

THE CREATION OF MAN AND WOMAN: A DETAILED EXPLANATION (PART 2)

THE CREATION OF THE WOMAN

Adam's Need

Genesis 2:18 ~ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

- On most of the first five days of creation, God pronounced that it was "good" (Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25)
- But after creating Adam on the sixth day, God stated that something was "not good"...Adam was alone and incomplete
- He was lacking a companion, a helper, an equal...someone who would help him fulfill the creation mandate
- This emphasizes that Adam was incomplete without Eve

- It was not good for Adam to be alone because he was created in the image of the Triune God
- The unity and diversity of the Trinity demanded an image-bearer that reflected this equal but different characteristic

- God is also making a statement about aloneness...He condemns isolation and loneliness...because it is foreign to His very nature
- God is not alone, even though He is one...He enjoys perfect fellowship within the Godhead
- Genesis 1:26 ~ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image according to Our likeness..."
- God in His triune personality communes with Himself
- He knows and engages in the sweetness and joy of a relationships with other members of the Trinity

- Adam's inadequacy and aloneness became evident in his naming of the animals

Genesis 2:19-20 ~ 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.

- This event fulfilled two purposes:
 1. To provide Adam the opportunity to begin exercising his dominion over creation by giving each animal a name appropriate to its individual characteristics
 2. To underscore his great need for a helper (who was human but different) by showing him that none of these animals could ever serve as a physical, emotional, intellectual or spiritual companion

- Often the question comes up: How could Adam have named all the animals in a day? Wouldn't it have taken days or even weeks to name millions of different species?
- Often critics of the Bible point to this as evidence that the Bible is not trustworthy
- But a careful observation of the text reveals that this would not have been difficult for many reasons:
 - Adam did not have to search for the animals because God brought them to him (v. 19)
 - Adam did not name anything living in the sea or any insect/crawling creature
 - He only named the cattle, bird, and beast of the field "kinds"

- “There is no indication that Adam named the fish in the sea, or any other marine organisms, nor any of the insects, beetles or arachnids. In fact, of the two million known species, 98% are invertebrates, which include a variety of animals, from sponges, worms and jellyfish to mollusks and insects. The remaining 2% are vertebrates and number approximately 40,000 species. This number is further reduced when the 25,000 marine vertebrates and four thousand amphibians are discounted, since they clearly do not fit into any of the categories of animals listed in Genesis 2:20.”¹
- “In addition, assuming that speciation has been an on-going occurrence since creation, the 11,000 vertebrate species in question would have most likely descended from a much smaller number of proto-species. Each would be the ancestors of animals in the group that taxonomists call a *genus* (or possibly the higher taxonomic order known as a *family*) and what the Genesis account calls a “kind”. Since many *genera* contain dozens, even hundreds, of species, it is far more likely that Adam had to name only a couple of thousand of these proto-species—a task which could easily have been achieved in a few hours. (Assuming Adam had to name 2,500 proto-species (*genera*), and he named a single proto-species every five seconds, it would have taken him approximately three hours and 45 minutes to complete the task if we include a five-minute break every hour.)”²
- Additionally, since Adam was the most intelligent man who ever lived (except Christ), this would not have been a difficult task

- By the way, notice that it was God not Adam who said that it was not good that he is alone
- God knew Adam needed a companion even before he did
- This is a reminder that God always knows what is best for us...and that He often gives us what we need before we even know we need it

- This event emphasized the fact that Adam was alone and in great need of a corresponding counterpart
- He needed a “suitable helper” (*ezer kenegdo*)...the term occurs twice (vv. 18, 20)
 - *ezer* = “help, support, aid” (shows her role as one who provides what is lacking in another)
 - *kenegdo* = “corresponding to, suitable for, like, matching, fitting” (shows her position of equality)

- The word “helper” is not a demeaning term and it contains no hint of inferiority in it
- It carries the connotation of assistance

- In fact, the same term is often used in the Scriptures of God Himself:

Psalm 33:20 ~ Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

Psalm 70:5 ~ But I am afflicted and needy; Hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.

Psalm 115:9 ~ O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.

- The fact that God is said to be a “helper” lends great dignity and value to this role
- Consequently, since God is inferior to no one, the word conveys no implication whatsoever of subordination or inferiority
- Adam didn’t need another male...or a clone of Himself...or a twin
- He needed one who was similar to but different from him...someone who was like him in form, but unlike him in function...someone who differed from him in ways that would exactly complement who he was
- He needed someone who was equal to him in every way...but able to supply what was lacking in him

¹ <https://answersingenesis.org/adam-and-eve/how-could-adam-have-named-all-the-animals-in-a-single-day/>

² Ibid.

