



**GENDER DESIGN
& REDEMPTION**

grad & career spring '11



CREATION

GENESIS 1:27

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the *image of God* he created them;
male and female he created them.

**BRUCE WALTKE - *GENESIS: A
COMMENTARY***

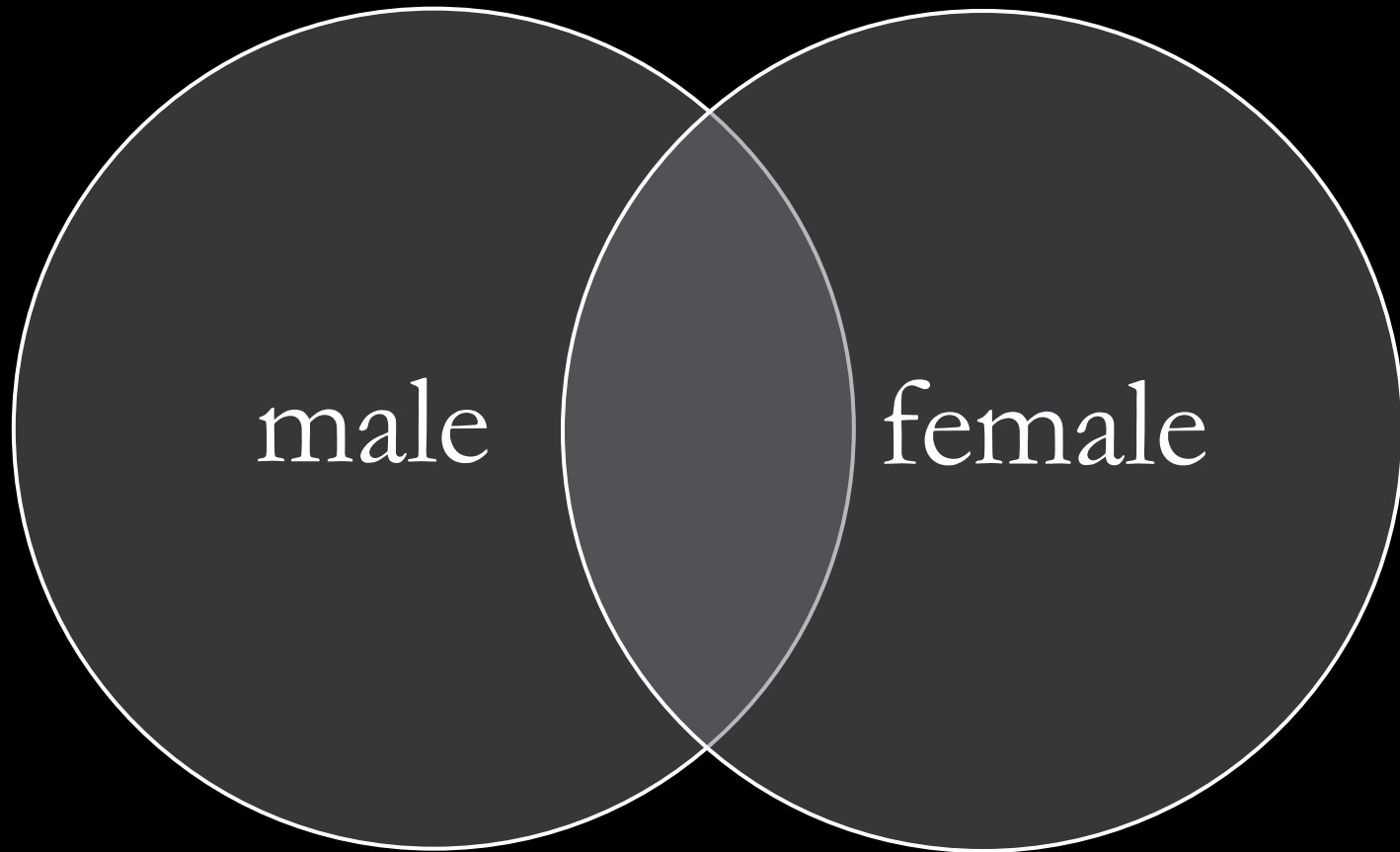
“Hart explains, “In the Ancient Near East it was widely believed that a god’s spirit lived in any statue or image of that god, with the result that the image could function as a kind of representative of or substitute for the god wherever it was placed. It was customary in the ANE to think of a king as a representative of a god; obviously the king ruled, and the god was the ultimate ruler, so the king must be ruling on the god’s behalf. It is therefore not surprising that these two separate ideas became connected and a king came to be described as an image of a god.” The Hebrew perspective bears a distinct difference. In ancient Near Eastern texts only the king is the image of God. But in the Hebrew perspective this is democratized to all humanity. “The text is saying that exercising royal dominion over the earth as God’s representative is the basic purpose for which God created man,” explains Hart.”

DAN ALLENDER
- *INTIMATE ALLIES*

“A marriage is made up of two equal but profoundly different beings; each reflects the character of God in ways that give a unique picture of His character.”

“God's character cannot be captured by His human image bearer, but each gender typically accentuates certain aspects of God's character.”

