

Title: Grace in a Curse (Genesis 3:16)
(Illustrate it with Adam/Eve)

Men and women... such different creatures, given different capacities and graced with different curses, all by the same Creator.

God is so gracious and good... that He cursed us in such a way that we have these reminders of the fall every single day of our lives. Which, by design, is to remind us we need Him and His mercy.

Keep in mind, we are many years and many miles away from the context of marriage and the causality man found in the garden. Therefore, being that far down the road from "home" comes with lots of disfunction and drama that has become more and more evident the farther we journey from both the command and curses pronounced over Eve and Adam. But we have been so richly blessed to have a living record and historical reference to when God blessed and cursed them and their offspring (us), found in Genesis.

What was one of the dynamics of the curse? "Eve, your longing will be for your husband's (love, affection and attention, all of it), and he shall rule over you (he'll take on the duty to lead, protect and provide for you the children you birth)" (Genesis 3:16).

So, among the pain, sorrow, sickness, disease, divorce, hurt, separation, death and destruction, to name just a few, the marriage union, between a man and his wife, will bear its own reminders of the fall.

Remember, things have only gotten worse since then and the lines have been so blurred by a fallen world that these truths are foreign to many, but originally we find this to be a very accurate description of men and women back then, and among many today.

Women will long, crave and need the FULL love, affection and attention of their husband.

Husbands will see and understand their role as more of a DUTY to lead, protect and provide for his wife and need their FULL respect to fulfill their duty.

She longs for ALL his love and he needs ALL of her respect... these are part of the curse and reminders that we are children of wrath and products of the fall.

This is why women are admonished to RESPECT their husbands as the church does her King. And men are instructed to LOVE their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. (Ephesians 5)

And ultimately, by grace, as part of the fall, we can't FULLY meet these needs the way we, in a marriage need them met... so, by design and through a curse, God made it in such a way that we would turn to the Lord and plead for His mercy and grace. Everything about the fall is designed to remind us how we need His mercy that we may be driven, out of our despair, to cry out for help. We see this very thought taught and illustrated by Paul in Acts 17:24-31.

Men and women have been trying ways to FULFILL this longing and need from the beginning and have so muddied the waters and made an absolute mess of a gracious curse. In an attempt for love and respect men and women have searched high and low for it and will continue to do so. But the differences in our capacities and curse were given through mercy, so men and women would come to the end of themselves, and the end of each other, and seek Him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:23)

Accept it, your different and you both have different needs. She needs love, he needs respect... and the one who can answer both of those needs and bridge the differences between them both is Jesus. So be patient with one another, get back to the original context and curse and ask the Lord of grace and glory to help you both.

There's so much more to this but I pray this will help you while encouraging you to seek the one who made you to display His glory and grace. Glory...