

## DIFFERENT BY DESIGN

### I. God's Design for Mankind

- In Genesis 1:1-2:3, we have a general account of the entire creation. In this section, we also discover God's specific design for mankind (1:24-31). Later in Genesis 2:4-25, we find a more detailed account of Adam and Eve's creation.

#### A. Created in God's Image and for God's Glory

- *Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*<sup>1</sup>
- Adam and Eve were uniquely created in the image of God. They were of a higher order than the rest of the creation.
- Men and women have equal worth in the sight of God. There is equality in personhood and importance. Therefore, neither sex is superior or inferior to the other. One gender does not have greater or lesser value in the sight of God.
- Between men and women we find interdependence, equal worth, and different functions.

#### B. Created to Enjoy God and His Creation

- Adam and Eve were created to enjoy God (cf. Gen 3:8) and His creation (Gen 1:29; 2:9). They were to honor God by obeying His Word. God's only prohibition was for their good.
- *Gen 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; [17] but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."*

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<sup>1</sup> Quotations are taken from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

### C. Created to Subdue the Earth and Rule Over the Animals

- *Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*
- *Gen 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*
- Adam and Eve were created to serve God by ruling over all He made.

### D. Created Male and Female

- *Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*
1. We must understand the implications.
    - a. Two become one flesh – images unity within the Godhead (i.e., there is only one God).
    - b. Both created in the image of God – images equality within the Godhead (i.e., each person in the Trinity is fully God).
    - c. Different roles and responsibilities – images differences within the Godhead (i.e., God is three persons)
  2. We must esteem the distinctions.
    - God made us male and female. We must value, respect, and understand the vital distinctions between the sexes and not deny, reverse, or commingle them. Men and women are physically, emotionally, and psychologically different. As a result, God has assigned us different, but complementary, roles and responsibilities in marriage, the family, the church and society.

“But this unisex movement is more than bad taste and political extremism. It assaults a basic truth of creation, God created two distinct types of people -- male and female, masculine and feminine – with different roles and abilities for the propagation and nurturing of the race. He made men the providers; women, the nurturers. Men were to be heads of families; women were to bear children. When we destroy such distinctions and reject gender as antiegalitarian – when your mothers go off to war and when gay fathers get nursing halters – we are undermining God’s created order.”<sup>2</sup>

--Chuck Colson

“As you diminish their [men’s] role, you ultimately diminish their responsibility. And, sadly, as the male role is diminished, the female roles does not grow stronger. It, too is diminished. For we are born into this world male and female.”<sup>3</sup>

--Judith McPherson

#### E. Created Very Good

- *Gen 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.*
- Everything God made was very good and a reflection of His glory and creativity (cf. Gen 5:1-2).
- The differences between men and women are also “very good.” Those who deny this goodness (i.e., egalitarians) want only “sameness” with no “differentness” between the sexes.

## II. The Creation of Adam and Eve

#### A. Adam (Gen 2:4-17)

- *Gen 2:7 The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*
- Adam (Heb., *Adam*) is a proper name and also a generic term for man or mankind.

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<sup>2</sup> Chuck Colson, *Jubilee*, January 1992, p. 7.

<sup>3</sup> Judith McPherson, opinion entitled, “Radical Feminists Seek to Debase the Role of Men” in *The Charlotte Observer*.

1. God named the human race “man” not woman.

- *Gen 5:2 (NASB) He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man [lit., Adam] in the day when they were created.*

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

- *Rom 5:15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!*
- *1 Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*
- *1 Cor 15:49 And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.*

3. Adam was called to account first after the Fall.

- *Gen 3:8-11 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" [10] He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." [11] And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"*

B. Eve (Gen 2:18-23)

1. The need for the woman (Gen 2:18-20).

- *Gen 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

"God undertook an orientation program to show man the need what He alone had observed."<sup>4</sup>

--The Open Bible

- Complementarianism – man needs the woman for companionship (wife), procreation (mother), and help (helper).

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<sup>4</sup> The Open Bible, p. 5.

- *1 Cor 11:11-12 In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. [12] For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.*
2. The provision of woman for the man (Gen 2:21-23).
- *Gen 2:22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*
  - The woman was created from different material than the animals (Gen 2:19).
  - *Prov 18:22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.*

### III. The Ordinations of God

“Any plans that Satan has to destroy society must first begin with the family. That was his strategy in the garden, and in the fall of every successive society.... The most vital issue we face today is the propagation and preservation of biblically defined family life. As it goes, we go - together.”<sup>5</sup>

--Charles Simpson

- A. The Sanctity of Life (Gen 1:27-28)
- B. The Sanctity of the Sabbath (Gen 2:3)
- C. The Sanctity of Work (Gen 2:15)
- D. The Sanctity of Marriage (Gen 2:24)
- E. The Sanctity of Sex (Gen 2:24-25)
  - Sexual desire in marriage results in sexual pleasure and the procreation of children. Both are wonderful gifts from God. The husband and wife celebrate their one flesh union and also fulfill God’s command to populate the earth.

