

## FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH

### God's Design for the Roles of Men and Women

#### Week 2: God's Design for Men

##### The Creation of Man

- <sup>7</sup> *Then Yahweh God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and so the man became a living being. **Genesis 2:7***
  - Observations: Man is formed first, before the woman. She is not present during the man's instruction and first acts.
  - Man is formed from the earth, and is physically comprised of creational matter. He receives his invisible personal substance, however, from God. He is both material and immaterial, with his life/soul being from God Himself.
  - Thus, man's life is not his own, and he belongs body and soul, to the one who both formed him and gave him his being. Man is made by God, for God, and in dependence upon God.
    - Application: Men are inherently endowed with responsibility to carryout the commands of God, as "firstborn." This is how Adam serves as the federal head of humanity. Men, by design, carry headship.
    - Man has two natures, being both material and immaterial. Thus, not all nourishment, healing, and needs will be physical for man.
    - Man is naturally oriented to fear, love, and worship his Creator.

##### The Duties of man

- <sup>15</sup> *Then Yahweh God took the man and set him in the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. **Genesis 2:15***

- Observations: God decided the purpose and labor of man, not the man.
- Man is given the duty of cultivating the garden. This word carries the notion of laboring/toiling in the service of another, as a servant/slave. So man is tasked with enhancing and furthering the garden beyond what God gave him, on behalf of God.
- Man is also told to keep it. This word means to watch or guard, carefully. So man is commanded to secure and preserve the creation from harm.
  - Application: Our vocation is set by God, not man.
  - We work for God's glory, not our own. And our work should be aimed at furthering the glory of what God has already made in creation (make apple pie with apples).
  - Man has a duty of working to protect and preserve God's good creation.  
We are guards/warriors for that which has been entrusted to us.
- <sup>16</sup> *And Yahweh God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may surely eat; <sup>17</sup> but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat from it; for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."* **Genesis 2:16-17**
  - Observations: Adam is entrusted with the commands, and expected to be the one who bears the responsibility of teaching and imparting them to Eve. This is why Adam is the one who was questioned about the events surrounding the fall. It is also the logic Paul will ground his argument against women teachers/preachers in 1 Tim. 2:13
    - Application: Men ought to take seriously their duties to be those who teach the commands and instructions of God to their families.

- <sup>19</sup> *And out of the ground Yahweh God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and He brought each to the man to see what he would call it; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.* <sup>20</sup> *And the man gave names to all the cattle and to the birds of the sky and to every beast of the field;* **Genesis 2:19-20**
  - Observation: In the ancient world, naming something symbolized one's right of authority over it. Thus, the man is shown to have authority over the created earth and the creatures therein. He is the one appointed by God to rule/govern.
    - Application: Men are naturally endowed with a sense of authority and rulership by design. That is not to speak to whether or not their rule is righteous or wicked, but merely that they are designed in principle for it.

### **Man's Insufficiency**

- <sup>18</sup> *Then Yahweh God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."* **Genesis 2:18**
  - Observations: Men are insufficient for the tasks and duties entrusted them alone. They require a suitable companion who is distinct from them, and capable of complimenting their deficiencies.
    - Application: God has not designed men to be alone, or capable of fulfilling the divine mandate of taking dominion on their own. They are in real need of a "helpmate" to bolster their efforts.
- *but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him* <sup>21</sup> *So Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.* <sup>22</sup> *And Yahweh God fashioned the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman, and He brought her to the man.* <sup>23</sup> *Then the man said,*

*“This one finally is bone of my bones,*

*And flesh of my flesh;*

*This one shall be called Woman,*

*Because this one was taken out of Man.”* **Genesis 2:20-23**

- Observations: God formed a new creature, not just like the man, but equal to the man in essence, worth, and value. The woman is not taken from his foot, symbolizing being beneath him, nor his head, symbolizing being over him. She is taken from his side, symbolizing her equality.
- The woman is brought to the man to name, like the other creatures. This again symbolizes his inherent authority and responsibility for her, but does not diminish her. She is not an animal, but equal to the man.
- The man cherishes his wife and recognizes her as his equal, and as gift/blessing.
  - Application: Women are not inferior to men, but share in the same humanity and divine life/imago Dei. They are co-regents with man.
  - Men exercise a distinct sense of authority and responsibility, particularly within marriage. Women are not inherently under the authority of all men, but that of their father/husband.
  - Men ought to be ordered toward a disposition of charity and love towards fellow man, especially their wives.
- <sup>24</sup> *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother, and cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.* **Genesis 2:24**
  - Observations: Men (and conversely women) are designed for marriage.

- In marriage, the man and woman, who are two distinct persons occupying distinct roles, become one being, sharing in the same essence. They reflect the very nature of God.
  - Application: Men ought to expect to marry. There are exceptions to the rule, but they prove the rule.
  - While marriage partners will occupy distinct roles and duties, like God, they are equal in worth and being, sharing in the same essence.