

God's Good Design Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15-25

Introduction

Biblical Manhood and Womanhood Series

October 2—God's Good Design

October 9—Marred by the Fall

October 16—Example of Christ and the Apostles

October 30—Apostolic Directions to the Churches

Genesis 1:26-31

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

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

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." **29** And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall

have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ **And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.** And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:15-25

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

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." ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its

place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

1. Divinely Created Value of Man and Woman

God created both male and female human beings in His image. Therefore, human beings, both male and female, have intrinsic dignity and value. They are wholistic beings whose physical bodies are inseparable from their identity and dignity as image-bearers. Their personhood and their bodies are united.

2. Beneficial Relationship between Man and Woman

God created Adam from the dust, and God created Eve from Adam's rib—same substance, inseparably close, mutually interdependent. Eve corresponded to Adam and completed him—a helper suitable for him. She completed him relationally and vocationally.

Adam valued, cared for, and loved her as his own body. Ephesians 5 builds the husband's obligation to nourish and cherish his wife with self-sacrificial love on this passage and on Christ's love for the church.

The Scriptures show that the mutual dignity, value, and interdependence of Adam and Eve extend beyond husbands and wives to all men and women in their need for beneficial interaction and respectful interdependence.

3. Divine Blessing for Purposeful Work

From this identity as interdependent image bearers of God, God gave them work to do and blessed them to accomplish it.

Their male-female identity is inseparable from the male and female bodies, genetically and physically distinct, yet designed to function together to complete one another and to produce offspring. Without this relationship they could not fulfill God's command to fill the earth and subdue it, exercising dominion over it as the vice-regents of the Creator.

God pronounced special blessing on the first man and woman and their union to accomplish this objective. Adam was created from the dust of the ground, so his focus was to cultivate it in pursuing his God-given purpose to subdue and earth and exercise dominion over everything in it. Eve was

created from Adam's rib, so her focus was to complete him as a person and assist him in his God-given purpose.

4. Connection of Male-Female Roles to Redemption

Even after sin marred themselves, their relationship, their work, and their procreation, God's promise of redemption is still tied to having offspring. "The offspring of the woman will crush the serpent's head."

Next Sunday we will study the Scriptural explanation for how our fall into sin has harmed and twisted both men and women, marring their relationship. But from what Genesis 1-2 reveal we can affirm the following truths regarding violating God's good design:

1. To belittle or harm either men or women attacks their God-designed distinct identities as image-bearers of God.
2. To pursue sexual experience and expression outside of the one-flesh marriage union of one man and one woman violates God's good design.
3. To confuse the gender roles or physical distinctions rebels against God's good design.
4. To redefine one's gender contrary to one's biological identity is to rebel against the good design of the Creator who made us distinctly male and female body and soul.

5. Whenever and however we deny, twist, or resist God's good design for us, we dishonor God and we dishonor ourselves to our harm.

6. Our culture has long denied God is the Creator or even exists. That removes the very foundation of who we are (identity), why we matter (value), and why we exist (purpose).