



**GENDER DESIGN
& REDEMPTION**

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THE WOUNDED HEART

“Insight alone does not provide the impetus to change destructive behavior it only creates a context for more *fervent repentance*. At its worst, an understanding of motivation may lead to fascinating intrigue, self-absorptive and introspection, and a focus away from issues of *sin, salvation, and sanctification*. The solution, of course, resides on the heart of the explorer. The person who plaintively cries out from her core, “Lord, see if there be any secret, harmful way in me,” will eventually be blessed with a picture of her sin and God’s nurturing provision of grace. The one who explores human motivation out of an ultimate desire to explain away the horror of sin or the profound need for a Savior will pleasantly ruminate about motivation without conviction or change.”

MALE & FEMALE AS
DISTINCT IMAGE BEARERS

male

ruler of the earth
strength

female

ruler of relationship
tenderness



CURSE OF THE FALL

**THE CURSE POINTS US TO OUR
NEED FOR REDEMPTION**

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

- Genesis 3:15



**THE CURSE IS PAIN
THAT CAN TRANSFORM
OR REFORM**

GENESIS 3:16

¹⁶ 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.”

CURSE FOR WOMEN IS:

- 1) pain in childbirth
- 2) conflict with husband

CURSE FOR WOMEN

Biblical Text: **“Pain in Childbirth”**

Implication: *Women are designed uniquely to give birth and therefore are those who uniquely create relationships*

Principle: **Pain in Relationships**

CURSE FOR WOMEN

Biblical Text: **“Conflict with Husband”**

Implication: *Women are designed uniquely to be “suitable helpers” and therefore were made for relationships.*

Principle: **Conflict in Relationships**

More specifically:

Biblical text: **Desire to Control Husband/ Ruled Harshly by Husband**

Principle: **Control relationships/ Controlled by relationships**

GENESIS 4:7

“But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at
your door;
it *desires* to have you,
but you must rule over it.”



Significant result of the Curse for Women:

LONELINESS

EXAMPLES OF THE CURSE FOR WOMEN

Filling the ache of loneliness with things:

- Food (or lack of food)
- Alcohol
- Fashion
- Facebook

Filling the ache of loneliness with people (in a way that is more about *you* than *them*):

- Using people to feel liked
- using our children to create the "perfect" family
- using spouse/significant other to feel "connected"

EXAMPLES OF THE CURSE FOR WOMEN

Filling the ache of loneliness with behaviors:

- Busyness
- Exercise
- Gossip
- Watching TV
- Cooking



**WOMEN'S DESIGN & REDEMPTION:
*INVITING OTHERS TO
RELATIONSHIP***

GENESIS 3:17-19

¹⁷ To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”

CURSE FOR MAN IS:

- 1) Futility
- 2) Decay

CURSE FOR MEN

Biblical Text: **“Painful Toil”**

Implication: *Men are designed uniquely to “work the earth” and therefore are those who uniquely go forth and make an impact.*

Principle: **Pain in going forth and making an impact**



MEN'S DESIGN & REDEMPTION:
*GOING FORTH &
MAKING AN IMPACT*



Significant result of the Curse for Men:

ANGER & PASSIVITY

EXAMPLES OF THE CURSE FOR MEN

- Make an idol of their jobs and become workaholics.
- Jobs simply become means to finance the “hobbies” in their lives where they feel adventure.
 - playing sports
 - video games
 - watching sports in the “man cave”
 - collecting gadgets
- Passively abstain from “going forth to make an impact” in any area in their life that they feel fearful of or inadequate in
 - with spouses
 - their children
 - their friends (keep it superficial and let them be)

STASI & JOHN ELDREDGE
CAPTIVATING

“For Adam is captured best in motion, *doing* something. His essence is *strength in action*. That is what he speaks to the world. He bears the image of God, who is a warrior. On behalf of God, Adam says, “God will come through. God is on the move.” That is why a passive man is so disturbing. His passivity defies his essence. It violates the way he bears God’s image. A passive man says, “God will not come through. He is not acting on your behalf.” “ (37)

ALLENDER & LONGMAN
INTIMATE ALLIES

“When a man is weak, he denies the holiness and strength of God; when a woman controls, she denies the mercy and tenderness of God. But it need not be that way. When both husbands and wives labor to grow into the likeness of God as men and women, they will equally grow and shape the other: a strong husband will draw forth the strong tenderness of his wife, and a tender wife will birth the tender strength of her husband. And the result will fill the earth and subdue it to God’s character.”