- "...the woman by relative difference but essential equality would be man's fitting complement. What he lacked ("not good") she supplied; and it would be safe to say that what she lacked, he supplied, for life in common requires mutual help."³
- "Equality did not preclude gender distinctiveness; rather, equality allowed the distinctiveness of the man and the woman to be so perfectly complementary that it blended into a mysterious oneness that gloriously reflected the oneness of the Trinity."⁴
- In other words, Adam needed a helper to fulfill the creation mandate he was given

Genesis 1:27-28 ~ 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."

- The way for Adam to exercise dominion as God's vice-regent and to subdue His creation was to propagate life
- From the very beginning, God intended that there would be two and unique sexes (v. 27 ~ male and female) so that mankind could procreate within the bounds of marriage
- His design has always been for a permanent monogamous marriage relationship between a man and a woman
- Thus, Eve was no afterthought in God's plan; rather, she was uniquely suited for a perfectly compatible companion for Adam
- It is clear that the creation of woman was critical to God's command to Adam to "Be fruitful and multiply; and fill the earth"
- Adam was to procreate, propagate the human race, and populate the earth with people so that God's mandate to exercise dominion over His creation could be executed
- Obviously, he needed a partner for that...ruling the earth is a joint function of the man and the woman
- Hence, the creation of two sexes was critical to the fulfillment of God's kingdom mandate
- The woman is the man's corresponding helper in both procreation (being fruitful and multiplying) and domestication (subduing the earth and ruling it)
- In fact, procreation is the means to domestication since Adam and Eve certainly could not act as God's vice-regents all by themselves
- "Bearing God's image as His vice-regent, the man and the woman together exercise dominion over the earth through procreation. Neither the man nor the woman can fill the earth and subdue it without the other and without further offspring. It is abundantly clear that fulfilling the mandate to 'be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it' takes both a man and a woman. In this way, Scripture reminds us that procreation is at the very heart of God's creation purpose for humanity as male and female, within the confines of marriage."⁵
- Thus, the woman's role is distinct from the man's, yet both of their contributions are absolutely critical

Eve's Formation

- To remedy Adam's need for a helper, God took decisive action

³ Allen Ross, *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*, 126.

⁴ Nancy Leigh Demoss, *Biblical Womanhood in the Home*, 151.

⁵ <https://answersingenesis.org/family/marriage/match-made-heaven/>

Genesis 2:21 ~ 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.

- The Lord was solely responsible for the creation of the woman
- In fact, Adam had nothing to do with it...he contributed nothing to the process except a rib, and even that was not by his own choice
- The Lord anesthetized Adam to take from him “one of his ribs” (*tselah*)
- While this word could refer only to a “rib,” it probably more likely refers to his “side,” which includes both bone and flesh
- This is corroborated by Adam’s response in v. 23 (“bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh”)
- What about those who think that God did not select a bone from Adam’s head to indicate that a woman was “above a man” nor did He select a bone from the foot suggesting that a woman was “beneath a man?”
- “Think of it this way: If out of the head, Adam might be severely damaged and harmed. If out of a limb (arm or leg), he would be severely handicapped. If out of the belly, there would be no bone. The side is the best place so as not to cause severe damage, disfiguring, maiming, or killing Adam. This might be the only significance.”⁶

Genesis 2:22-23 ~ 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.”

- From Adam’s side, God supernaturally made a woman
- This shows that Adam and Eve are products of entirely separate acts of divine creation
- The man (*adam*) was formed from the ground (*adamah*) indicating that humanity is part of creation; the woman (*ishah*) was created from the man (*ish*) indicating their intimate bond and the man’s responsibility for spiritual leadership
- In calling her “woman,” Adam is giving her a similar name as himself to communicate that she is a “suitable helper”
- She was perfectly suited for him spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and physically
- “The point of this jubilant cry is that the creation of humankind has reached its goal in the complementary partnership of man and woman.”⁷

Genesis 2:24 ~ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

- This text indicates God’s ideal plan for marriage: one man...one woman...committed to one another...for life...as one flesh
- His design for marriage is: Leave → Cleave → Weave
 - Leave – God intended children to leave their parents eventually...the parent-child relationship is temporary...the husband-wife relationship is permanent
 - Cleave – The idea is welding together, a gluing together that will not let go no matter what...an unswerving loyalty in a permanent union...so that divorce is not considered (except for adultery or abandonment)

⁶ <https://drbarrick.org/2010/05/adams-rib/>

⁷ Ross, *Creation and Blessing*, 127.

