

God's Design for Man & Woman

INTRODUCTION:

- There may be no topics in our world today that brings about more tension and controversy than the issues we will look at in this class.
- You will be hard pressed to turn on the Television or radio today and not hear something about transgenderism homosexuality or the sanctity of marriage. These issues have moved from the tabloids to the front page of the New York Times just within the last twenty years.
- Our society continues to give indication after indication of increasing hostility toward a Biblical understanding of gender. We have seen this in several ways:
- I was listening to Albert Mohler's podcast called the Briefing, and I heard about something called the:

1) *The Drag Queen Story Hour.*

This excerpt is from the official Drag Queen Story Hour Website:

WHAT IS DRAG QUEEN STORY HOUR?

Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) is just what it sounds like—drag queens reading stories to children in libraries, schools, and bookstores. DQSH captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models. In spaces like this, kids are able to see people who defy rigid gender restrictions and imagine a world where people can present as they wish, where dress up is real. Drag Queen Story Hour events are happening all over the world at libraries, schools, bookstores, museums, summer camps, afterschool programs, and other community spaces! Each chapter is independently operated and funded. Click on the links below to connect with your local chapter. If your community doesn't yet have a chapter, contact jonathan@dragqueenstoryhour.org to receive info about organizing your own event or chapter.

- Those who advocate for this kind of thing are showing a severe hostility and hatred towards God and His design regarding male and female roles.
- Another clear attack on a Biblical understanding of roles and sexuality can be seen in this article I found regarding California's new elementary school curriculum.

2) *California becomes the first state to have LGBTQ curriculum.*

Excerpt from an online conservative newsletter:

California is the first state to adopt the LGBT rights agenda formally into its public schools, as part of a new history and social studies curriculum that will reach children as young as the

second grade. “This is a big win for our students,” [said](#) California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson in a statement. “This document will improve the teaching and learning of history and social science. It will give our students access to the latest historical research and help them learn about the diversity of our state and the contributions of people and groups who may not have received the appropriate recognition in the past.”

- There you have it. If you want to change the moral standards in a society where do you start? With the children.
- Yet another example of the direction of our society can be seen in the:

3) Infamous Bathroom Laws.

In a case involving high school bathrooms that has bounced around the federal courts of Virginia since 2015, even making it to the U.S. Supreme Court once, another disappointing ruling was recently handed down. For the second time, federal District Court Judge Arenda Wright Allen has [ruled](#) that Gavin Grimm, a biological female who identifies as male, was discriminated against by her school when it denied her access to the boys' restrooms. The school offered Grimm the use of a private faculty restroom, but she and her parents objected and brought suit against the Gloucester County, Virginia school board. Grimm is now 20 and lives in California but has pressed her claim against the school board in order to force the school to change her transcript, which still identifies her as female. She has also said that she wants the right to use the boys' restrooms at the school when she comes back for reunions and other school events.

- This is where we are at in the world today. But what about the Church? Has this thinking in any way infiltrated the church? Well, the door has been opened, it may not be that extreme yet, but it is just a matter of time. Once the damn springs a small leak, eventually it will crumble under the force of the water outside.
- We see this leak in the church in the controversy over the roles of men and women in the church. This comes to light when we look at the “complementarian Vs. egalitarian” theology regarding men and women in the church.

- Complementarian:

God created men and women as equals in value but with different gender-defined roles.

- Egalitarian (evangelical feminism):

God created men and women as equals in both value and roles.

