

XIII. God's Blueprint in Biblical Perspective
Foundations from Genesis
Foundation #5 – The Sanctity of Gender – Part 5
Masculinity and Christian Manhood
Genesis 1–2
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This topic is so crucial given the progression of the LGBTQIA and the T (transgenderism) which really doesn't fit yet is has come to dominate it in the last year or so. It has become a foundation for child abuse in the surgical mutilation of minors. It has become the foundation for chemical destruction as various chemicals are used to deny the progress and the created realities of puberty through the process of adolescence. There has been an extortion of what can be anticipated in some cases, usually about 3 to 5 percent of adolescent, will some time to some degree deal with has been called gender dysphoria. But now because of the extoling of transgenderism, the notion that there is a me inside of me that is in opposition to what the God made me is, where bodies have become almost canvases for manipulation. These surgeries are irreversible and the consequences not only physically but emotionally are great. This is why this matter on gender is so important.

I don't think we grasp it in the evangelical and reformed world. Those that need counseling we have given them but for those who haven't been able to address it and go into the mental disorder of transgender confusion, we would extend counseling to as they move out of adolescence but in today's society and culture it is promoted as a badge and opportunity for significance, thus cases have now risen from a small percentage to 600 percent more than they were 20 years ago, affirming some kind of gender dysphoria and beyond that gender rejection. That is where we are in that particular jagged edge of the alphabet.

For some reason I don't think we sense the crucial nature of this yet I think it is something we need to prepare ourselves for so in this series I have taken up the sanctities that take on a Christian world and life view from the book of Genesis. We have looked at the sanctities of Divine revelation, creation, life, man and we will eventually look at the sanctity of the Sabbath, of work, marriage, Biblical sexuality and all of those things but I'm honestly camping on this for now because I believe the pulpit ministry is the initiating of discipling of people and has a cascading effect through communities and small groups.

In this study I want to look at some key passages of Scriptures in order to understand gender and the sanctity of God making man – male and female, masculinity and femininity – in terms of creation masculinity and femininity. Then we'll look at the fall of man and its impact upon masculinity and femininity, toxic by nature of sin. Then we'll look at redemption and its impact to restore Biblical masculinity and femininity in God's common grace and then Christian manhood and Christian womanhood in God's redeeming grace. Then we'll look at what it means for a Christian man or woman to be single, what it means to be a Christian husband and Christian wife, then to a Christian father and Christian mother, being a Christian in the public square in the world.

One of the things being done to attack masculinity is the claim of toxic masculinity. I think sin has cursed our understanding of masculinity and femininity, but I don't believe the current sexual revolution isn't saying there is a toxic masculinity but it's saying masculinity is toxic. I not only reject that but I actually think the great need today is Biblical masculinity and

we need Biblical femininity instead of toxic femininity that attacks masculinity. In this series we'll look at how to address this from God's Word. This would bring us to redemption for our only hope is what Christ does by His grace and thankfully God's work through Christ has a strand of grace that is common grace – no one gets saved by this, but it restrains and retards sin and by salt and light it begins to make certain things embraced in a culture because of the impact of Biblical Christianity. Then there is the strain of redemptive grace which is what brings the compulsion of common grace into culture, where men and women understand Christian manhood and womanhood in their life as a whole and in the world.

So, let's get into this study by looking at the profile of masculinity and femininity. We will see as we start off binaries in creation. Genesis 1:1-2 says [1] *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. [2] The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.* Next comes the creation week but I'll not go into that here, but the creation week is by the hand of God after the ex-nihilo creation of bringing everything into existence, which comes the act in what He has made – space, time and matter – and the binary continues. Examples are the earth – land and sea, light and darkness, etc., until the act of creation there was no binary, there was only God.

The first binary is when God made the creation for His glory to reflect His glory. Then from that Creator/creation dynamic come all of the binaries and each one that is made is said to be good. Then He gets to the concluding binary in which the vice regent of the creation that is made in His image is established and that is man. Man is made with two genders – binary – male and female.

Genesis 1:26-31 says [26] *Then God said, "Let us make man in **Our image, after Our likeness.** And let them (binary) 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."* (vice regents who are made to lead)

[27] *So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* (Just as God is One in three Persons, man is one in two genders, created equal (not interchangeability) but different)

[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.*

Isn't it wonderful that God's Word gives us the opportunity to eavesdrop on the Divine conversation of the Trinity as we see in Genesis 1:26? So why does man exist – male and female? It is not the Supreme Court's idea or convention's idea or a cultural idea, for it's God's declaration, decree. Man is made to lead, delegated by God over everything He has created. Now let's look at the focus of male and female upon the sixth day. Man is now in the Garden, his home upon the earth and he has begun to tend it, defend it and name the animals. Then comes the prohibition of them not to eat to of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they trespass God's law it will result in death.