- Weave – The result of this union is a new identity...where two individuals merge into one to form a complete unity...this implies oneness sexually...and the greatest expression of the “one flesh” relationship is the children born in that union
- While the sexual union is the most intimate expression of being “one-flesh,” it is by no means the only expression
- “It is the profound fusion of two lives into one, shared life together, by the mutual consent and covenant of marriage. It is the complete and permanent giving over of oneself into a new circle of shared existence with one’s partner.”⁸
- So, permanent monogamy is God’s intent and design for marriage

Genesis 2:25 ~ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- Adam and Eve’s nakedness suggests that they were at ease with one another without any fear of evil
- There was no knowledge of evil yet...thus no shame or guilt was associated with their nakedness
- This lack of shame at their nakedness was evidence of their sinlessness
- Their union with one another and their perfect relationship with the Lord supplied them joy in their naked condition

SOME THEOLOGICAL AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

For Singles

1. See Your Singleness as a Gift from the Lord

1 Corinthians 7:7 ~ Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

2. Maximize Your Single Years for the Lord Rather Than Self

1 Corinthians 7:32-34 ~ But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; 33 but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, 34 and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

For Husbands

1. Admit Your Need for Help, Rejoice in the Ways Your Wife is Different from You, and Appreciate Her for It

1 Peter 3:7 ~ You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

2. Guard Your Heart from Being Embittered Against Her

Colossians 3:19 ~ Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

⁸ Ray Ortlund, “Male-Female Equality and Male Headship,” in *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, ed. John Piper and Wayne Grudem, 101.

3. Exercise Your Role as Spiritual Leader

Indications of Man's Leadership in Genesis 1-2

- The name for humanity is the same as for the male (*ādām*). [Genesis 1:27; 5:2](#)
- God created the man first. [Genesis 2:7](#)
- The man was the recipient of a divine command before the creation of the woman. [Genesis 2:15-17](#)
- The man was put in the Garden to work and name the animals. [Genesis 2:15, 2:19-20](#)
- God created the woman for the man and from the man. [Genesis 2:18, 2:21-22](#)
- The woman was called the man's "comparable helper." [Genesis 2:18, 2:20](#)
- The man named the woman. [Genesis 2:23](#)

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4. Continue to Make Progress in Biblical Manhood

By Manifesting Mature Courage

1 Kings 2:1-2 ~ As David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, 2 "I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man.

1 Corinthians 16:13 ~ Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

By Becoming a Husband and a Father

Ephesians 5:25-28 ~ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

Ephesians 6:4 ~ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

By Aspiring to Eldership

1 Timothy 3:1-2 ~ It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach...

For Wives

1. Resist the Cultural Pressure to Embrace Feminism

- "The philosophy of feminism is part of the seismic postmodern earthquake. Feminism proposes that women find happiness and meaning through the pursuit of personal authority, autonomy, and freedom. This philosophy's shake-up of society occurred roughly during the thirty year period from 1960 to 1990.

⁹ <https://answersingenesis.org/family/marriage/match-made-heaven/>

But the cataclysmic consequences will continue to crash on culture's shores like a tsunami throughout the opening decades of the new millennium."¹⁰

- **Betty Friedan:** "There is only one way for women to reach full human potential—by participating in the mainstream of society, by exercising their own voice in all the decisions shaping that society. For women to have full identity and freedom, they must have economic independence. Breaking through the barriers that had kept them from the jobs and professions rewarded by society was the first step, but it wasn't sufficient. It would be necessary to change the rules of the game to restructure professions, marriage, the family, the home."
- **Gloria Steinem:** "By the year 2000, we will, I hope, raise our children to believe in human potential, not God."
- **Sheila Crownan:** "Since marriage constitutes slavery for women, it is clear that the women's movement must concentrate on attacking this institution. Freedom for women cannot be won without the abolition of marriage."
- **Annie Lorrie Gaylor:** "Let's forget about the mythical Jesus and look for encouragement, solace, and inspiration from real women. 2000 years of patriarchal rule in the shadow of the cross ought to be enough to turn women toward the feminist salvation of the world."

2. Embrace Your Role as a Helper

1 Corinthians 11:8-9 ~ For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; 9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.

- A woman's helping role comes directly from her created sex
- Being a helper means that she fulfills the needs, the lacks, the inadequacies of her husband
- She makes him her primary ministry

3. Reject Wrong Notions of Submission

Ephesians 5:22-24 ~ Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Colossians 3:18 ~ Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

- What Biblical submission is not:¹¹
 - Submission is not merely a concept for women
 - Submission does not mean that the wife becomes a slave
 - Submission does not mean that the wife never opens her mouth, never has an opinion, never gives advice
 - Submission does not mean that the wife becomes a wallflower who folds up and allows her abilities to lie dormant
 - Submission does not mean that the wife is inferior to the husband
 - Submission is not something demanded by the husband

4. Continue to Make Progress in Biblical Womanhood

By Being a Wife and Mother

¹⁰ Mary Kassian, *The Feminist Mistake*, 7.

¹¹ List adapted from Wayne Mack, *Strengthening Your Marriage*, 16-17.

1 Timothy 5:14 ~ Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach.

By Modeling a Titus 2 Woman

Titus 2:3-5 ~ Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

By Cultivating a Quiet, Gentle Spirit

1 Peter 3:2, 4 ~ as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior...4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.