- They have attempted to redefine all statements on headship and submission in the Bible. Specifically, in 1 Corinthians 11:3. They claim the Greek word used for headship does not mean “Authority Over”, but it means “Source.” (pp. 33-34 *Dif. By Des.*)

- So, did the early Church face these issues?
 - Yes, we can see traces of it in some of the early heresies that arose. One of which was Gnosticism.
- ***Gnosticism (New Age)***= Gnosticism was perhaps the most dangerous heresy that threatened the early church during the first three centuries. Influenced by such philosophers as Plato, Gnosticism is based on two false premises. First, it espouses a dualism regarding spirit and matter. Gnostics assert that matter is inherently evil and spirit is good. As a result of this presupposition, Gnostics believe anything done in the body, even the grossest sin, has no meaning because real life exists in the spirit realm only.
- Second, Gnostics claim to possess an elevated knowledge, a “higher truth” known only to a certain few. Gnosticism comes from the Greek word gnosis which means “to know.” Gnostics claim to possess a higher knowledge, not from the Bible, but acquired on some mystical higher plane of existence. Gnostics see themselves as a privileged class elevated above everybody else by their higher, deeper knowledge of God.
- So, since they have a higher knowledge, they say that their understanding of Scripture is the true understanding, it is the only understanding that can be trusted. Every other understanding and interpretation is ignorant.
- Now, they say that a true proper understanding of the account of Adam and Eve can only be given by them. With that being the case, they believed and taught that Eve was a spirit-endowed woman who actually saved Adam.
- They claimed that a spirit known as “Dame Wisdom” or the Heavenly Eve, entered the snake in the Garden and taught both Adam and Eve the true way of salvation.
- So, with this in mind, the snake then is not the tempter but the instructor and the redeemer, the true Christ, the true reflection of God. Everything in gnostic literature shows a total reversal of redemptive history:
 - The Creator God of Scripture is evil.
 - The Serpent is true Christ (controlled by the heavenly Eve).
 - The Christ of the New Testament is evil.
 - Since the true Christ never died there was no resurrection therefore redemption is not a gracious, miraculous transformation of a person through the sacrifice of Christ. Instead only self-understanding and self-realization can affect true redemption.
- The goal of Gnosticism and the New Age movement is to completely flip or rather eradicate God's original design regarding gender. They essentially want androgyny. In

other words, they want to wipe away all sexual distinctions. We see it in the Gnostics of old, but we also see it in just the general ancient society.

- From ancient Mesopotamia to the Greek and Roman Empires, instances of gender confusion are well documented. We can read in various old Mesopotamian writings, about men “who changed their masculinity into femininity” as part of worshiping the fertility goddess Ishtar.¹
- We see in the intertestamental period, a Greek playwright called one of the characters in his play a “man-woman and he noted, “What contradictions his life shows! A lyre and a hair-net! A wrestling school oil flask and a girdle! What could be more contradictory? What relation has a mirror to a sword? And you yourself, who are you? Do you pretend to be a man?” you see, even pagans saw how unnatural and perverse this was.
- Now, in the first century AD, the Jewish philosopher Philo, point to “men-women” also. Men who “altered their appearance to make themselves look like a woman” Philo states that they were “willingly driven into the appearance and treatment of licentious women.”² We also read of those men who were “effeminate,” men who “in their homes put on long hair ribbons and long ornate necklaces. Some used eye makeup and tied up their long hair in hairnets.”³ And we could go on and on.
- Now, if we move ahead 2000 years we see the feminist movement which began in the world (but has seeped into the Church) slowly begin to grow from the 1920's exploding in the 60's with the free love hippy culture and into the 70's, 80's and 90's. So, this is nothing new in our culture. And it's always started to seep into the Church.
- However, the first organization created with the sole purpose of advocating for Christian egalitarianism was called, "Men, Women and God.", This organization was established in the United Kingdom in 1984.
- Now, I want to point out that when we hear that some Churches hold to an egalitarian theology some might say, “Well, that is just a small thing, it's just a personal preference. Why are you making such a big deal out of it?” I would say, no it is not small. It is the beginning of the slippery slope that will eventually lead to greater and greater compromise.
- Compromises in the structure time and time again that eventually brings it down. So, that's why we need to be diligent in standing firm against compromises to the foundation of the Word of God. So, Men, Women and God was the first organization established in the United Kingdom in 1984. A great fortress is rarely destroyed with one great blow. More often than not it is little

1 *Erra and Ishum* IV. Quoted in Fortson and Grams, *Unchanging Witness*, 234.