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<sup>5</sup> Charles Simpson, source unknown.

## IV. God's Design for Man

- After marriage, a man finds fulfillment in his roles as a husband, father, and provider. He reflects the image of God by loving his wife, training his children, and providing for his family.

"At the heart of mature masculinity is a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for, and protect women in ways appropriate to a man's differing relationship."<sup>6</sup>

-- John Piper

- Real men love God and live for his glory. They are devoted to their marriage and family. They protect and provide for their loved ones. They solve problems, make decisions, and work hard. They are financially prudent, manage their time wisely, and accept their leadership responsibilities joyfully. Real men are committed to Christ's church. They are teachable and accountable to others. They walk in integrity and moral purity.

### A. Husband

- *Gen 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*
- *Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*
- *Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.*
- *1 Peter 3:7 (ESV) Likewise, husbands, love with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

### B. Father

- *Gen 1:28a God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it..."*
- *Eph 6:4 (NASB) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.'*

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<sup>6</sup> John Piper, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*.

- *Col 3:20-21 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. [21] Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*
- Cf. 1 Tim 3:4-5; Titus 1:6
- A father will not allow his children to manipulate him and get their way. He will faithfully discipline them and earn their respect.
- Sons are to learn servant leadership from their fathers. Daughters are to learn godly submission and respect from their mothers.

### C. Provider (Bread Winner)

- *Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*
- Adam was charged to care for the Garden of Eden and enjoy its fruit. Eve was created to help Adam do his work.
- *Gen 3:17-19 To Adam he said..."Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. [18] It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. [19] By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."*
- *1 Tim 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
- The husband is the primary provider of income for the family contrary to trends in society that are opposed to God's established order.

## V. God's Design for Woman

- After marriage, a woman finds her fulfillment in relation to her husband, children and home as a wife, mother and homemaker. She orients her time, energy, and gifts to these holy vocations.
- The Scripture assigns tremendous worth to a woman's role as a wife, mother, and worker at home. Our culture does not.

## A. Wife

- The wife is called to be a helpmate to her husband. As the Church is given to serve Christ, so the wife is called to serve her husband. Her life and ministry is intimately related to that of her husband. She should be seeking to make him a success and serve him in whatever way possible. Her life revolves around his life.
- *Gen 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*
- *Gen 2:20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.*
- *Gen 2:22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*
- *Eph 5:22-24 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. [24] Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*
- *Col 3:18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*
- *Titus 2:4-5 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands... [5] and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*
- *1 Peter 3:1-6 (ESV) Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives – [2] when they see your respectful and pure conduct. [3] Do not let your adorning be external – the braiding of hair, the wearing of gold, or the putting on of clothing – [4] but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. [5] For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, [6] as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.*

## B. Mother

- The woman is called and graced by God to bear children and be the primary provider of child care.



- *Gen 3:16a To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children."*
- *Gen 3:20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living*
- *Prov 31:28-29 (ESV) Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: [29] "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."*
- *1 Tim 2:15 (ESV) Yet she will be saved through childbearing – if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.*
- *1 Tim 5:9-10 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, [10] and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.*
- *Titus 2:4 Then they can train the younger women to love...their children,*

"Mothers who have chosen to stay at home during the early, impressionable years of their children's lives are today's most underappreciated national asset. Extensive research indicates their children are stronger, healthier and more secure and that they contribute more to society. In tragic contrast, recent data on early child care shows that absence or underinvolvement of parents in the early years creates a broad array of anxieties, emotional difficulties and stresses. By sacrificing a second family paycheck and career prestige, these mothers are making an enormous contribution to their families and to our nation's future."<sup>7</sup>

--Dr. James Dobson

## C. Homemaker

### 1. Manager at home.

- *Prov 31:15 She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.*
- *Prov 31:21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.*
- *Prov 31:27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

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<sup>7</sup> Dr. James Dobson, source unknown.

- *1 Tim 5:14 So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.*
- *Titus 2:4-5 Then they can train the younger women [5]...to be busy at home.*
- *ESV – “working at home”, NASB – “workers at home”, KJV – “homemakers.”*

## 2. Home based industry.

- *Prov 31:16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.*
- *Prov 31:18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.*
- *Prov 31:24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.*

## Discussion Questions

1. How has the culture influenced your thinking about when a boy or girl becomes a young man or woman?
2. In what ways do you need to grow in order to prepare for, or grown in, your roles and responsibilities as a man (husband, father, provider)?
3. How has the culture demeaned and rejected these roles and responsibilities? What have been the consequences?
4. How are men and women made differently in order to fulfill their unique and complementary roles as male and female?