

Baggage Claim Part 8 *Does the Bible Denigrate Women?*

Message to Conversation Guide

1. In the creation story of man and woman what primary characteristic do they equally share? What are the implications of the word “helper”? (See **Psalm 10:14; 30:10; 54:4**)

Ge. 1:26-27

26 Then God said, **“Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness,** so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”²⁷ **So God created mankind in his own image,** in the image of God he created them; **male and female he created them.** NIV

Ge. 2:19-24

19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. **But for Adam no suitable helper was found.** 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, **he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.** 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.

23 The man said,
“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. NIV

2. Read and discuss the more biblical quote from Matthew Henry listed below.

The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved. Matthew Henry

3. The following verses are often misunderstood because they are read out of context. What is the actual background of these verses and how does it shift the generally understood meaning of these verses?

1 Cor. 14:34-35

34 Women should remain silent in the churches. *They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says.* **35 If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.** NIV

1 Timothy 2:11-15

11 A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. **12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet.** **13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve.** **14 And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.** **15 But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.** NIV

4. Discuss how the following women were heroes in the Bible: **Esther, Deborah, Phoebe, Lydia,** and **Huldah**. Why does the Bible so often place a positive spotlight on women in scripture?
5. Read the passage below and look at the perfect Spirit led model of marriage. What must be present for this type of marriage to work? What does a Spirit led model of marriage illustrate? Read Matthew 1 and 2 and watch how Joseph and Mary model this type of marriage.

Eph. 5:21-33

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do 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.** **25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her** **26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,** **27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.** **28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.** **29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—**

30 for we are members of his body. **31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”** **32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.** **33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.** NIV