

Genesis 2:18-25 – A House For My Name: The Glory of Femininity – July 23,

2023

1. Please take a moment once again to consider what you believe about how male and female are to relate to each other and to the world, and consider where these ideas came from
2. Mallory Millett – *Feminism’s Ruined Lives*
 - a. *“How could twelve American women who were the most respectable types imaginable – clean and privileged graduates of esteemed institutions: Columbia, Radcliffe, Smith, Wellesley, Vassar; the uncle of one was Secretary of War under Franklin Roosevelt – plot such a thing? Most had advanced degrees and appeared cogent, bright, reasonable and good. How did these people rationally believe they could succeed with such vicious grandiosity? And why? I dismissed it as academic-lounge air-castle-building. I continued with my new life in New York while my sister became famous publishing her books, featured on the cover of “Time Magazine.” “Time” called her “the Karl Marx of the Women’s Movement.” This was because her book laid out a course in Marxism 101 for women. Her thesis: The family is a den of slavery with the man as the Bourgeoisie and the woman and children as the Proletariat. The only hope for women’s “liberation” (communism’s favorite word for leading minions into inextricable slavery; “liberation,” and much like “collective” – please run from it, run for your life) was this new “Women’s Movement.” Her books captivated the academic classes and soon “Women’s Studies” courses were installed in colleges in a steady wave across the nation with Kate Millett books as required reading.*

Imagine this: a girl of seventeen or eighteen at the kitchen table with Mom studying the syllabus for her first year of college and there's a class called "Women's Studies." "Hmmm, this could be interesting," says Mom. "Maybe you could get something out of this."

Seems innocuous to her. How could she suspect this is a class in which her innocent daughter will be taught that her father is a villain? Her mother is a fool who allowed a man to enslave her into barbaric practices like monogamy and family life and motherhood, which is a waste of her talents. She mustn't follow in her mother's footsteps. That would be submitting to life as a mindless drone for some domineering man, the oppressor, who has mesmerized her with tricks like romantic love. Never be lured into this chicanery, she will be taught. Although men are no damned good, she should use them for her own orgasmic gratification; sleep with as many men as possible in order to keep herself unattached and free. There's hardly a seventeen-year-old girl without a grudge from high school against a Jimmy or Jason who broke her heart. Boys are learning, too, and they can be careless during high school, that torment of courting dances for both sexes.

By the time Women's Studies professors finish with your daughter, she will be a shell of the innocent girl you knew, who's soon convinced that although she should be flopping down with every boy she fancies, she should not, by any means, get pregnant. And so, as a practitioner of promiscuity, she becomes a wizard of prevention techniques, especially abortion.

The goal of Women's Liberation is to wear each female down to losing all empathy for boys, men or babies. The tenderest aspects of her soul are roughened into a rock pile of cynicism, where she will think nothing of murdering her baby in the warm protective nest of her little-girl womb. She will be taught that she, in order to free herself, must become an outlaw. This is only reasonable because all Western law, since Magna Carta and even before, is a concoction of the evil white man whose true purpose is to press her into slavery.

Be an outlaw! Rebel! Be defiant! "All women are prostitutes," she will be told. You're either really smart and use sex by being promiscuous for your own pleasures and development as a full free human being "just like men" or you can be a professional prostitute, a viable business for women, which is "empowering" or you can be duped like your mother and prostitute yourself to one man exclusively whereby you fall under the heavy thumb of "the oppressor." All wives are just "one-man whores."

She is to be heartless in this. No sentimental stuff about courting. No empathy for either boy or baby. She has a life to live and no one is to get in her way. And if the boy or man doesn't "get it" then no sex for him; "making love" becomes "having sex." "I'm not 'having sex' with any jerk who doesn't believe I can kill his son or daughter at my whim. He has no say in it because it's my body!" (Strange logic as who has ever heard of a body with two heads, two hearts, four arms, four feet?) There's no end to the absurdities your young girl will be convinced to swallow. "I plan to leap from guy to guy as much as I please and no one can stop me because I'm liberated!" In other words, these people will turn your daughter

into a slut with my sister's books as instruction manuals. ("Slut is a good word. Be proud of it!") She'll be telling you, "I'm probably never getting married and if I do it will be after I've established my career," which nowadays often means never. "I'll keep my own name and I don't really want kids. They're such a bother and only get in the way." They'll tell her, "Don't let any guy degrade you by allowing him to open doors for you. To be called 'a lady' is an insult. Chivalry is a means of ownership." I've known women who fell for this creed in their youth who now, in their fifties and sixties, cry themselves to sleep decades of countless nights grieving for the children they'll never have and the ones they coldly murdered because they were protecting the empty loveless futures they now live with no way of going back. "Where are my children? Where are my grandchildren?" they cry to me.

"Your sister's books destroyed my sister's life!" I've heard numerous times. "She was happily married with four kids and after she read those books, walked out on a bewildered man and didn't look back." The man fell into despairing rack and ruin. The children were stunted, set off their tracks, deeply harmed; the family profoundly dislocated and there was "no putting Humpty-Dumpty together again."

