

# ***Creation, the Curse, and the Cross***

## **PART 2**

### **CREATION**

(Review sermon from 10/08/2023 for more details on CREATION)

#### **Man's and Woman's Relationship to God and Creation (Genesis 1:26-28)**

- Man and Woman are Both Created in the Image of God (Genesis 1:26-27)
- Man and Woman are Called to Multiply God's Image in the Earth (28a)
- Man and Woman are Both Called to Subdue and to Rule (Genesis 1:28b; Genesis 2:5, 8-9a, 15)

#### **Man's and Woman's Relationship to One Another BEFORE the Fall (Genesis 2)**

**Man and Woman are Created Equal in Worth and Call, Yet Distinct in Role and Responsibility**

##### **The Image of God in Man as HEAD**

Paul points to this Genesis 2 account to teach the "headship" of men over women as part of the Creation order.

*<sup>3</sup> But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man,<sup>[a]</sup> and the head of Christ is God. (1 Corinthians 11:3)*

What do we mean by "headship" of the man?

- Responsibility to Love and Lead
- Delegated Authority

What we do NOT mean:

- Abuse in any form
- Use of power to domineer

Five Reasons Why I Believe Man was Given Headship over Woman BEFORE the Fall

1. The Man is the central character of the creation account
2. Male and Female are collectively called "Man" (Genesis 1:26; 5:1-2)
3. The Man was created first
4. The Woman was created FROM the Man
5. The Woman was created FOR the Man

##### **The Image of God in Woman as HELPER**

*<sup>18</sup> The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (2:18)*

- "helper" (*ezer*)—help, support, aid. This is a key word describing the woman's ROLE to the man.
- "suitable for him" (*kenego*)—like him, corresponding to him, matching him. This is a key word describing the woman's EQUALITY to the man.

## Jesus Is Our Example

- Jesus in Authority (Ephesians 5:24-25)  
*“<sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...”*
- Jesus in Submission (John 14:31b)  
*“...the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”*

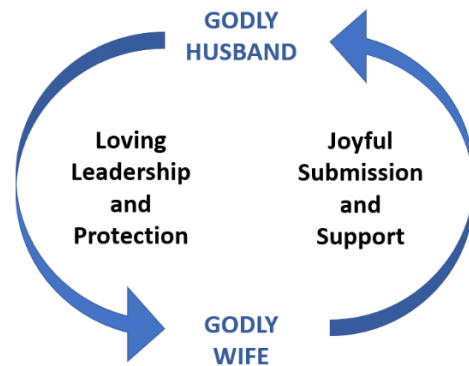
**Additional Resource:** Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood—Danvers Statement ([www.cbmw.org](http://www.cbmw.org))

## THE CURSE

### Man’s and Woman’s Relationship to One Another AFTER the Fall (Genesis 3)

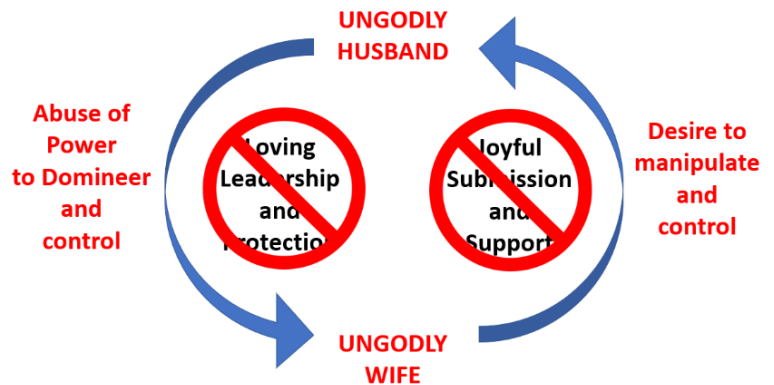
Before the Fall, Adam was clearly established as the Leader and Eve, the Helper. Before sin, this was to be the pattern:

*NOTE: We see this relationship expressly taught in Ephesians 5:22-33.*



AFTER the fall, we see that this curse pronounced upon the woman:

*<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,  
“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;  
with painful labor you will give birth to children.  
Your desire will be for your husband,  
and he will rule over you.”*



In Genesis 4:1-6, we see an account of God coming to Cain and warning him to repent of his sin of anger and bitterness toward his brother. Specifically, God warns Cain saying that sin is waiting to attack him. Its “desire” is toward you (i.e. to control/master you), but you must rule over it.”