2 Philo, *Special Laws* 1.325. Quoted in Fortson and Grams, *Unchanging Witness*, 286.

3

Juvenal, *Satire* II, lines 82-99. Quoted in Fortson and Grams, *Unchanging Witness*, 288.

- Now, the first American organization that had the sole purpose of advocating for Christian egalitarianism was called, "Christians for Biblical Equality", and it was established in 1987. Now this sounds really good, but the title is deceiving because this organization is not calling for Biblical Equality at all, it is actually calling for just the opposite.
- One of the primary advocates of this theology is a woman by the name of Rosemary Radford Ruether. Rosemary is the author of 36 books and over 600 articles concerning the idea of Christian Feminism.
- As we talk about the Gnostics in Church history, and these organizations that have come about over the past 100 years we need to remember that this attack on male and female roles actually goes back even farther, it goes all the way back to Genesis 3.
- God actually put restrictions in His law regarding the blurring of the lines between the sexes. Although this was surely going on before Moses wrote the Pentateuch (Sodom and Gomorrah) we see the prohibitions in Deuteronomy. God wanted to make it clear to His people, that these things were an abomination to Him. Any blurring of the lines regarding gender was and is an affront to His original intended design. Let's take a moment and look at the text in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 22:5

“⁵“A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God.”

- In the Hebrew, the word used for “Put on” is כָּלַעַ (Kel-ee) and it carries more than just the idea of clothing. It is very often used in scripture to identify the particular equipment used. For example, 107 times it is used to identify the equipment used in the tabernacle and the temple. It does not refer to the main items in the tabernacle like the altar, the ark, or the lampstand, rather it refers to the items used in attending to these items. For example, the poles used to carry the ark, or the instrument used to light the Menorah.
- So, a better translation may be, “nor shall a man put on or do that which appertains to a woman.” Not just a woman's clothing but any item (clothing included) that is identified with women. A man is not to be identified with these things as part of who he is. His identity as a man should be clearly identifiable by how he dresses and the things he does. There should be a distinction in the society between that which “appertains” to a man, and that which “appertains” to a woman.
- In the text here, God is addressing something that was going on in the culture around them. The line of distinction between a man and a woman was being blurred. This is a direct indication of God's desire for the distinction between men and women to be clear.
- An attack on this constitutes nothing short of an attack on God and His design. Because of this, we need to understand that this topic is not an insignificant one. Our society wants

nothing less than a total redefining of the roles of men and women. Their desire is to totally destroy any vestige of God's design for creation regarding men and women.

- In order for us to deal with this subject correctly, we need to go back to where it all started, we need to go back to the Word of God.
- So, what we are going to do is go to the Bible and examine this original design for male and female. To do this correctly, we need to start in the book of Genesis. If our concern is with Biblical manhood and womanhood of today in general and the Biblical roles of men and women in the church today, we must go back to Genesis 1-3 because, the bottom line is, as Genesis 1-3 go, so goes the whole biblical debate.
- One way or another, all the additional biblical texts on manhood and womanhood must be interpreted consistently with these chapters. They lay the very foundation of biblical manhood and womanhood.
- Today we will begin to look at Genesis 1:26-28 and see what God's original intended design for manhood and womanhood looked like. So, let's go to the text and see what that original design was.