Let's continue in Genesis 2:18-25 which says [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.*

When God says it's not good for man to be alone this had nothing to do with anything psychologically, emotionally or relationally but because he had been made relationally he has been made functionally to do what God has commanded him to do with another and He doesn't make another male, nor does He eradicate Adam and make two females. God makes a reflection of Adam and that becomes Isha – woman, the female. She is a standard bearer, one of equality, a co-regent in unity, governing the earth, filling the earth and necessary to be able to govern, have dominion, subdue the earth and fill it. She is his completer, helper to help him accomplish the creation mandate given by God. The man names the woman thereby claiming his authoritative responsibility and then he defines her. Here is the blessed binary to oversee the creation of binary and who is the representative of the Creator who is a part of His creation. Now in creation we see the male and the female.

What is creation – masculinity and femininity? I wish I could tell you there are all kinds of helps out there. There are some people who have written on it in various aspects and degrees but I'm going to give you what I believe Biblical masculinity and femininity is and this is all prior to the fall. We don't have toxic masculinity and toxic femininity. What I will give you has been blessed and declared as good due to it being prior to the fall. To do so, I'm going to make two comments that have influenced me in trying to identify creation masculinity and femininity.

Here is the first comment. The way God makes us is an indicator of what God calls us to do. God is calling Adam to subdue the earth, have authority over all the creation that fills the earth, and multiply other image bearers to fill the earth. Adam is made from the earth, the dust of the ground. To accomplish this task he needs a helper, completer. God reaches to obtain the woman from the side of the man in order for them to be co-regents to fulfill the creation mandate. She is not from his head for she is not over her and she is not from his feet for she is not under him. She comes alongside of him.

I always think about Jesus when I'm going through this. Jesus is the Second Adam. Who is His bride? The Church. Where does she come from? His side – the blood of Christ purchased His bride – the spear went in and the blood flowed. What are we? We are joint heirs with Christ. What was Eve? A joint regent with Adam at creation. This act of creation gives us insights into the purpose of the creation of Adam and Eve.

The second comment is that function determines form. Form is either an asset to function or it is a hindrance. When my wife and I were in Charlotte, God allowed us to have a wonderful

piece of property where we could build a house and these were the questions we asked before we built it. What do we believe a house should do for us, as a husband and wife? What does our family need for we had three children? Then as we thought about ministry there were five things we wanted our house to be able to do in ministry. Now we were ready to draw out the plans to build. The form followed the function.

The creation was unformed and unfilled. So, God forms it to accomplish what He is going to fill it to do so when you look at His creation, He has made Adam and Eve for a purpose – subdue the earth, rule over it as joint vice regents and be fruitful and multiply. God made Adam for a purpose from the dust of the ground and God made Eve for a purpose as to what she is to do. You are equal but you are different. The form and the function are related. So to understand masculinity and femininity we not only look at how they were created but what they were created to do as male and female. So, the following is the way I want to sum up Biblical masculinity and femininity.

Creation masculinity is the man was made to love and lead. He is to love the Lord. He is to love all that the Lord has made and he is to love all that the Lord has given him to do. He is called to embrace that with love to the One who has made him for the intimate personal relationship with God. God made Adam to love and that's why He would come to be with him in the Garden and Adam with love to the Lord would love all that the Lord has made and he would embrace the binaries. Adam would not rebel against them but love them, preserve them and nurture them.

So, what does it mean as a man – masculine – to love and lead prior to the fall? It means the man was made to propagate. The man was made to provide and the man was made to protect. You are probably thinking if there is no sin what is he going to protect from? God knows he needs to be there to protect because He knows there is going to be a fall before the fall and that is the fall of Satan who will come after this good creation and he will go after the one who was made – male and female – to govern it. We see what the man is to do by the language used – to subdue, to have dominion – he is to give loving authority. He is to lead with love and to lovingly lead. He is to propagate it and fill it – tend it and defend it – provide and protect. Loving leadership is masculinity.

