

**God's Design for Women**  
**Gender Matters Message Series Week 2**  
Pastor Jeff Burkholder  
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**A. Understanding God's design for women:**

**1. Women are created in the image of God.**  
(Genesis 1:26-27)

"Humans are not identical to God, but they are made to be like God in features such as their moral aspects, spiritual aspects, mental aspects, and relational aspects. Humans can know God in ways that the rest of creation cannot."

Andrew T. Walker, *God and the Transgender Debate*,  
The Good Book Company, 2022, pp. 51-52.

**2. God created women to be "helpers." (Genesis 2:20-23)**

"This term 'helper' has gotten a bad rap. But it was actually God's solution to an otherwise unsolvable problem. Man needed a helper fit for him. 'Helper' in the original Hebrew means the one who supplies strength in the area that is lacking. This isn't a wimpy role! This isn't a wimpy word."

Jonathan Parnell and Owen Strachan, *Designed for Joy*,  
Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2015, p. 55.

**3. God created women to be "life-givers." (Genesis 3:20)**

**Key Point: God designed men and women to have different roles but equal value.**

“Please hear me carefully: that men and women are different makes absolutely no difference to the worth, dignity, and respect each deserve. God made men and women different in function, and equal in worth. A man’s calling to lead and protect is no better, no more virtuous, and no more important than a woman’s design to nurture and mother. In both instances, men and women are called to joyfully submit to the unique callings that God has made for men and women.

We can sum up God’s design for men and women in this way: equal, and different; intentional, not interchangeable.”

Andrew T. Walker, *God and the Transgender Debate*,  
The Good Book Company, 2022, pp. 63-34.

## **B. How do women live out their unique design?**

- 1. Avoid stereotypes: Embrace your God-given personality and calling.** Rahab (Joshua 2-6), Ruth (Book of Ruth), Esther (Book of Esther), Deborah (Judges 4:3-10, 14-16)
- 2. Don’t listen to the voices: Live for an audience of One.** (Galatians 1:10)
- 3. Live with a purpose: Mentor younger women.** (Titus 2:3-5)
- 4. Find joy in being a “helper.”** (Genesis 2:20-23)