

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 3-9-14 AM NOTES
"HOW THE CONFUSION BEGAN"
GENESIS 1-3
#1 in Series, "Male and Female: Clearing the Confusion"

"The erasure of distinctions between the sexes is not only the most striking issue of our time, it may be the most profound the race has ever confronted."
—Historian William Manchester

I. God's Design (Genesis 1-2)

A. God's Design Is That Men and Women Have Equal Worth

1. Both Man and Woman Were Created to Be God's Image Bearers

Genesis 1:26-27 (NKJV) "26 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.' 27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

2. Both Man and Woman Were Created to Be God's Representatives

Genesis 1:28 (NKJV) "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.'"

3. Both Man and Woman Were Created to Fellowship With God

B. God's Design Is That Men and Women Have Different Roles

1. Man Was Created to Be the Head

Ephesians 5:23a (NKJV) "For the husband is head of the wife..."

1 Timothy 2:13 (NKJV) "For Adam was formed first, then Eve."

1 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV) "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."

1 Corinthians 11:8 (NKJV) "For man is not from woman, but woman from man."

Genesis 2:21-22 (NKJV) "21 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. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man."

"In the partnership of two spiritually equal human beings, man and woman, the man bears the primary responsibility to lead the partnership in a God-glorifying direction."
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2. Woman Was Created to Be the Helper

Genesis 2:18 (NASB) “Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.’”

Psalms 54:4a (NKJV) “Behold, God *is* my helper...”

Hebrews 13:6 (NKJV) “So we may boldly say: ‘*The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?*’”

John 15:26 (NKJV) “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

II. Sin's Destruction (Genesis 3)

Romans 5:12 (NKJV) “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

A. The Results of the Curse

Genesis 3:16 (HCSB) “He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children in anguish. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will dominate you.”

Genesis 4:7 (HCSB) “If you do right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

B. The Response to the Curse

Genesis 3:15 (HCSB) “I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV) “But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”

Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV) “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.”

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“HOW THE CONFUSION BEGAN”

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#1 in Series, “Male and Female: Clearing the confusion”

The culture shift that has taken place in the last few years relating to sexuality and marriage has happened faster than any one could have managed. If someone told you back in 2004 that by 2014 every state in the United States already or would soon be court mandated to recognize homosexual marriages and that people “coming out” as homosexuals would be celebrated, I doubt that any of us would have believed it. However, when you begin to dig a little, you will discover that the groundwork for this rapid change which seemed to come out of nowhere was laid long before 2004. What has seemed like rapid change is just the coming to the surface of that which had been growing underground for several decades. One historian (William Manchester) said, “The erasure of distinctions between the sexes is not only the most striking issue of our time, it may be the most profound the race has ever confronted.” [Quoted in Alexander Strauch, *Men and Women: Equal Yet Different*, page 3]. Many would say (and I would tend to agree) that erasure of the distinctions between the sexes and the culturally accepted views of marriage started in the early 1960’s with the feminist movement popularized by Betty Friedan and the publishing of her book, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963). When it comes to sexuality, one of the most radical and rapid changes has come in the widespread acceptance of homosexuality as normal. It is now often compared to being left handed – a way you are born and something you cannot help. Gaining the acceptance of homosexuality is often compared to the civil rights movement in the 1960’s (which is an insult to those who fought for civil rights). Instead of shameful behavior that was hidden at all costs by those who practiced it, homosexuality has become something to be proud of and those “coming out” are hailed as heroes. It seems like actors, singers, politicians, and athletes are now standing in line and trying to garner as much publicity as possible with their “coming out” announcement.

