

**The 1689 Confession of Faith, Chapter 4 – “Of Creation”, Session # 9 –
“The Creation of Woman ”, presented by Pastor Paul Rendall
on December 30th, 2018, in the Adult Sunday School.**

Paragraph 1 – “In the beginning it pleased God the Father, a) Son, and Holy Spirit, for the manifestation of the glory of b) his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, to create or make the world, and all things therein, c) whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.”

a) John 1: 2-3; Hebrews 1: 2; Job 26: 13; b) Romans 1: 20; c) Colossians 1: 16; Genesis 1: 31

Paragraph 2 – After God had made all other creatures, he created d)man, male and female, with e)reasonable and immortal souls, rendering them fit unto that life to God for which they were created; being f)made after the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness; having the law of God g)written in their hearts, and power to fulfil it, and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was h)subject to change.

d) Genesis 1: 27; e) Gen 2:7; f) Ecclesiastes 7: 29; Genesis 1: 26; g) Romans 2: 14-15; h) Genesis 3:6

Paragraph 3 – Besides the law written in their hearts, they received i) a command not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which whilst they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion k)over the creatures.

i) Genesis 2: 17; k) Genesis 1: 26-28

Genesis 1: 26-28 – “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air; and over the cattle, 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.” “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

Genesis 2: 7 – “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (a living soul)

Genesis 2: 18-24 – “And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’” “Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them.” “And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.” “So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field.” “But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.” “And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.” “Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and brought her to the man.” “And Adam said: ‘This is now 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 mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Introduction –

This morning we want to look at the creation of the woman and what this means for the man. When man was created, we have seen, that he was formed by the Lord God out of the dust of the ground. It is truly an amazing thing that when God created the world and all the other things in it, that He said – Let it be so. “Let there be light”, “Let the waters abound with living creature,

etc.” But when He came to create man, He said – “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.” There was consultation between the Persons of the Divine Trinity.

John Calvin says on verse 26 of chapter 1 – “Hitherto God has been introduced simply as commanding; now, when he approaches the most excellent of all his works, he enters into consultation.” “God certainly might here command by his bare word what he wished to be done: but he chose to give this tribute to the excellency of man, that he would, in a manner, enter into consultation concerning his creation.” “This is the highest honor with which he has dignified us; to a due regard for which, Moses, by this mode of speaking would excite our minds.” “For God is not now first beginning to consider what form he will give to man, and with what endowments it would be fitting to adorn him, nor is he pausing as over a work of difficulty: but, just as we have before observed, that the creation of the world was distributed over six days, for our sake, to the end that our minds might the more easily be retained in the meditation of God’s works: so now, for the purpose of commending to our attention the dignity of our nature, He, in taking counsel concerning the creation of man, testifies that He is about to undertake something great and wonderful.” “Truly there are many things in this corrupted nature which may induce contempt; but if you rightly weigh all circumstances, man is, among other creatures a certain preeminent specimen of Divine wisdom, justice, and goodness, so that he is deservedly called by the ancients μικρίκοσμος , “a world in miniature.” “But since the Lord needs no other counsellor, there can be no doubt that He consulted with Himself.” (end of quote)

Well after this consultation, the Lord God formed the first man out of the dust of the ground, it says in Chapter 2, verse 7. He made Adam’s body, and He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and he became a living soul. (a living being) And then there was a space of time after Adam was created, and during that time the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man, it says. And then in verse 15 it says – “Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden to tend and keep it.” So man had a perfect place to live in, and work in, and yet God knew that he needed something more. He knew that Adam needed a woman; he needed a wife.

1. God’s declared purpose in the making of Woman

a. To make one comparable or compatible with Adam – We see the declaration of God’s purpose in Chapter 1, verse 26, was to make man, and in verse 27 we find the execution of that purpose – to make man in His own image, and to make them male and female. They would both be created as living souls in the image and likeness of God. We have already seen that, in the creation of man, the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, which included both his soul and spirit, as seen together, in the one immaterial part of his being. We have understood that Adam was created first, and now here in verse 18 of chapter 2 we see that the Lord God saw that there was something that was not good in relation to Adam. It was not good that man should be alone, and so He says that He will make him a helper comparable to him. These are important things for us to take notice of. It is not good that man should be alone. He has a need for a certain kind of helper. He has the need for a helper who, as it says here, who would be “comparable to him”.