What about the woman? She is called to love and complete. Loving completeness is femininity. I just made that word up but feel free to use it. We use the word complementarian. She is not conquered by him and she doesn't conquer him. She is not in competition with him but she is a complementarian reflection of him. She also loves the Lord and what the Lord has given. She is called to love her husband even as he is called to love and lead her. She is called to love and complete him so that together they would be able to do what God has called them to do – subdue the earth, have dominion and be fruitful and multiply. Together they are not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but they did and that's the fall. So there is toxic masculinity and femininity because of the curse of sin.

I realize I will probably be challenged in what I'm about to give to you but I am confident in the Biblical exegesis of what I'm about to give you. Let's look now at the fall that happens in Genesis 3. We will see right from verse 1 that clearly there has been a fall in creation from the angelic host and one of those is now called Satan, the adversary, the devil, the great serpent, as his initial invasion of God's creation through the disguise of a serpent.

Genesis 3:1-7 says [1] *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"* [2] *And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of*

*the trees in the garden, [3] but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” [4] But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (a deceptive promise) [6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to **her husband who was with her**, and he ate. [7] Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*

Satan questions the Word of God to them. As a pastor, father and husband, I want to tell you that I am unabashedly committed to trying to produce Christian men who understand Christian manhood. I do believe there is toxic masculinity but I believe the answer is Biblical masculinity that knows how to be guided by the Spirit of God and the Word of God to Christian manhood in every relationship and responsibility of life. I believe another great need is Biblical femininity that is seen in Christian womanhood so no longer does the woman stand in opposition to manhood in rebellion against God and manhood no longer brings a toxic response to femininity because of his sin nature as well. In making disciples I believe in the whole counsel of God and so we have to address creation masculinity and femininity – how God made us, what sin did to bring toxic masculinity and femininity and what the Gospel does to bring the remedy of grace – common grace and redeeming grace – to bring Christian manhood and womanhood. I’m thankful for those who are embracing to move forward as we attempt to engage in understanding these three aspects.

To understand the effects of the fall I believe we need to look at three texts. I believe Dr. Johnny Gibson on this where the most hated verse in the Bible from Satan all the way throughout humanity is Genesis 1:1 which says *[1] In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* That is why Satan comes and says ‘Did God actually say...?’ Satan wants to attack the inerrancy, sufficiency, veracity and reliability of the Word of God. We see in Genesis 3:2-3 that Eve misquotes God where her fixation is not on God’s Word but on the tree because she has added to what God has said. We have two problems in relation to God’s Word – adding and subtracting – which is why Jesus said ‘cursed is the one who adds or takes away from the Word of God.’

We see the three snares of Satan right here from the beginning. The lust of the flesh is one for it was desirable to eat. Second is the lust of the eyes for it was beautiful to look at and then thirdly is the boastful pride of life, in which it would make them to think they would be God. Eve is already like God but what she is hearing from Satan is that she can be God. Adam is right there with her for in the narrative it is ‘with her’ in the present. Then she led him and he ate. Genesis 3:7 has shown us that works salvation has begun to cover guilt and shame. That won’t work so they will hide in the trees. That won’t work so then they will hide from God. Then we have the first recorded speaking of God in His creation.

Genesis 3:8-13 says *[8] And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” [10] And he said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” [11] He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” [12] The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” [13] Then the LORD God*

said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The question God asks in Genesis 3:9 – where are you – is a pregnant question with multiple implications. The least of them is where are you hiding. They are playing hide and seek and thinks God can’t find them? He knows where they are. He is speaking to their hearts. As the Lord makes His inquiry, they hide from Him. They have tried loin cloths and leaves and yet they said they were still naked – our works don’t cover up sin’s guilt and shame. God addresses the issue by asking them ‘what have you done?’ Adam says to God ‘the woman You gave me gave me the fruit and I ate.’ Adam is basically saying there is no such thing as sin for it’s just a syndrome and the syndrome is dysfunctionality, so I have a dysfunctional wife and so he blames her and God because He is the one who gave her to him. Adam claims the victim. There is no confession of sin here. There is no acknowledgment of him being there while the deception took place.

Adam having been first created for that purpose to care for her and yet he abandoned it. Adam could have said at any time ‘Hey Eve you just misquoted God. I just named all the animals and I didn’t find any talking snakes, something is wrong here. They are not made in the image of God with the ability to communicate.’ He could have just said ‘no.’ He could have said to God ‘I ate and so did the woman, but take me in her place.’ Instead of throwing her under the proverbial bus of God’s judgment. There will be a Second Adam (Jesus) who will say that; ‘take Me’ for His bride – take Me not her. So we see the entrance of sin and we begin to see the toxic masculinity and femininity but not yet fully. We will come back to this text when we get to the sanctity of marriage but let’s look at little further in Genesis 3.