When we go behind the scenes, we see that this huge culture shift didn’t just naturally evolve. In 1987 Marshal Kirk and Hunter Madsen published an article entitled “The Overhauling of Straight America” that was expanded into a book entitled, *After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the 90’s*. When we see their plan we realize how effective their strategy really has been. Here are six steps that Kirk and Madsen advocated:

1. Talk about gays and gayness as loudly and as often as possible.
2. Portray gays as victims, not as aggressive challengers.
3. Give protectors a just cause. [This step involved portraying homosexuals as the victims so that many heterosexuals would come to their defense and thus see themselves as protectors of a persecuted group].
4. Make gays look good.
5. Make the victimizers look bad.
6. Solicit funds.

The primary avenue through which these steps would be accomplished was the media, primarily television. I don’t think that I need to give any examples – they are everywhere and obvious. Almost without exception, the homosexual characters on television and in movies are winsome and likable, and those who oppose them are pictured as ignorant hate filled bigots that nobody could possibly like.

Let me get to the root of what I believe the problem really is. I believe that the reason biblical masculinity and femininity and biblical marriage have been tossed aside by our culture is largely because the churches of America have become allies of the world system instead of fearlessly proclaiming biblical truth that will likely be ridiculed, rejected, and reviled by the world. The silence from the pulpits of America has allowed the unbiblical view that prevails in what it means to be male and what it means to be female to become the norm in our culture. **Biblical** masculinity and femininity and sexuality are hated by the world system in which we live. Our task is to lovingly, firmly, persistently proclaim and model God’s truth in these areas in spite of the world’s response. That is one of the purposes of this series. To clear the confusion between what it means to be male and female, we are going back to the beginning – the book of Genesis.

I. God’s Design (Genesis 1-2)

You can build a good case for Genesis being the most important book of the Bible. It is in Genesis that we find the foundation for what is taught in the following 65 books of the Bible. Let’s look at two

foundational truths necessary to comprehend to clear up our culture's confusion between male and female.

A. God's Design Is That Men and Women Have Equal Worth

There are many who say that a literal interpretation of the Bible means that it teaches the superiority of men over women. That misconception has led many "scholars" to wrongly say that the Bible is influenced by cultural views at the time of the penning of the original manuscripts. That of course totally denies the Bible's authority, inerrancy, and infallibility. It reduces it to being no more than an ancient book that reflects only the view of the culture at the time it was written. Actually, many of the truths of the Bible were considered radical in the cultures in which the books were written.

There are three major areas that we see the equal worth of male and female in creation.

1. Both Man and Woman Were Created to Be God's Image Bearers

Genesis 1:26-27 (NKJV) "26 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.' 27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." The word "man" in verse 26 is used sometimes to refer to just the male, but sometimes it refers to males and females, much as we use the word, "mankind". It is called the generic use of the word "man" and it refers to human beings. You see that clearly in verse 27 where "man" was male and female. The point is that both the man and the woman were created in the image of God.

What does it mean to be created in God's image? The Hebrew word translated "image" has the meaning of shadow or carving – that is, not the exact same thing but similar. We are not lesser gods but the God who created all that is put some of His qualities in us. The Hebrew word translated "likeness" means pattern or model or example. In other words God himself was the model in the creation of man. Let's go a little deeper in what it means that God created both male and female in His image. It does not refer to our bodies, because John 4:24 tells us God is a spirit. Like God, man has a rational personality and a moral consciousness. We have intellect and the ability to think abstractly; we have emotion, and will. We can rationally think, feel, and choose. Again, the Hebrew word for image and the word for likeness do not mean man was created with the essence of God – unable to sin, omnipotent, omniscient, unchangeable, etc. Unlike any of the animals, we were created in His shadow and likeness. Also, the image of God means that we are spiritual beings with a spirit that allows us to worship God, know God, and have an intimate relationship with God. The reason that God is so adamant in the forbidding of making images that represent Him is that we are the image of God. Only man (mankind) was created as divine image bearers.

The fact that both the male and the female bear God's image demonstrates that they are equal in dignity and being. Both are equally necessary and important to God's design for the human race.