Now, I want you to notice that God knew Adam’s need (man’s need) even before he did, and He determined to provide for it. This, by the way, is the case for all men in all times; God knows better than you do what you need, and He knows before you come to the realization of it, what He will do to provide for that need. I say this for the benefit of all of you young people who sense

your need to be married, and have not found the right person yet. And I say it for the benefit of those who do not sense your need to be married, and so are not actively looking for a life's partner. God knows your need and He will take steps to provide for it. The principle that it is not good for the man to be alone is a general principle to be received by all men. It was God who saw what Adam needed.

But you will say to me – What about those who are single and do not see their need to be married? Jesus addresses this in Matthew 19: 11 – “All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake.” “He who is able to accept it, let him accept it.”

God has a purpose, in other words, for those Christian persons who choose, according to the gift of God's grace, to remain single, or they find themselves single for their whole life. It is that they might serve the Lord without distraction, as it says in 1st Corinthians 7: 35. But we should understand that the normal and expressed intention of God for the majority of people who He creates is that they have a wife or husband. “Let each man have his own wife, and each woman her own husband,” Paul says in 1st Corinthians 7: 2.

John Calvin sounds a warning in his commentary on verse 11 of chapter 19 of Matthew –

“All are not capable of receiving this saying. By this he means, that the choice is not placed in our hands, as if we were to deliberate on a matter submitted to us. If any man thinks it advantageous for him to want a wife, and, without making any inquiry, lays upon himself an obligation to celibacy, he is widely mistaken.” “God, who has declared it to be good that a man should have a woman to be his helper, will punish the contempt of his own appointment; for mortals take too much on themselves, when they endeavor to exempt themselves from the heavenly calling.” “But Christ proves that it is not free to all to make what choice they please, because the gift of continence is a special gift; for when he says that all are not capable of receiving it, but those to whom it is given, he plainly shows that it was not given to all.” “And this reproves the pride of those who do not hesitate to claim for themselves what Christ so manifestly refuses to them.”

b. God would make a Helper for Adam who would be his closest companion and best friend – Let us see too that the woman was created by God to be a helper to man. Man is a being who was not created by God to think of himself as having everything that needs within himself. He needs help in many ways, and he needs the right kind of help. He doesn't simply need the help of other men. But he needs the help of a particular woman in the bonds of marriage to complete him in regard to the way that he thinks and feels and lives. He needs close, steady, continuing companionship and he needs one to meet his intellectual, emotional, and physical needs as his best friend. God did not create man to be an independent entity; to see everything that he needs as something that he has in himself or can provide for himself. God further knew, that Adam needed someone who he could share his whole life with. He needs someone; a woman, a wife, who he can talk things over with, someone particular tender, gentle, and sensitive soul who he can share all of his most intimate thoughts and feelings with; someone who will be able to sympathize with him, encourage him, and even disagree with him in a loving way when she sees that it would be for their mutual good to say something submissively. Why? Because he is incomplete without her perspective on things, whether he knows it or not. God has designed it this way.

Companionship is one of the foremost reasons why the woman was created and brought to Adam. You will notice in verse 19 that it says – “Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them.” “And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.” God is going to show Adam through this means that among all of these creatures there would not be a helper found who would be comparable to him.” So Adam gave names to all the animals; all the cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field.” And in going through this process with him, God and he determined together that there was no helper comparable to him among them. Isn’t it good to see the care and concern that God had for Adam in his perfect innocent and righteous state? He still had the need of a woman. And so, He caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place, and He took the rib and made it into a woman, and He brought her to the man, it says in verses 21-23 of chapter 2.

c. God would make a person who could be Adam’s closest companion in the one flesh way of marriage – Verse 23 says – “And Adam said: “This is now 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 mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

How important it was for Adam and how important it is for most men to marry. For men not only have intellectual and social needs for companionship, but they have the need for a two becoming one flesh relationship; they have the need for physical and emotional closeness, and this leading to sexual intimacy; the highest expression love between them; these two, a man and a woman, giving themselves to each other in the physical bodily expression of marital love. This is what Adam’s statement intimates when he says that she would be bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. But it is even more than the physical that he is talking about. The woman was taken from a rib in his side and made into a woman. Why? Because she was joined to him by her creation. As it says in 1st Corinthians 11: 3 – “But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.” And in verse 7 he says, “For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.” “For man is not from woman, but woman from man.” “Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.”