There will be the curse in the animal world, on the land, upon the serpent and this is Satan himself. Genesis 3:14-15 says [14] *The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. [15] I will put enmity between you and the woman (this continues today because the woman is the church – the bride of Christ), and between your offspring (seed) and her offspring (seed); he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*

Our enemy has been defeated but he hasn’t been destroyed so he still has that enmity. Satan can’t get at God but he can get at God’s creation and God’s people. We are the offspring of the redemptive woman that God has appointed, His church. The woman is going to have a Seed. Genesis 3:15 is the first communication of the Gospel. Here is a woman whom God has appointed who will have a Seed which is the anticipation of the virgin birth because women don’t have seed but miraculously there will be a woman who has seed. Her Seed will go to war with Satan, the great serpent and it will be a true battle for this will not only be the Son of God having come in the flesh but the Son of Man who will be bruised and battered, His heel but He will deliver the bruise upon the head. Which is lethal – the bruise of the heel or the bruise of the head? The serpent is crushed and defeated at the cross and now the head is being fully crushed by Christ’s church as so described in the book of Romans. The Gospel proclamation is given to us and even the affirmation of what will become a prophecy of the virgin birth. Now we look further to see what God says to the woman.

Genesis 3:16 says [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 contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.**”* Now the curse of sin falls upon the man and the woman and all that they represent. Men read this and think ‘this sounds pretty good to me.’ No, you

need to exegete the word desire in this verse. This word in the Hebrew is used only three times in the Old Testament. It is used here (Genesis 3), Genesis 4 and the Song of Solomon. I want to show you the passage in Genesis 4 that has to do with the sin of Cain.

Cain has brought inadequate worship that God did not receive while his brother Abel's worship had been received. What does God say when the depression of sin hits Cain? Genesis 4:5-7 says [5] *but for Cain and his offering God had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.* [6] *The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? [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 contrary to you, but you must rule over it.**"* Here we see the lion picture. Sin's desire is to devour you. The word devour is a picture of a lion crouching at the door and its desire is for you. What do we call that lion at the door? A predator and the one coming out of the door is its prey. The predator is crouching for one thing – its appetite is for you. That is the understanding for the word desire used in Genesis 3.

Sorry men, it does not mean untouched by grace has this unbelievable desire for you – on the contrary. The fallen femininity desire is to devour the man and his masculinity. That is the internal desire of the lost in their femininity – toxic femininity. What is the desire of Adam? Look at his response in the curse of sin in Genesis 3:16. It says that 'he shall rule over you' and that does not mean loving leadership. The word rule is a Hebrew noun that has been turned into a verb and the noun is tyrant – he will tyrannize the woman. How do men in toxic masculinity tyrannize women? They do it two ways. Either they ignore and isolate or intimidate and decimate. This is what men do in response which equates to toxic masculinity. This is toxic femininity and toxic masculinity in its war against God.

Now do you see why Christian marriages focus upon men laying down their lives for their wives instead of tyrannizing and women respecting and submitting instead of attempting to conquer, eradicate and emasculate their husbands? You might be thinking 'that's not me, for I want my husband to be a man' then thank God because He gave you that desire for that would have not have been the natural desire. If you're a man who doesn't want to tyrannize your wife then also thank God because He is the One who gave you the change from the sin nature that would have reigned within you. Perhaps you meet people who aren't Christians who don't even do this, then you can thank God for common grace that restrains them.

In our next study we will see what God's answer to this is, but we'll first finish up what I didn't get to on the fall and that is toxic humanity. In the next study we will pick up in Romans 1 which declares man unaffected by grace is in an all out war against every binary that God has created because of the war against the binary of the Creator and the creation. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time we could be together in Your Word and to do the dive into this subject matter. Lord, I love preaching but Lord I also thank you for the privilege of teaching with some preaching thrown in. Father, awaken Your people with Your Word to the glories of Christ's solution to the toxic masculinity and femininity of sin with the glorious redemptive work of Christ by grace to bring Biblical masculinity and femininity that will be displayed in Christian manhood and womanhood, in lives, marriages, families and throughout the world. In Jesus' Name, I pray, Amen.