2. Both Man and Woman Were Created to Be God's Representatives

Genesis 1:28 (NKJV) "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.'" The man and the woman were co-regents over God's earthly creation. There's an old saying, "It's a man's world". The truth is that it is God's world and He created man and woman to be the co-regents over the earth which belongs to him. Man (male and female) stands between God above and the animals below as God's ruling representatives. Male and female equally were created in God's image; male and female were to reign over God's earthly creation.

3. Both Man and Woman Were Created to Fellowship with God

Both men and women have as a part of their makeup a spirit – that part of us that allows us to know and to have fellowship with God. The implication in chapter 3 is that God regularly came in His manifest presence to walk with and have fellowship with these crowns of His creation, Adam and Eve.

To summarize, God created man and woman with equal dignity so that we could resemble God (in His image), represent God (as His co-regents over the earth) and relate to God through our spirit which was alive to God until sin came into the world.

B. God's Design Is That Men and Women Have Different Roles

Equality of worth is not negated by the fact that there are differing roles. We can summarize the role differences with two statements.

1. Man Was Created to Be the Head

Ephesians 5:23a (NKJV) "For the husband is head of the wife..." We see this truth evidenced by the order of creation. Here are some clear facts from Scripture. First, God Created man before He created the woman (Genesis 2:7, 18). Second, God placed Adam in the garden to care for it before Eve was formed (2:15). Third, God brought the animals to Adam to be named before Eve was formed (2:19). Naming something implies authority or headship over. Adam was the first human and represented the human race and in fact, the whole human race came out of him. The order of creation (man before the woman) wasn't just an incidental fact; it has great significance relating to the headship of the man. Let's let the Bible clarify the Bible. **1 Timothy 2:13 (NKJV)** "For Adam was formed first, then Eve." **1 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV)** "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." Later in the same chapter we read in **1 Corinthians 11:8 (NKJV)** "For man is not from woman, but woman from man." The New Testament bases the headship of men in the church on the order of creation. Male headship in the home and leadership in the church does not cancel equality in worth.

The Bible also ties headship of the man to the fact that the woman came from the man (**Genesis 2:21-22 (NKJV)** "²¹ 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. ²² Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man." Let me take a time out here and remind you of something. This is not some allegory or a myth about origins. This is literally how man and woman were created. Adam really was created from the dust of the earth. The elements that make up our body are the elements of the earth. Eve really was taken from Adam's side. Genetic research has shown that one pair of human chromosomes labeled X and Y determines the gender of a child. All males have both X and Y chromosomes; all females have a pair of X chromosomes. From a purely biological standpoint, the Y chromosome determines maleness. If the child inherits an X chromosome from the Father it will be female. If the chromosome is a Y it will be a male. The Father's seed is the determining factor in the gender of the child. Genetically therefore it is possible to create a female from a male. It is not possible to extract a male's genetic code from a female because a female has no Y chromosome. This is perfectly harmonious with the Biblical account of Eve being taken from Adam.

Using the best rules of interpretation, the Bible teaches the headship of the man over the woman. This has nothing to do with worth; it has to do with function or role. Remember that 1 Corinthians 11:3 tells us that while the three members of the Trinity are equally God, "the head of Christ *is* God". Headship has nothing to do with worth or equality. Let me give you what I believe is a good description of headship from Ray Ortlund, Jr. "In the partnership of two spiritually equal human beings, man and woman, the man bears the primary responsibility to lead the partnership in a God-glorifying direction." [Raymond Ortlund Jr., *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, Edited by John Piper and Wayne Grudem, page 95].

2. Woman Was Created to Be the Helper

Genesis 2:18 (NASB) "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.'" That phrase "a helper suitable for him" means a helper suitable for his needs. The noun "helper" is not a demeaning term. As a matter of fact, God is often referred to as a helper to His people. **Psalms 54:4a (NKJV)** "Behold, God *is* my helper..." **Hebrews 13:6 (NKJV)** "So we may boldly say: *The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?*" One of the names given to God the Spirit in the New Testament is "Helper". **John 15:26 (NKJV)** "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me." The Hebrew word translated helper also has the idea of one who comes to the rescue. Women, if you think it sounds demeaning to be the man's helper, translate 2:18 as "I will make a rescuer comparable to him". We men need you to rescue us!