God's Design for Male and Female in Creation

Equal in Value:

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- Okay, notice, first of all, the creation of man was a unique, distinctively Trinitarian event. The text says, "*Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness.*" This shows (among many other things that we will look at) that the same duality yet equality of value that exists within the Trinity, also exists between man and woman, because they are both to be made in the image of our Trinitarian God.
- Now, continuing to show the equality in value of male and female, the text goes on to say "*Let THEM rule...*" and "*male and female He created THEM...*" "*God blessed THEM...*" "*God said to THEM...*" It is significant that it does not say "Let Him rule..." or God said to "Him" which would indicate that the woman may have been lesser in value than the

man. No, they were both made in the image of God, the text emphasizes this in V. 27 when it says, "*male and female He created them.*"

- As, we look at the text, yes, we clearly see the equality of value between male and female, but I think we often forget how valuable man is. If one were to hold to an evolutionary worldview, man has no more value than a pig or a cockroach. Ingrid Newkirk the co-founder and president of PETA is quoted as saying, "A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy." or "Humans have grown like a cancer, we are the biggest plight on the face of the earth." This should not surprise us though, I mean if evolution is our standard, this is exactly where we will land. However, it is not our standard, God's Word is our standard.
- So, I want us to just take a few minutes and elucidate or exposit this text more thoroughly. I want us to grasp the weight of what is going on here. And understand the value we are talking about here. Yes, men and women are equal in value and that value is great.
- We need to realize that this event (the creation of man) is unparalleled in the creation account. This is a monumental occasion. No other event in creation is as breathtaking as this. Man is the highpoint of God's creation (that is not an exaggeration). This can be seen in the text here in 4 ways.

Man is the pinnacle of God's creation.

1.) God's personal declaration to make man:

- First, if you notice in V.26, it says, "Let us make man..." In verse 24 however, God had said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures..." So, by the sheer power of His spoken will, God caused the living creatures to emerge from the earth. But, in the creation of man, God Himself acted directly and personally. The creation of Man is more personal to God, it is glorious.

2.) Made in God's image (Imago Dei):

- Second, notice also in V.26, man was created to bear the image or likeness of God (this is an awesome fact). But, let's take a moment and ask what this is. How exactly was man made in the image of God?
- Well, this is multifaceted, it includes several different aspects. Some would say that to image God is to reflect His righteous character. In other words, to be created in God's image is to mirror His holiness (Calvin Institutes, I, XV, 4.). I believe that is part of it, but that there are other aspects, I would say the image of God is also exhibited in us:

Ontologically (being) = Man is a living, personal, self-conscious, active being with personality. He is a complex unity of soul and body.

Volitionally = Man has a will and the ability to select between various choices. This separates man from animals.

Emotionally = Humans experience a wide range of emotions and feelings, they are emotionally complex.

Functionally = Man has what he needs (including biologically male and female) to fill, rule, and subdue the earth on God's behalf for God's glory.

Relationally = Man is equipped to participate in relationships with God and with other people. This reflects the Trinity as well.

- These characteristics are unique to humans (male and female). No animal shares this greatness.

Now, the third indication of man's unique value can be seen in in V.26. It is seen in man's special calling.

3.) Man's special calling under God:

- "...and let them have dominion..." You see man stands between God above and the animals below as God's ruling representative. Man has authority over all the animals. We need to be kind and responsible, however we do rule over them, not the other way around.
- So, do you see how valuable man is in God's eyes? We are not just some higher animal that evolved over millions of years, no we (male and female) are very precious to God. We were designed to bring glory to God and for this to be accomplished there must be a male and female.
- Now, in V.27, we see Moses kind of sum things up here, he says:

*God created man in His own image, (we came from God)
in the image of God He created him; (we resemble God in some way)
male and female He created them. (we are male and female)*

- So, this summary, right here exhibits the unique equality of man and woman in value. They were both created by God, both created in God's image. And this is completely consistent with God's intention for them mentioned in V.26, that both sexes should rule: "...and let them rule..."

4.) Man's special blessing from God:

- Finally, we see in V.28, God pronounces His blessing or approval on man. Now, in V.22, God spoke His blessing out over the mass of the lower creatures. But here in V.28 we read, "God blessed them and said to them..."

so, with man alone, male and female alike without distinction does God share this close personal relationship where he actually speaks to them.

