

Title: He Created Them Male and Female

Passage: Genesis 2:18-25

Introduction

Secular Culture:

- "Gender fluidity": gender based upon one's own perception and experience
 - Each person is their own "expert" as to their own gender.
 - Gender is something to be discovered and affirmed (not externally determined).
- Stresses equality of men and women without recognizing the uniqueness of each.
- Rejects objective truth where identity is based on what God says who you are.

Biblical Response:

- Scriptures are clear as to God's design.
- God created you intentionally and purposefully. We should adapt and point to God's plans and purposes (not vice-versa)
- We should change and adapt to God's design and plan for human sexuality.

Present:

- Confusion on God's given identities is resulting in greater disruption and confusion (not peace and clarity)
- If struggling with your identity, God has answers in His Word.

Passage: Genesis 2:18-25

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."

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Context of Passage: Genesis 1

Genesis

- Genesis 1: larger story of creation
- Genesis 2: focused lens on humans

Genesis 1:26a

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

- Key point: God created male and female in His image
 - Both men and women were made in God's image
 - Both men and women reflect God's character in their lives.
- Men and women are both equally important and valuable in God's image.
 - No place for feelings of superiority or inferiority of either men or women.
- No second-class citizens in God's kingdom.
 - All have equal dignity and worth in God's eyes.
- Men and women are equal but have different roles.

EXPOSITION

Overview

I. God created Adam first. (v.7)

II. Eve was created as perfect helper for Adam. (v.18)

III. God formed the woman out of man. (v.21-22)

IV. God gave Adam the right to name Eve. (v.19, 23)

V. God named the human race man, not woman.

VI. Serpent came to Eve first.

VII. God spoke to Adam first after the fall.

VIII. Adam, not Eve, represented the human race.

IX. The curse brought a distortion of previous roles, not an introduction of new roles.

I. God created Adam first. (v.7)

Genesis 2:7

then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

- God created man first.
- Two-stage order is unique (while God created male and female animals together, He was intentional with humans).
 - Meaning: Man has some leadership role.

Let Scripture interpret Scripture:

1 Timothy 2:12-13

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;

- In the design of creation, woman is not to have authority over man.
- God designed for man to be the leader

Also: Birthright of Firstborn

- Firstborn: one who takes lead of the family and has special privileges.

II. Eve was created as perfect helper for Adam. (v.18)

Genesis 2:18

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

- Meaning: God created the woman for the man
- Role of the Woman
 - God hand-made a helper suitable for man.
- Eve was similar but different.
 - She was created the compliment the man to populate and rule the earth.

Helper

- Helper - necessary resources and ability to be of help.
 - term not a demeaning term
 - Term often referenced with God. (Holy Spirit)
- Husbands: Consult with your wife and make decisions with your wife as God as provided her as a helper.
- Wives: Helper doesn't mean never to speak up, with kindness and respect.
- Single women: Look for a spouse to help, not to fix.
 - Only God can do the fixing.

Suitable for him

- "matching" or "corresponding" to man / counter-part
 - Reflects woman's equality with man.
- Woman complements man

1 Corinthians 11:9

Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

III. God formed the woman out of man. (v.21-22)

Genesis 2:21-22

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.

- God created man and woman differently:
 - God created man out of dust from the ground
 - God formed the woman out of the side of the man
- Man and woman have same nature and equally valuable.

Meaning:

1 Corinthians 11:7-8

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.

- Doctrine of male headship is rooted in Genesis 2.

IV. God gave Adam the right to name Eve. (v.19, 23)

Genesis 2:19-20

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.

Genesis 2:23

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."

Man was a fully intelligent person

- Naming the animals reflected intelligence
 - each names reflected function and purpose
- Man named new creation as "woman"

Naming rights

- Before the fall, Adam named the woman
 - The name reflects the function and purpose
- Reflects form of authority/leadership role over the woman

God is the one who created the first marriage

- God's answer to man's loneliness: one man and one woman in covenant union together

V. God named the human race "man," not woman.

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 5:1-2

This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.

- The term "man" was uniquely and specially chosen by God to reference humans.
- God did not use the term "woman" to refer to generic humans

VI. Serpent came to Eve first.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

- Satan tempted Eve first, seeking to subvert God's order of creation.

VII. God spoke to Adam first after the fall.

Genesis 3:9

But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

- God saw Adam was the leader of the family and come to account what happened to his wife.
 - Failed to protect and take leadership in the situation with the serpent and with Eve.

VIII. Adam, not Eve, represented the human race.

1 Corinthians 15:22

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Romans 5:15

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

- God has given headship and accountability to man

IX. The curse brought a distortion of previous roles, not an introduction of new roles.

Genesis 3:16

To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."

- After the fall, the curse brought distortion (not a change) of the roles.
 - Man would still provide but work much harder.
 - Woman would still childbearing but would suffer through childbearing
- After the fall, desires change:
 - Man harshly rule dictatorship style
 - Woman wants to take control
- Contrary to Biblical manhood and womanhood.

Additional Points

God is clearly referenced in masculine terms.

- Father, Lord, etc.
- Jesus' maleness was theologically necessary.
 - Jesus was King, Lord, and Groom
- Not a cultural thing as in ancient world the concept of female deities was common
- God as male was by clear purpose and design.

Jesus appointed 12 male disciples

- Even after Judas Iscariot died, replaced with another male disciple.
- If God wanted to upend the present culture including gender roles, Jesus would have chosen female disciples.

- But God continued the pattern of male leadership.

APPLICATION POINTS

Genders are not fluid.

- God created you with a biological sex for a specific reason
 - You have unique and special dignity and value.
 - Your value should not be sought through what the world tells you.
- Your value and identity is based upon God's Word.

Colossians 3:2-3

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

If you are a man, God created you to lead, protect, and provide women in ways that are appropriate in deferring relationships.

- As a husband, we are called to lead our wives and make disciples.
 - We are to lead as Christ led His church.
- Fight the flesh/temptation to abdicate (give up) your role to lead our families and our churches.
 - Instead of reading the Bible, we create our own "man caves" (your own needs rather than your family's needs)
- What to do? Step up to be men of courage, sacrificial love, conviction, and to know how to handle God's Word.
- Wake up from mediocrity!

1 Corinthians 13:11

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

If you are a woman, God created you to have a freeing disposition to affirm, receive, strengthen, nurture a worthy man in ways that is appropriate in a woman's deferring relationships.

- As a wife:
 - Submit yourself to your husband in the Lord (even though he may not be the man you like in the moment)
 - see yourself as a helper to your husband and not be the driver of your family.
- Encourage and pray for your husband.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Colossians 4:2

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.