Before sin came into the world, the relationship between Adam and Eve was without conflict. Her submission to him was an evidence of her pure love for him and his headship over her was the manifestation of his loving care for her. As we will see, sin changed all of that.

II. Sin's Destruction (Genesis 3)

Something terrible happened to God's perfect design for males and females and marriage. Sin came into the world and mankind fell into the awful effects of sin. I am speaking of Adam and Eve's disobedience and the resulting consequences. I don't have time to deal in depth with chapter 3 (we have in previous messages), but to summarize, sin came into the world when the male (Adam) and female (Eve) reversed their God given roles. Eve took the lead; Adam followed, and the path headed downhill in a hurry. Who did God hold primarily responsible? Adam! **Romans 5:12 (NKJV)** "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned". In the context, it is certain that the "one man" is Adam. Why did God hold Adam primarily responsible? Because he was the God ordained head. As we saw a couple of weeks ago, it is implied that Adam was present when Eve was being tempted and he did nothing (Genesis 3:6). Adam abandoned his God given role of leader and protector of his wife and allowed Eve to lead them into sin. Eve took the headship and led them to disobey God. Sin came into the world when the God given roles of the man and the woman were reversed. After the fall came the curse brought on the whole human race. The curse was inclusive – the ground, the plants (weeds and briars), the animal world, and mankind and their descendents. For mankind, the curse involved spiritual death (separation from the life of God and communion with God) and the entrance of a power called sin that dwells in our members (Romans 7:23).

A. The Results of the Curse

Genesis 3:16 (HCSB) "He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children in anguish. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will dominate you." For the woman there was the pain associated with childbirth. The joy of having a child is sadly accompanied by the physical anguish of childbirth. Before the curse, man was to work and keep the garden, but as a part of the curse, there was the toil, the trouble, and the frustration of work. In addition, the man and the woman were put out of the beautiful garden. But the element of the curse I want to major on is strife in the marriage relationship. I think that in understanding this verse we see the root of most every marriage problem. Remember two things: first, male headship is not a part of the curse. That was God's plan when He created the male and the female. Second, what this passage describes is a part of the curse; it is not good! The word "desire" in the Hebrew is hard to translate. One meaning that seems to fit the context is "to seek control over". This same Hebrew word is used in **Genesis 4:7 (HCSB)** "If you do right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must master it." The word "desire" obviously means to control or rule over. The man after sin seeks to dominate his wife. To summarize, as a part of the curse, the desire of the man is to dominate and subjugate the woman and the desire of the woman is to control the man (usually by manipulation instead of domination). That situation has conflict written all over it! Instead of being partners ruling together with the man being the loving head and the woman the helper, now, with sin in the world, there is conflict between the sexes that finds its primary outlet in the marriage relationship. Throughout history, the most dominant abuse of relationships has been on the part of men treating women as servants or like property. This is the result of the curse resulting from sin coming into the world. Just in the book of Genesis we see the sins of polygamy (4:19, 23), adultery (16:1-4), homosexuality (19:4-11), fornication and rape (34:1-2); incest (33:13-18); prostitution (38:24), and seduction (39:7-12). Each of these sins dramatically affected marriage and family. Oh the horrific results of sin coming into the world.

B. The Response to the Curse

In **Genesis 3:15 (HCSB)** we see the first prophesy and it refers to the cross and the Gospel. "I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." The stricken heel points to the cross where Isaiah tells us in **Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)** "But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities;

the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” The crushed head refers to Satan’s ultimate defeat when Jesus took our sins. **Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV)** “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil”. The response to the curse of sin is the Gospel! Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – sinners like me and like you. Praise God for His mercy and grace!