

Woman: From Man and For Man, to the Glory of God!
Genesis 2:18-25

I. Introduction

A. Battle of the sexes: the feminization of men and the masculinization of women; dehumanizing of men and devaluing of women; the distortion of male/female sexuality.

II. Proposition

A. God created the woman for the man and instituted marriage so that mankind as male and female could fulfill the blessing/mandate to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.

1. Genesis 2:5-6, describe the earth as yet a place where the blessing (Gen. 1:28) cannot be fulfilled.
 - a. In Genesis 2:5-17, God remedies the lack of food for the man.
 - b. In Genesis 2:18-25, God remedies the need to procreate in order to fulfill the blessing.

III. Exposition

A. **God created us to be in relationship (Gen. 2:18).**

1. Created in the image of God – relational (Gen. 2:18).
 - a. Our culture promotes individualism and isolationism – NOT GOOD!
2. Nothing else in creation suitable (Gen. 2:19-20).
3. God created the woman for the man and gave her to the man in marriage (Gen. 2:21-23).
4. The paradigm of the marriage relationship (Gen. 2:23-25):
 - a. Personal relationship
 - b. Priority relationship
 - c. Permanent relationship
 - d. Peaceful relationship

B. **God created the man and the woman as spiritual equals with distinct roles in this relationship (Gen. 2:18-25).**

1. Man and woman are spiritual equals before God (Genesis 1:26-27).
2. Man was created to lead, protect and provide (Genesis 2:15-18; cf. 1:28ff).
 - a. John Piper, “Vision” *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, 35-36 - 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 RELATIONSHIPS.
 - b. Men are to cultivate manhood in themselves and other men and boys:
 - 1). Don’t be passive (a chicken-wimp)! Lead; do hard things; deal with conflict head on!
 - a). Reblution - <http://www.thereblution.com/>
 - b). New book by Alex and Brett Harris – “Do Hard Things!”
 - 2). Don’t be lazy! Work hard!
 - 3). Don’t be a slob! Clean up after yourself! Keep your garden clean!
 - 4). Don’t be a minimalist! Set high goals.
 - 5). Don’t be a jerk! Treat women with honor and dignity.
 - 6). Don’t be a girlie-man! Dress and act like a man.
 - c. We desire a men’s ministry that will do that!
 - 1). Men’s retreat, April 18-19, 2008
3. Woman was created to help and follow (Genesis 2:18).
 - a. John Piper, “Vision” *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, 35-36 – AT THE HEART OF MATURE FEMININITY IS A FREEING DISPOSITION TO AFFIRM, RECEIVE, AND NURTURE STRENGTH AND LEADERSHIP FROM WORTHY MEN IN WAYS APPROPRIATE TO A WOMAN’S DIFFERING RELATIONSHIPS.
 - b. Women are to cultivate womanhood in themselves and other women and girls:
 - 1). Don’t be rebellious! Submit to authority: parents’, husband’s, etc.
 - 2). Don’t be lazy! Find areas at home and at church where you can be a helper.
 - a). Nurture, babysit, keep your room neat and tidy

- 3). Don't be a bossy, pushy broad! Let boys take the initiative.
 - a). Allow men to be servant leaders.
 - 4). Don't be a nag! Learn to encourage men in their leadership.
 - 5). Don't be a manly-girl! Dress and act like a woman.
 4. God has ordained these family roles also be displayed in His church (1 Timothy 2:12-14).
 5. This distinction in roles does not undermine spiritual equality.
 - a. ILLUS: The Trinity (1 Corinthians 11:3).
- C. Sin has distorted the male/female relationship and the divinely ordained roles (Gen. 3).**
1. Satan attacked at the very roles God had established:
 - a. Satan approached the woman (Genesis 3:1-5).
 - b. The man failed to lead, provide and protect the woman (Genesis 3:6).
 - c. Sin entered the garden-sanctuary (Genesis 3:7).
 2. God held the man accountable for their sin (Genesis 8-9).
 3. Sin has distorted the way men and women relate to one another (Genesis 3:16; 4:7).
 - a. Religious oppression – Religious police in Saudi Arabia
 - b. Spousal abuse
 - c. Divorce – single motherhood
 - d. Sexuality: women as sexual objects and teenagers as sex slaves in some countries
 - e. Feminism, dehumanization of man, homosexuality
 4. Where does that leave us? How will these distortions be solved?
- D. Jesus Christ redeems and restores male/female relationships (Ephesians 5:22-33).**
1. Ephesians 5:22-33 brings us back to Genesis 2 marriages.
 2. Thus, you must pursue Christ if you desire redeemed and restored relationships.
 3. In all this God gets the glory!

IV. Conclusion

- A. A word to singles:
 1. Pursue Christ and be satisfied with Christ above all things and relationships!
- B. A word to those pursuing marriage:
 1. Pursue Christ and do not settle for someone who is not pursuing Christ as passionately as you are.
 2. Pursue biblical courtship.
- C. A word to those who are married:
 1. Pursue Christ together.
 2. Pray for one another.
 3. Return to Christ for healing and restoration.
 - a. *When Sinners Say I Do*
- D. A word to those who are divorced:
 1. Divorce is not the unforgivable sin.
 2. Receive the grace of God and the forgiveness of the gospel and pursue Christ!

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