

## Created Male and Female

Genesis 1:26–28; 2:18–25

**1:26** Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

**2:18** Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man.”

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

**PRAY** — In mercy open our eyes, ears, minds, and hearts to you and your truth. Transform minds...

Good is God. The standard of good is apart from us — it is not determined by us. We must look to God to know good. There are two triplets I want us to recall from last week and apply this week. The first triplet is that God’s goodness is revealed in his work, his word, and his ways. **Work, word, ways**. His goodness is revealed in the work of creation. It was good. His goodness is revealed in his word. He spoke all creation into being, and it was good.

## 2

His goodness is revealed in his **ways** — that is, what he purposes, his plans, his agenda, if you will. We will explore his good purpose in his design of male, female, and marriage today. So the first triplet: God's goodness is revealed in his (work), (word), (ways). Let's look for that as we go.

The second triplet is **life**, **blessing**, and **flourishing**. *Life, blessing, flourishing*. This is what God intends for us as we embrace and submit ourselves to his work, word, and ways. His work and design in creation, his word, and his ways are so that we may live, experience blessing, and flourish. **Life**, **blessing**, and **flourishing** flow from the first triplet: God's work, word, and ways. That's review from last week.

Now, as goodness is found only in God, so truth is rooted in God, alone, not in what I think or feel. God designed all there is, spoke it into being, established his natural law for how his world works, and he has purpose for all of it. He holds all things together by the word of his power. (Heb. 1:4) In him all things hold together. (Col. 1:17) In light of his self-existent authority and power, in light of the fact that he can **will** me out of existence, what possible difference could any notion of "my" truth or "your" truth make in comparison to the one on whom we rely for air in our lungs? His is the only truth matters.

The Creator determines truth, not the creation. Creation **reveals** his truth. There is no aspect of creation that is random or without God's goodness and glory woven into it. As a creature fashioned out of dust and under the curse of the fall into sin in Genesis 3, what I think and feel is corrupted and disordered. I cannot trust my internal feelings and thoughts because every aspect of who I am has been impacted by sin. (cf. Psalm 58:1-2) I must look to God, who is without sin, who is good, and who is truth, to understand what is true. The Spirit of the age espouses dark arguments that attempt to "cancel" God by redefining truth, even plain truth in creation. Making myself the source of truth — what I feel and think — has become the world's standard. This will not work. We can protest God. We can deny truth. We can claim that we have moved beyond God. But it's unsustainable.

Last week we read that birds were created to soar in the heavens. I was not included in the list of creatures that soar in the heavens, but I'm offended by that. Who is God to determine I can't soar in the sky? So with a modern approach to truth, I now identify as a bird and dethrone God by establishing my own truth. Identifying as a bird, then, I go to the top of a 100-story building and jump off, holding my arms out to soar through the sky. As I pass the 50<sup>th</sup> floor, I say, "So far, so good." Other rebels who have celebrated my version of truth cheer me on, encouraged by my defiance.

### 3

Regardless of how many people celebrate my expression of truth, the rejection of God's truth is unsustainable. I may imagine that I am soaring as air rushes by, but I was not made for this. It will not produce life, blessing, and flourishing because I have rebelled against his work (the way I am designed), his word (He did not assign me to fly), and his ways. (Mankind is to steward the garden, the earth, not fly.)

Now let's consider God's work, work, and ways teach us about being male and female, our sexuality, and the family. I've spent a good amount of time wagging on the Tee, but we'll move quickly now and observe a number of things about God's goodness in the design of male and female.

**1. Genesis 1:26** reveals that we are made in God's image. That is, we are given an eternal human soul with the capacity to commune with God. His design reveals his intent: God has made us for himself, as Augustine said, and we remain unsatisfied and restless, until we rest in communion with him. Indeed, they are dependent on God. Dust has no life in itself. God blew life into that clay body. God has no death in himself; only life. Adam had no life in himself except for what God gave. Communion with God is both a superlative privilege and essential need. No other earthbound creature communes with God as he has made us to do. When we reject God and determine to be our own gods, we work against the very purpose and privilege for which we are created. We work against life itself. Though we are made to be satisfied in God, we reject him and seek satisfaction in a million things that will never do. This is a dramatic picture of death and cursing in place of life and blessing.

Being made in his image also highlights that we are to be his stewards over creation. Again, an extraordinary privilege. As we take care of the place, life, blessing, and flourishing occur.

**2. In v 27** we see he creates two sexes: male and female.

The Creator fixes two sexes — masculine and feminine. We understand who we are and what we are to do by the anatomy God fashioned. I know I am male because I have male parts. I am masculine in my orientation to life. Females are feminine in their orientation to life. There is some cultural variance in understanding masculine and feminine, but identity of male and female, masculine and feminine remains rooted in creation design. Truth is revealed in design. I understand my place in life by my anatomical design and function. Females have a different and complementary role in life. Each complement each other; they fit together meaningfully. There is good design and purpose in this.