William Evans in his commentary on the Pentateuch says this – “It is of interest to note that woman was taken, not from man’s head, to be above him; nor from his feet, to be below him; but from his side, to be equal with him and his companion in life.” **James M. Gray** says – “Speaking of the formation of Eve from Adam, one of the older commentators (Martin Luther) has remarked that “she was not made out of his head to surpass him, nor from his feet to be trampled on, but from his side to be equal to him, and near his heart to be dear to him.” That is a very good and appropriate quote.

Now you can see here from the verses in 1st Corinthians 11, that the man is first in order in being. He was first formed and the woman then formed out of him. She was made for him, and not he for her, and therefore he must be the head of their marital relationship. This is true; that the man is responsible to be the leader of their family and she to follow that lead unless he is leading her into some sinful way. But even though this is so, the man is to see his wife not as one who he needs to lord over or rule over her, but that he always share with his aspirations and plans and then talk these matters over with her and convince her of the wisdom of his decisions on their

behalf as a couple whom God has made one flesh. She is his glory it says here, and he should treat her as such; with loving regard and thoughtful consideration. She is to respect her husband and submit to him and to his lead as the Church does to Christ, in everything Paul says in Ephesians 5: 22 – “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as unto the Lord.” “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church...” Verse 25 – “Husbands love your wives, just Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her...” Verse 28 – “So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.” “For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.” “For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.” “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

d. God created them male and female to be joined together in a way which would make marriage an honorable institution.

Hebrews 13: 3 – “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

I want you to take notice of the fact that in being made in God’s image and likeness that it says that God created them male and female. I believe that the Bible is teaching here that when God created the woman, He created her, body and soul as a female. There was no choice on Eve’s part; she was created a female. And it was not simply in her physical body that she was created female. Her soul was created as the soul of a woman. In other words, the soul that He created for Eve and wove together with her body was intended by God to be so integrally joined together with her body, that she would always and forever be known to Him to be a woman. Since she would be always be known to God in this way, we can righteously conclude that she should be known to herself and to all other people, to be a female in her inner person as well.

It is true that when we die, the Lord Jesus tells us, there will be no marrying or giving in marriage, but Jesus says in Matthew 22: 30 – “For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.” Jesus is saying that all of us will be like the angels in heaven as it regards being able to have sex and children. It will not take place, because when we die we will not have a physical body at all until the resurrection, and then when we do receive our resurrection body on the day of the resurrection, even though we will be glorified as the male and female persons that we were while we were alive, the whole way that we will use our bodies in the eternal state will be changed to reflect the perfect righteousness and holiness of being and behavior that will best glorify God in that perfect state. Part of the great change of glorification will be that we will not have marriage, or the two becoming one flesh, in that state. But, I am saying that I believe that there will still be the perfect understanding of how God created our souls; that we were created either male or female.

By way of application, we can say that the transgenderism which is so popular in our day is a sin against God because it is that person’s saying to God that He made a mistake when He created them. And we know that God is perfect; He never makes any mistakes. If you have feelings as a male which lead you to believe that you are a female trapped in a male body, you are sinfully mistaken. Why? Because God did not create you a female. He created you to be a male. You are denying His handiwork concerning you and you are questioning His wisdom and purpose for your life. You may experience many thoughts and feelings that you may think could only belong to a female, but this is simply the perversion which sin brings to your fallen heart and mind, and you must learn not to draw such unwarranted conclusions based upon your feelings, that you

think that you in your soul are a female when God created you with a male body. And the same is true for women trying to become male as well. It is wrong because it violates God's creation of you as male or female. You can't glorify God by going against the law of His creation or the law of His written word. Receiving God word concerning your need to be saved from such sins will put you on the path of righteousness where you can learn how good it is that God created you to be as you are; either male or female.