instead of the son of God and still saved us from our sin? If not, why not?

Romans 5 answers this question.

Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. Romans 5:14 (ESV)

Since Adam, as a man, was given the role of representative headship of the human race. Jesus also needed to be a man so he could be given the role as head of the redeemed human race.

In addition, if Jesus was a woman, he wouldn't have been able to have authority over his male disciples because the Bible says the creation story tells us there is a God-created authority structure between men and women still in existence today.

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. 1 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV)

God is Christ's head. Jesus submitted to his father's authority. Jesus is man's head and a man is to submit to Jesus' authority. A man is a woman's head and she is to submit to his authority. In the ESV translation it says a husband is a wife's head. Look at the footnote on the word *wife*. The word for husband and wife are in the generic, so Paul was not primarily referring to a husband and wife, he was referring to the creation story. The female gender, while equal in value and personhood, was created to be the helpmate for the male gender.

If Jesus came as a woman, he couldn't have authority over men because according to the creation story a woman should not exercise authority over a man.

I know this sounds so misogynistic. You need to know Jesus treated women differently than other rabbis in the first century. Jesus treated women with great respect and honor. He didn't want women ignorant. He wanted them to learn spiritual truth. He applauded Mary who sat at his feet learning about God instead of Martha who was busy in the kitchen. He chose women to be the eyewitnesses of the resurrection. He had a large group of women disciples that followed him and took care of his needs and the needs of the disciples. When a woman was caught in the act of adultery, rather than encouraging her stoning, like the religious leaders, he offered her grace and forgiveness. In spite of Jesus' incredibly high view of woman, he still chose 12 men as his apostles to form the nucleus of the church. Jesus placed the authority of the church into the hands of 12 men, while he still highly valued and esteemed women. He fell in line with the creation story and the rest of the Old Testament.

Paul — 1 Timothy 2:8-15

In our next week in this series we will dive head-first into many of Paul's most controversial passages on men's and women's role. Today we will look at one which is crucial for our study. It is 1 Timothy 2:8-15.

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is

to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control. 1 Timothy 2:8–15 (ESV)

This is one of the most misunderstood and often ignored passages in the New Testament of the roles of men and women in the church. The only way to properly understand it is to see it as a logical extension of what God said about the roles of men and women in Genesis 1, 2 and 3 and then throughout the rest of the Bible.

1. **Men should give themselves to prayer, worship and unity.** Men should lead in prayer and worship. Men are not to model bickering in the church but unity in the church. There is nothing earthshaking in that point.
2. **Women in the church should be known for the inner beauty before outer beauty.** This doesn't mean a woman should look like a bag lady. It says more important than outer beauty is inner beauty. A godly wife should put time into developing inner beauty, not just outward adulation. There's nothing hard to understand in this point.
3. **A woman must receive instruction with submissiveness.** Here comes the trouble. What does this mean? There is no problem with a Christian woman learning her Bible. How a woman learns is the issue. She is to learn quietly and submissively. Just as a woman is to submit her husband, who is the leader in her home, a woman is also to submit to the male leaders in her church and come under their authority, not trying to undermine or subvert their authority. This is not because a woman is in any way inferior in personhood or

intellect. It is by divine design from Genesis 2. A woman is to focus on being a helper, not a leader over men because that is why her gender was created.

4. **In congregational meetings a woman is not to teach or exercise**

authority over a man. This sounds incredibly harsh and small-headed. It isn't. In congregational meetings a woman is not to take the lead teaching role because those are the God-given responsibilities for men. Paul was not forbidding women from teaching. He was not forbidding women from learning. He was forbidding women from teaching in formal public church gatherings with men. Why did he say this? Teaching in the church is not just passing on information. It is exercising authority over those you teach. A woman is not to exercise authority over a man. This does not imply women don't have the ability to teach and lead. It is simply saying this is not their role. Just as men have a God-given responsibility to lead their home family, they also have a God-given responsibility to lead their church family. In this way the church is to display to the world God's design for the different gender roles of the sexes from Genesis 2 lived out in the church community. This is why we don't ordain women pastors at CrossWinds. This is why we don't have women elders. This also means that even although our Leadership Board is analogous to a deacon board, since the board isn't just about mercy ministries but it a board with authority over myself and the congregation, it should also be limited to just men because of this passage. There are other passages which support this same conclusion we will see next week.