# THE CROSS

## Man's and Woman's Relationship to One Another After the Cross

Whatever was broken between Man and Woman because of the curse, we would rightly expect the Cross to reverse that. That is, to restore the relationship between Man and Woman to what God intended it to be before sin entered the world. And that the New Testament would teach us how to pursue that.

I believe that's exactly what it has happened. *MORE ON THAT NEXT WEEK!*

### But What About Galatians 3?

Some have suggested that Galatians 3:26-29 is teaching a complete removal of any distinctions, including authority, between men and women because of the cross:

*<sup>26</sup> So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

What is Paul saying in this passage? Is he obliterating all distinctions between Jew and Gentile, slave or masters, male or female?

### Two Principles in Biblical Hermeneutics to Consider:

#### 1. Let Scripture interpret Scripture

Does the Bible expressly make commentary on another part of Scripture? Then go with that interpretation! Also, allow larger (or more numerous) passages help you to interpret that single verse that may be confusing (e.g. Acts 2:38)

- No more distinctions between Jew nor Gentile? (Romans 11:25-26)
- No more distinctions between slaves and masters? (Ephesians 6:5-9)
- No more distinction between male and female?
  - Genesis 2 account (again this is all *before* the Curse)
  - 1 Corinthians 11:2-12 (Paul refers to Genesis 2 in this passage)
  - Ephesians 5:22-33
  - 1 Peter 3:1-7

#### 2. Let the larger context of the verse help you to interpret the verse.

*What is the larger context of the book of Galatians and how does that impact the way we should read and interpret Galatians 3:26-29?*

- Paul's main purpose for writing the church in Galatia is to warn them against those who are trying to preach a different gospel (1:6-9)

- He reminds them that we are saved by grace, NOT by any good works (2:15-16)
- ALL who have faith are SONS of Abraham (3:7)  
*<sup>7</sup> Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. (Galatians 3:7 ESV)*
- Thus, there is no difference! It doesn't matter what society down here says about someone's status when it comes to who gets an earthly inheritance. In regard to our ETERNAL inheritance in Christ ALL are sons of Abraham! (Galatians 3:26-28)
- And if a son, then an heir of eternal life and the kingdom to come (Galatians 3:29; 4:6-7)

## CONCLUSION

Thus, Galatians 3:26-29 is not teaching that there are no more distinctions between these parties, but rather, that all are equally privileged to share in the eternal inheritance in Christ.

SO... assuming that there IS still a God-ordained, designed, and purposeful "headship" of men over women, *how has the Cross restored that relationship?*

How did the Curse damage this relationship?

- It caused the Woman to no longer joyfully submit/support her husband but desire instead to master/control her husband
- It caused the Man to dominate/rule over his wife because of his strength/power/privilege

How does the Cross bring healing to this relationship?

- It calls for and empowers the wife to joyfully submit/support her husband. In so doing she is following the example of Christ to the Father.
- It calls for and empowers the husband to lovingly lead his wife and to sacrificially serve her. In so doing, he is following the example of Christ to His Bride.

**MORE NEXT WEEK**—*You may start to study the following passages:*

- Ephesians 5:21-33
- 1 Peter 3:1-7

## QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION/GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What is the significance that BOTH male and female are made in the image of God?
2. How do the role/responsibilities of both the man and woman uniquely reflect the image of God?
3. What are some evidences of the headship of man in Genesis 2?
4. How did the Curse damage the relationship between men and women?
5. How has the Cross promised to restore this relationship?