- Isn't this mind blowing, that God put's so much value on man? And this value is clearly on both male and female. They both spiritually have the same value to God. For those who would argue this fact we can do a quick biblical survey and see several things that point this fact out.
 - They Had the Same Responsibilities as Men:
 - To obey God's law (Ex.20 Both must obey 10 Com.)
 - To teach God's law (Deut. 6:6-7 and Prov.6:20 Both responsible to teach law to children).
 - They Had the Same Protection as Men:
 - Penalties for women were same as men. (Ex. 21:28-32) God equally values the life of man and the life of woman.
 - They Had the Same Access to God as Men:
 - God dealt directly with women in Old Testament; He didn't go through a man when He wanted to communicate with a woman. (Gen. 16:8-13, Hagar).
 - So, it is clear that Women shared spiritual equality or equality in Value in the Old Testament, the same thing can be seen in the New Testament.

1 Corinthians 11:11-12

¹¹ However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. ¹² For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.

Galatians 3:27-28

²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (referring to spiritual status, see pp. 34-37 Dif. By Des.)

- Now, as we understand how valuable every man and women on earth is, this should remove any sense of pride

or inferiority based on gender. We are all equally this valuable to God. But, does this automatically translate to men and women having equal roles? The simple answer is no. To see this, we will go to Genesis 2:18-23.

Different in roles:

Genesis 2:18-23

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²² The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man and brought her to the man. ²³ The man 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." ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- What we will see here is that male-female equity does not constitute an undifferentiated sameness. As we said, male and female are equal as God's image-bearers and that right there is a sufficient basis for mutual respect between the sexes.
- But the very fact that God created us in the dual modality of male and female should raise some red flags against an unqualified equation of the two sexes. Friends, this is not just a matter of biology, God wants men to be men and women to be women.
- This is His perfect design, this is how things are supposed to be. As we look at the text, we see clearly that there is a distinction between the roles. We will see here that the male was created to be the head and the female was created to be his helper.
- The specifics of the roles will be dealt with later. Right now we just want to show the difference. Let's look at the text and I will point out several things that show this. First, we see that:

- 1.) ***Man was created first.*** V.18
- 2.) ***Woman was created out of and for the man.*** V.18; 22
- 3.) ***Satan went to Eve first before the fall.*** 3:1&9
- 4.) ***God went to Adam first after the fall.*** 3:1&9

- As we do this, we will see that there is a clear distinction found in Genesis 1 & 2 regarding men and women. We will see that in the creation, they were created equal in value yet different in roles. Many today will say that the role distinction that complementarians hold to did not exist before the fall. They believe that this distinction on roles was a part of the fall. We will see this to be false.

- Let's look at each of these indicators of role distinction in scripture and elaborate on them.

1.) **Man was created first.** V.18

¹⁸*Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone"*

- We dare not miss this. God did not create the man and the woman at the same time. No, with Adam and Eve, God created Adam first (he was alone). Now, I find it interesting that before God created Eve, another way the headship of Adam was illustrated was in what God had him do. ⁴
- He placed the man in the garden to care for it 2:15, He also had all the animals come before Adam so that he could name them 2:19. Eve was not given any of the responsibilities that Adam was. She would have to go to Adam for instruction.
- I want to point out that I believe the naming of the animals while the man was still alone had a greater purpose than to just establish his headship (that is part of it), but another reason was that as the man thought about each animal and decided what to call them, he would see that they all had a perfect match. This would have caused him to realize that there was no other creature in the garden with the same nature as him.
- Adam began to see that he was truly alone as a creation. The man encountered his own need here. He saw his need for a helper. We then see that as soon as the man had finished naming all the animals, and he recognized his need, that God caused a deep sleep to come upon the Man and God created the woman from the man. Look at V.21-22. ⁵

²¹*So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.* ²²*The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man and brought her to the man.*

➤ We also see in V.18 that the female was created for the male, to be his helper.

