

## Will God give eternal rewards based on gender?

**Not at all!** In certain non-Christian religions, their god(s) certainly give out “heavenly” blessings based on whether a person is male or female.

Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, and Mormons all greatly favor men over women in the distribution of eternal bliss. Men can receive vast eternal rewards, but women: Cannot escape the cycle of reincarnation, May

receive unequal rewards, May exist for the sexual pleasure of men, May be eternally pregnant. Not so with Christian theology! Both men and women inherit based on God’s grace and wisdom, not based on our human biology.

### Key Term

**δοῦλε**

*doulos* = slave, servant

*“Well done, my good **servant!**” his master replied.*

*“Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.” Luke 19:17*

### Old Testament inheritance laws... and then Jesus

In the Old Testament, inheritance laws favored the first-born (primo-geniture) and males (patriarchy). Second-born or third-born sons and any females inherited significantly less. The first-born son received greater blessing, honor, and wealth. How do we know that this perspective does NOT reflect God’s eternal reward system? Because Jesus came and clarified. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7), Jesus explained to all of his hearers, both male and female, who will receive “rewards” (for righteous actions, serving, praying, fasting, giving, withstanding persecution, etc.) and who has already received their reward (those “seen” and publicly acknowledged). Jesus taught that God sees things done in the secret place (Matt. 6:4, 6, 18) which parallels 1 Samuel 16:7, *“People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”*

Jesus dramatically challenged the common perception of blessing. In Luke 11:27, a woman cried out, *“Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.”* This typical blessing revealed how Jewish women could be honored, by having a great son or husband. Jesus, however responded with eternal truth. *“Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey it.”* (Luke 11:28). Who can hear? Who can obey? Who can be blessed? Anyone! Rewards and blessing are based on obedience, which can be done by men or women. We are potentially equal inheritors!

### Your Current Perspective

*“Well done, good and faithful **servant.**”* (Matt 25:21) When you hear God’s praise for his obedient servants, who comes to mind? Do you envision that only men will hear this commendation? Would God place a good and faithful woman in charge of five or ten cities (Luke 19)? In your mind, where do you see women located in heaven? Are they huddled in the back corner? Are they pushing themselves to the front? Are they running around serving the men for eternity? Or are they recognized and rewarded by Jesus based on their level of faithful obedience? Selah.

## God gives rewards based on obedience, not biology.

### Conclusion

**Fix the FOREVER Family in your vision.** Jesus knows the heart of his Bride. He knows your heart of obedience since his eyes, *“range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him”* (2 Chron. 16:9). **Men and women, standing in God’s presence, will be blessed based on humbly hearing and faithfully obeying.**

### 4 Crucial Questions

1. What does this teach us about **GOD**?
2. What does this teach us about **PEOPLE**?
3. What command should I **OBEY**?
4. With whom can I **SHARE** this?