

Men and women in creation and in marriage

Intro: How related to 5<sup>th</sup> commandment?

A. Men and women are equal in value and dignity

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

1. Meaning of "image of God": to be like God and to represent God
2. The Bible corrects errors of male dominance and male superiority
3. Equal value, equal worth for all eternity
4. Application
  - a. Men:
  - b. Women:
5. Campus Crusade for Christ statement (July 1999)

In a marriage lived according to these truths, the love between husband and wife will show itself in listening to each other's viewpoints, valuing each other's gifts, wisdom, and desires, honoring one another in public and in private, and always seeking to bring benefit, not harm, to one another.

B. Comments on application of this material to single men and women

C. Men and women have different roles in marriage as part of the created order  
(part of the way God created men and women from the beginning)

1. The order : Adam was created first, then Eve (Gen. 2:7, 18-23;)  
(repeated in 1 Tim. 2:13)
2. The representation : Adam, not Eve, represented the human race  
"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22)
3. The naming of woman :  
"Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called (*qārā'*) Woman, because she was taken out of Man.'" (Gen. 2:23)
4. The naming of the human race : God named the human race "man," not "woman"  
Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man (*'adam*) when they were created. (Gen. 5:2)
5. The primary accountability : God spoke to Adam first after the fall  
Genesis 3:9: But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"
6. The purpose : Eve was created "for Adam," not Adam for Eve  
Genesis 2:18: Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."  
1 Corinthians 11:9: "Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man."  
The term "helper": the Hebrew word translated "helper" (*'ezer*) is often used of God  
Psalm 33:20 Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.  
Psalm 70:5 You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!  
Psalm 121:1-2 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.  
The term "fit for" (him): the Hebrew word *kenegdô* means "a help corresponding to him," that is "equal and adequate to himself." (BDB 617).
7. The conflict : The curse brought a distortion of previous roles, not the introduction of new roles:  
Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for [or: against] your husband, and he shall rule over you."  
  
the Hebrew word *teshûqah* ("desire")  
Genesis 4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for [or: against] you, but you must rule over it."  
the Hebrew word *mashal* ("rule"): to rule by superior power or force
8. The restoration : NT salvation in Christ reaffirms the creation order:  
Colossians 3:18-19: Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.
9. The mystery : The relationship between Christ and the church

Ephesians 5:31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

10. The parallel with parallel with the Trinity :

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

D. How does it work in practice?

	Errors of passivity	Biblical ideal	Errors of aggressiveness
Husband	<u>Wimp</u>	Loving, humble headship	<u>Tyrant</u>
Wife	<u>Doormat</u>	Joyful, intelligent submission	<u>Usurper</u>

E. Additional differences: The husband's responsibility to provide for and protect , and the wife's responsibility to care for the the home and to nurture children

1. The husband is the one primarily responsible to provide for his wife and family

Gen 2:15

Gen 2:18-23 with 3:16-17

Isa. 4:1 (shame at tragic undoing of normal order)

1 Tim. 5:8 (historical context: would have assumed a man)

+ the pattern of all adult male occupations in whole Bible

→ primary responsibility does not mean sole responsibility

→ a Biblical pattern, not an absolute rule (much room for variation according to individual circumstances)

2. The wife is the one primarily responsible to care for the home and nurture children

Gen. 3:16-17

Prov. 31:10-31, esp. vss. 13, 15, 21, 27

1 Tim. 5:10

1 Tim. 5:3-6, 14-16

Titus 2:5

the role of "helper" in Gen. 2:18

→ primary responsibility does not mean sole responsibility

→ a Biblical pattern, not an absolute rule (much room for variation according to individual circumstances)

3. The husband is the one primarily responsible to protect his family

a. A pattern of men being the protectors in the Bible

Deut. 20:7-8; Deut. 24:5; Josh. 1:14

Judges 4:8-10 (Barak does not get the glory because he insisted that a woman accompany him into battle)

Neh. 4:13-14 (The people are to fight for their brothers, homes, wives and children, but it does not say they are to fight for their husbands!)

Jer. 50:37 (It is the disgrace of a nation when its warriors become women)

Nah. 3:13 ("Behold, your troops are women in your midst" is a taunt of derision.)

Matt. 2:13-14

b. The obligation of a husband to love his wife as Christ loved the church:

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

4. The complete absence of Biblical evidence on the other side

5. The internal testimony from men's and women's hearts

F. Egalitarian objections ("egalitarian" = "evangelical feminist") and broader implications for society [→ next class!]

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