2.) **Woman was created out of and for the man.** V.18; 22

²²*The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man and brought her to the man.* ¹⁸*"...I will make him a helper suitable for him."*

- So, the woman gets her existence from the man. This obviously indicates headship, it gives the man authority. Don't miss the distinct difference in the way man and woman were created. Adam was created from the earth (God breathed life into him) Eve was created from Adam her life came through what God had already done in Adam. She received the life through Adam not directly from the breath of God. This shows her to be under Adams authority.

⁴ John Piper and Wayne Grudem, *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism* (Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1991), 99.

⁵ Ibid.

- Also, in the statement “I will make him a helper” we see the male’s headship expressed. You see, the woman was made for the man, not the other way around.

1 Corinthians 11:9 Man was not created for the woman’s sake, but woman for the man’s sake.

- The woman is to fill a role of assistance or submission to the male’s leadership. Now, what does the text mean when it says “Suitable”? Well the Hebrew word carries the idea of a counterpart...one who completes what is lacking in the man...one who is both opposite and proper for the man.
- We see that amid all the stunning perfection in the garden, there is something amiss here. God puts His finger on the one disparity in this paradise and it is the fact that man is alone. God says that it is not good for this to be the case. So, he makes him a “helper suitable for him.”
- This once again demonstrates the man’s authority over the woman. She was taken from the man, not the other way around. Also, we see the man’s authority and headship in that the man names the woman.

²³ The man 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.”²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- This should not be somehow construed as an insult or oppression to woman. Remember the man and women are equal in value. But God is making it very clear that they do have different roles. For the family unit to run as it should, they are to function in the respective roles that God has ordained for them to have.
- The male is to be the biblical head and the female is to submit to the male’s authority biblically. Another instance we can point to that demonstrates the difference in roles is in Genesis 3.

3.) Satan went to Eve first, but God went to Adam. 3:1&9

- Satan circumvented Adam’s headship by going to Eve first.

3 *Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”*

- Now, even though Eve sinned first, God went to Adam after the fall because he was accountable as the leader of the family. He was responsible for what happened.

⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”

Now, we have looked at the clear distinctions found in Genesis 1 &2 regarding men and women. We have seen that in the creation, they were created equal in value yet different in roles. Many today will say that the role distinction that complementarians hold to did not exist before the fall.

They believe that this distinction on roles was a part of the fall. So, before we move on to looking at the role of men and women in the church, let's deal with this issue.

The Effect of the Fall:

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."

- In actuality, the curse affected the relationships between men and women not by introducing a hierarchical order but by reversing the God ordained roles. We see a couple of things in this verse regarding role reversal.⁶

1.) **Woman will Usurp the Headship of Man.**

- Notice the word, "Desire" = to compel, seek control over.
- Same word in Genesis 4:7- "Sin desires to control you, but you must master it" "desire" in 4:7 means "excessive control over."
- Therefore, the curse in Gen. 3:16 refers to a new desire on the part of the woman to exercise control over her husband.
- Genesis 3:16 could be translated, "Your desire will be to control your husband, but he will rule over you."
- The wife will have a desire to dominate and lead the relationship.
- Therefore, the curse is a woman desiring to usurp man's headship.

Next, notice what the text says about the man.

2.) **Men will Abuse their Headship.**

- "he shall rule over you" rule here = reign.
- The husband will oppressively rule over his wife.
- Therefore, the curse is a man exercising harsh authority over a woman.

So, you see, the fall distorted the role of men and women. The result of the fall on relationships throughout history has been an ongoing struggle between the sexes, with women seeking control and men seeking dominance. The wonderful truth of that matter is that even though this is the case, in Christ, the curse can be reversed and the original design for men and women can be restored to a harmonious relationship.

⁶ John Piper and Wayne Grudem, *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism* (Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1991), 105.