5. **Paul supported his male-only claim for leadership in the church from**

Genesis 2. Since Paul sounded like a nutcase, he gave the source of his authority for these words. He went back to Genesis 2. Adam was formed first and then Eve as his helpmate. Adam was created as head of the human race, head of the family and the church. A woman is created to be her husband's necessary helpmate for leadership, not his replacement. Remember what Genesis 3 taught us. Sin manifests itself in a wife trying to take leadership over her husband and not delight in submitting to and supporting the authority of her husband. The same is true in the church. Sin causes a woman to want to exercise authority over the male leadership in the church family, not delight in being a helpmate within the church family. These are not my words. These are God's words. Paul capped it off by telling what will happen if women take over positions of leadership in the church. Eve was the one lead astray. Eve's natural countenance as a helpmate makes her as more easily led astray by Satan. In the same way women in church leadership will be more easily deceived by Satan. By the way, all I do is read the mail, I don't write it. This is the Word of God. If you quibble over this let me ask you a simple question. Of the women you know that are pastors and elders, how many of them are leading solid, Bible-believing churches? It is a very, very short list. They are almost always part of a church that has a low view of biblical authority. They were deceived by Satan and led into error.

6. **A woman's best spiritual position is found in devotion to her core roles of being a wife and mother.** Paul said a woman will be saved by

childbearing. That sounds like Paul wanted women barefoot and pregnant in the kitchen. How could Paul say such an insulting thing? Listen carefully without offense. Paul said the best place for a woman to find spiritual safety is to devote herself to her core God-given roles of being a helpmate to her husband and mother to her children. As she walks with Christ and pursues those roles she will flourish, find joy and be guarded from Satan's deceptions. She will raise godly children that will launch out of the home to make an impact for Christ around the world. Her impact will be felt in this world. It will be through her children. If she abandons her God-given role of wife and mother to seek male leadership in the church she is ripe for spiritual deception and somebody else will be raising her children for her.

Conclusion

I know many of you are squirming in your seats. I understand. In all my years as a Christian and a pastor nobody ever took the time to lay this out comprehensively, so I wanted to take the time to lay it out comprehensively for you. I can't wait to come back in two weeks and look at more hard-to-handle New Testament passages on male and female leadership from Paul. Once you understand the Genesis back story, all of these passages make great sense. When we come back to this topic in two weeks we will look at the arguments egalitarians use to claim Jesus eliminated all gender-based roles in society, the home and the church. Of course, we will help you apply this challenging subject to real life.

As we close I want you to realize one thing that is crystal clear in the Bible — men and women are given different roles by God for life from Genesis 2

forward. These roles do not come from sin but exist before sin. Men have as their core role loving, leading, providing and protecting their homes and their churches. Women have as their core role to be essential helpmates for their husbands, to be wives and mothers, and not to undermine or replace a man's position of leadership in the home or the church.

What I just taught you is completely ignored by many Christian denominations. This is why many denominations ordain women to ministry and as senior pastors while we don't. Those denominations include: Presbyterian, Reformed, Episcopalian, Lutheran, United Methodist, Assemblies of God, United Church of Christ and Anglican, just to name a few. The bottom line question is simple: Where do you put your finger? If you put your finger in the Word of God, the clear conclusion is men and women have different roles in life because of their genders, and a woman is to be a helper that is not to take authority over a man in marriage, the church and also in an idealized society. If you put your finger in the culture then there is nothing unique about what a man and woman can and cannot do. That will decide where you go on this issue.



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