HUMANS, MALE & FEMALE, AS
EQUAL IMAGE BEARERS



**GENESIS 1:28 – THE
CULTURAL MANDATE**

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

CAROLYN CUSTIS JAMES
LOST WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

“God is the king, but he called Eve (along with Adam) to be his vice regents – next in rank to God himself in the creation. As his vice regent, as his image bearer, Eve’s goal was to align herself with God at every possible level – to share his heart, imitate his ways, love what he loved, and join him in his work.

It is the rarest of privileges, the highest of honors, the most daunting challenge imaginable. A simple list of attributes barely scratches the surface of all it means to bear God’s image.”

CAROLYN CUSTIS JAMES
WHEN LIFE AND BELIEFS COLLIDE.

“The command to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth was never simply about populating the earth with human beings but with filling it with *worshippers* of the living God. Every child we encounter, every adult we meet, is an opportunity for us to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth...the mandate to subdue and rule was never purely about government, science, technology, and exploration. It too was theological – a call to apply God’s truth to every sphere of human life and to uphold the Creator’s honor throughout all the earth. Adam and Eve’s calling, as male and female, was to reflect and fight for God’s glory (not their own) throughout the world.”



CREATION OF MAN

GENESIS 2:5-7, 15

⁵ Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, ⁶ but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. ⁷ Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being... ¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

IMPLICATIONS

Biblical text: Adam was made *from* earth *for* the purpose of working the earth.

Principle: Man was made *from* earth *for* earth (adventure).



**CREATION OF
WOMAN**

GENESIS 2:18, 20-23

¹⁸ The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” ... 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.

GENESIS 2:18, 20-23

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.”

BRUCE WALTKE
GENESIS: A COMMENTARY

“The word *helper*, used for God sixteen of the nineteen times it appears in the Old Testament, signifies woman’s essential contribution, not inadequacy...The Hebrew [for suitable] means ‘equal and adequate.’ Men and women differ in sexuality but are equals as bearers of God’s image and in their standing before God.”

MATTHEW HENRY

The woman is “not made out of his head to top him, not 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.”

CAROLYN CUSTIS JAMES
LOST WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

”Thinking regarding the *ezer* began to change when scholars pointed out that the word *ezer* is used most often (sixteen of twenty-one occurrences) in the Old Testament to refer to God as Israel’s helper in times of trouble. That’s when *ezer* was upgraded to “strong helper”, leaving Christians debating among themselves over the meaning of “strong” and whether this affects a woman’s rank with respect to men. Further research indicates that *ezer* is a powerful Hebrew military word whose significance we have barely begun to unpack. The *ezer* is a warrior, and this has far reaching implication for women, not only in marriage, but in *every* relationship, season, and walk of life...Adam couldn’t fight these battles alone. So God created the *ezer* as the man’s staunchest ally in the life of faith and in fulfilling the Cultural mandate. Together they exercised dominion and labored to advance God’s kingdom in their own hearts and on earth.”

CAROLYN CUSTIS JAMES,
WHEN LIFE AND BELIEFS COLLIDE.

“The beauty and the complexity of *ezer* is the fact that it is so non-specific. It is purposefully so, for it opens the way for the strong helper to enter into every arena of life with the man – at home, at work, and on the frontiers of knowledge and exploration. The commands to multiply, fill, subdue, and rule the earth mean the sky’s the limit for what a woman can do as a strong helper. Jesus’ command for us to love one another even down to washing of dirty feet means no task is too menial for anyone, male or female, who desires to reflect his image. The parameters for a woman seem to be *expansive*, rather than constrictive, flexible and dynamic in each new situation, rather than woodenly prescribed. Together, male and female would prove daily in a hundred different ways the wisdom of the ancient proverb that “two are better than one” (Eccl. 4:9)”

IMPLICATIONS

Biblical text: Eve was made *from* Adam's rib *for* the purpose of being a suitable helper for Adam.


Principle: Woman was made *from* relationship *for* relationship.



CURSE OF THE FALL

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.”

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- Curse for women is:
- 1) pain in childbirth
 - 2) conflict with husband

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- Struggle is to control relationships.
- Women struggle with eating disorders (6 to 1), codependency (7 to 1), and depression (2 to 1). These are all struggles with consuming tendencies.
- Women wrestle with loneliness—always an emptiness this side of heaven.

DAN ALLENDER
INTIMATE ALLIES.

“The curse implies that her unique calling as the ruler of relationship will be fraught with *pain*, therefore with *loneliness*...If her heart is instructed by the curse, she will continue to offer relationship in freedom and joy, tempered by compassionate sorrow and *strength*.”

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

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- Curse on men is in area of work and making an impact.

DAN ALLENDER
INTIMATE ALLIES.

“The curse implies that his unique calling as the ruler of the earth will be fraught with *frustration*, therefore with *futility*...If his heart is instructed by the curse, he will continue to shape relationship in freedom and joy, tempered by compassionate sorrow and *tenderness*.”

MALE & FEMALE AS
DISTINCT IMAGE BEARERS

male

ruler of the earth
strength

female

ruler of relationship
tenderness