## 4

Look at **Genesis 2:18**. The first thing that is **not good** is the loneliness of man. He has been created out of dust with a soul to commune spiritually with God. But he is also a physical being. God is not physical. He is spirit. Adam needs one who is at once like him, and a counterpart to him. He does not need another Adam— Another male would be like him, but not serve God's purpose of multiplication and flourishing. So God created from his side a *complementary* female, equal in worth and dignity, but with a different role. When they submit to the truth that is **revealed** in their bodies, all that God intended for them plays out. New life is produced, they multiply, and they flourish. If Adam were to rebel against design... if he was drug away in brokenness and disorientation to God and said, "A mistake has been made; I feel like a woman; I am a woman," would life, blessing, and flourishing would flow out of that first family unit? What would be the result? Death brokenness and cursing. Male and female, when joined together as God designed, do what he has instructed them to do: multiply, fill the earth, and flourish.

I have very deliberately chosen the word "**sex**" as opposed to "gender." The current concept that gender is different or separate from sex is not biblically rooted — it's not in the bible. The concept of gender is a psychological concept, developed by humans, expressly so over the last century. Gender manufactures a human-centered category that disregards God's good design in male and female and seeks to invalidate God, his good work, word, and ways. In our culture, the term becomes a hammer with which to reshape and redefine God's design.

As we discuss these things, it is important for us to understand what dictionary people are working from and define terms. A biblical worldview cannot draw a distinction between sex and gender. A secular worldview does exactly that. It creates an artificial division to justify rejecting the Creator's purposes.

The bottom line in the Christian worldview is that God has created our bodies, including our sex organs, to reveal his purposes. Departure from understanding who we are in our very physical beings is departure from life, blessing, and flourishing. As the sinful disobedience of Genesis 3 has produced nothing but death and brokenness, so the embracing of a false standard of humanity is producing death and brokenness. A defense of God's goodness in human sexuality must involve clarity about the term "sex" and the goodness of God's design. Secularists who reject God will also reject the concept of objective truth revealed in male and female. This should not come as a surprise. If objective truth and design can be rejected, the Designer can be rejected. Assault on the fixity of two sexes is nothing less than assault on God himself.

## 5

This is our generation. But truth is powerful. Don't shrink back. Our culture is passing flapping its arms moving past the 50<sup>th</sup> floor. All eyes that are apart from Christ are blind. All ears not in Christ are deaf. All minds are darkened in understanding. The truth of God's word, particularly the Gospel truth that Christ has come to save sinners who turn to him in faith — this is the power of God. God can snatch them from certain peril.

I had planned to do God's design in our sexuality, and how that plays out in the family and one sermon. But it's too much to cover in one serving. So we will come back and look at the rest of God's design next week, and look at the deadly peril of rebelling against it two weeks from today, Lord willing.

To wrap up today, how are we to deal with those who sense a disconnect between the truth of the way God has designed them and how they feel about themselves? What about those who have same sex attraction? What about transgenderism? Is this real? How do we explain this?

The impact of sin on our minds and bodies is profound. In a real way, everything about us is disordered. We seek satisfaction and everything besides God. The human heart is a factory of idols. We don't come to the one in whom is life and blessing — we go everywhere else. It is no surprise, then, that our sexuality is disordered. Departure from God's life-giving design is fruit of both our sinful nature (self-identity) and lusts, and the work of our deadly enemy who has come to steal, kill, and destroy. In light of this, is there hope for sexual wholeness?

Yes. Jesus gives a heart to love him and desire to walk in his ways. The first step is coming to Christ in faith, turning from sin, believing on his atoning sacrifice to pay the price for sin. That is the call to all people, regardless of the nature of our sin. Pride is as damning as promiscuity. But there is a particular deception in the area of sexual sin. The current culture denies there is sexual sin at all and simply says we are who our sexual impulses say we are. Thank God I didn't believe that at 17.

Sexual sin is not "special." It is not fundamentally rooted somewhere different than any other rebellion or brokenness. It must be battled in the same way all sin must be battled. The consequence for not putting it to death will be the same consequence as not putting any sin to death. Because our sexual feelings go to the core of who we are it can feel like it's an extraordinary or special exception. We must think rightly and align with truth. This does mean it will be easy.

## 6

The way of repentance, as for any other sin, begins with having our minds transformed and renewed by God's word. We must bring ourselves under his truth and believe that his work in Creation is for our good, for life, blessing, and flourishing. If we don't believe this, we will never have the affectional motivation to turn from sin.

Having believed truth, we must act on it. If you are in an illicit relationship of any kind, confess it and stop it immediately. Let there be no more contact. No goodbye. No nothing. Stop doing what produces death. If the sin is of a virtual nature, confess it, stop it, and take steps to keep it stopped. It is clear that Satan has death hooks in men and women in this generation through the use of porn. It has caused a collapse in healthy and appropriate sexual expression. It has rewired brains. That's why we must have our thinking renewed and transformed by God's word. Freedom is possible. It will require a mighty battle with high accountability. It is worth it. Do not ignore this. It has already destroyed far more than you've imagined or intended. There are people in this room we have lived through the battle and have conquered. That is not to say they don't have to be ever watchful – but it is possible to walk in God's good ways and experience his blessing. Reach out to the elders. If you are a man, reach out to any man in this room and move out of the cesspool of death into the river blessing and life. If you are a woman, speak to a godly woman. If you have a secret life, it can end today through the fountain of grace found in the blood of the Lord Jesus — it washes white as snow. Believe this. There is life, blessing, and flourishing in turning from dead sin to the Savior.

We'll take up with marriage and the family next week.

PRAY