

Man as Male & Female

Man as Imago Dei – Part Four

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25

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I. Historic Inequality

II. Cultural Transformation

Why is it that, in Western Civilization, we recoil against the mistreatment of women? The answer lies in the life of our Lord Jesus and the teachings of Scripture. C.F. Cervantes writes in the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, “The birth of Jesus Christ was the turning point in the history of woman.” Jesus discarded many of the cultural mores that oppressed women while affirming others that preserved their honor. In all this, Jesus simply lived out what was taught in the law. Within the Ten Commandments, God upholds the equal dignity of father and mother, “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land” (Ex 20:12). He also forbids *adultery* for both men and women, repudiating the double standard of many societies. Hence, after the coming of Christ, the honor afforded by Him and His law to women has accompanied the spread of the Gospel to the nations. So _____ societies have historically forbidden practices that are destructive of the family and degrading to women.

III. Created Male & Female

A. Created Equal (Gen 1:27-28)

²⁶Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Gen 1:27–28)

Male and female are together made in God’s _____. Paul remarked, “neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God” (1 Cor 11:11f). God entrusted man and woman together with the calling to exercise dominion. Hence, when our Lord Christ came to redeem humanity, He rescued both men and women. A man is not dependent upon a woman to have a thriving, abundant life that glorifies God; nor is a woman dependent upon a man. “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28).

B. Created Different (Gen 2:18-25; 1 Cor 11:7-10)

¹⁸And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” ¹⁹Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. ²¹And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²²Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. ²³And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” ²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. (Genesis 2:18–25)

1. Leaders and helpers (20b)

Ray Ortlund writes, “A man may enjoy a form of companionship with a dog, but only on the dog’s level. With a wife, a man finds companionship on his own level, for she is his equal.” She alone is comparable to the man because she possesses equal dignity. At the same time, the man and woman are different. She is Adam’s complement, his _____ in tending and keeping the garden (2:15). He is to lead the work of dominion; she is to assist him in that work.

2. From the man and for the man (21-22)

The woman is taken from the man – she is of the same _____ as the man, of equal worth and dignity. At the same time, she is brought to the man. Hence, the man has a new responsibility. He will now answer for the way in which he leads, provides for, and protects the woman. Men and women are interdependent.

3. Welcoming and naming the woman (23)

Adam recognizes in Eve his _____ – bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh is superlative language. The woman is the glory of man. While the man images God’s authority; the woman images mankind’s glad submission to the Creator of all.

4. Becoming one flesh (24-25)

The man’s and woman’s sexual differentiation enables them to become one flesh. Naked men and naked women are remarkably and gloriously different and, in the sexual union, fulfill different roles. The man initiates and the woman responds. And this sexual differentiation is glorious in the context of _____.

C. Created in the Image of the Triune God (Gen 1:26-27)

The creation of man as male and female is one of the *vestigia Trinitatis* – traces, marks, hints of the _____ found in creation. The unity and diversity that characterize the Triune God are reflected in humanity.

IV. Welcoming Male & Female

A. Beware the lie of Darwinism

B. Rejoice in your sex!

C. Vive le difference! (1 Cor 11:7-10)

*Comparisons
By G.K. Chesterton*

*If I set the sun beside the moon,
And if I set the land beside the sea,
And if I set the town beside the
country,
And if I set the man beside the
woman,
I suppose some fool would talk
about one being better.*

⁷For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. ⁸For man is not from woman, but woman from man. ⁹Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. ¹⁰For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head... (1 Cor 11:7-10)

Man is the “glory of _____”, and woman is the “glory of _____.” Men reveal God’s rule and authority over His creation; women reveal humanity’s calling to submit to and honor God while tending and keeping the world. This difference should be reflected in our cultural mores.