3. Genesis 2:18-25 – look at what a different picture of gender emerges
 - a. Where feminism has solitude and empty meaningless sex, God has designed togetherness and a one-flesh union
 - b. Where feminism sees a man as the enemy, God sees fit to make a man give of himself to create woman

- c. Where feminism has independent careers and independent lives even for married couples, God has a man leaving his father and mother so he can establish a new covenant home with his wife
 - d. Perhaps most strikingly, where the sexual revolution has turned children into either narcissistic vanity projects or expensive inconveniences, God has designed the Christian home as the rich soil from which the blessing of new life grows and takes its place in helping to cover the earth with the knowledge of the Lord
4. Because the Bible roots its instructions about gender in Creation, it is important for us to start here as well
- a. Very often, the argument against the classical Christian view that we're teaching here is that the Bible instructions are 'cultural'. Two problems with this:
 - i. Even if, for the sake of argument, we'd grant this, we're still assuming that our culture is superior to all the others. Gender norms run pretty consistently through history, even across different cultures. We are the first to attempt a violent revolution against reality on this front. How do we know that we're wiser? How would we find that out?
 - ii. The Bible never once bases its argumentation on the culture, on education, on societal norms. It always bases its argument on design. And since God is the author of gender, He is also the authority on gender. Creation is a supernatural act of God by which He brought everything into being, and He continues to be personally involved in sustaining and governing all affairs today, down to the tiniest details.

1. We are told in Ephesians 5 that man and woman are put together in order to give us a scaled-down picture of the cosmic glory of Christ building His church, fighting for His church, protecting His church, and leading His church.
2. This is another way of saying that gender is symbolic. The fact that something is symbolic doesn't take away from the fact that it's real and objective. Being symbolic simply means that what you're looking at *means something*.
 - a. My wedding band is made of gold, has a pattern, and is a certain weight. These are all objective reality.
 - b. But the most important thing about my wedding band is something that can't be seen. Me wearing my wedding band means that I am a husband.
 - c. Because gender is designed by God to tell a story, this means that masculinity and femininity are important wherever they are found.
 - d. So we in no way want to limit the significance of gender merely to the home and the church
 - e. The Bible is not assuming that our egalitarian world is normal, and then providing us with a few exceptions of where men and women are not interchangeable

f. Rather, the Bible is giving a positive vision of what men are for and what women are for, and this vision is for all of life

5. Genesis 3:23 – “*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.”*”

- a. When you hear *bone of my bones* or *flesh of my flesh*, this is how the ancients drew attention to something
- b. We emphasize excellence by talking about good, better, best
 - i. Hebrews didn’t have these tools, so they repeated words, like *pit-pit*, or *holy, holy, holy*
 - ii. The most special place in the temple was the *Holy of Holies*, the best poem in the Bible is *Song of Songs*
 - iii. Here Adam is doing the same thing, this is the masterpiece that is built off the original; the woman is the final draft to be handed in after the rough draft has been sanded smooth
- c. In the creation account our English translations use both ‘Adam’ and ‘man’ interchangeably, and both are fully correct
 - i. Adam was taken out of the ground (Adamah – cf. Gen. 3:19), he is literally named ‘Earth Man’
- d. Adam naming His wife is significant on several counts
 - i. Naming is an act of authority – parents name their children, elders name a church plant, and a husband names his wife
 - 1. This still happens today, at least it should

2. Grant that different cultures legitimately pick up different ways of expressing ideas
 - a. Culture is merely externalized religion, and so customs that express the heart of Christianity can look different in 10th century Holy Roman Empire than in 17th century Puritan New England as long as the customs are teaching us the correct ideas
 - b. When culture starts to teach ideas contrary to Scripture it becomes a false teacher instead of a support to biblical Christianity
3. In our world, we have last names as a form of identifying ourselves
 - a. It is entirely right, and even necessary in a covenantal Christian home for a woman to take her husband's name
 - b. The two become one flesh, one united entity, and from creation on, the man is the head of this entity, and with headship comes not only the authority, but also the responsibility to name the things that he has authority over
 - c. This is where the custom comes from, and the move to keep a maiden name, or to hyphenate is a move which we must resist. Remember, culture is a teacher, and a culture in which husbands and wives share a name is teaching something constructive. A culture in which women keep their names is teaching that marriage is a sleeping

arrangement between two people who are living separate lives.

- d. Patriarchy is inevitable. If a woman won't take her husband's name, that means she's keeping the name of her fathers.

ii. There seems to be a play on words in Adam naming the woman

1. There are layers here which suggest that Adam knew what he was doing
2. He names her 'woman' (*ishshah*), which seems to be related to the word for fire (*eysh*), because she's taken from him
 - a. Ever since we've been singing "you light up my life" and "come on baby, light my fire"
 - b. Or, if you remember the country music of the 90's, we can put all of this naming stuff together if you'll remember that Mark Chestnutt lamented the fact that all his *old flames have new names*
3. So she's *bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, fire out of the earth-man, glory of the glory*
4. Later, Adam will call the woman Eve, which means *mother of all the living*
 - a. Adam's future is going to come through his wife
5. In naming her as he does, Adam is acknowledging that he has been blessed in getting a woman

6. She shines and has lit him up – he is truly a new man after receiving her. Frankly, she is glorious.
- iii. Notice the argument made in 1 Corinthians 11 when Paul is giving instructions about church order, and these instructions are gender specific – vv.7-10 – *“For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. 9 Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.”*
1. If this sounds demeaning to you, you’re hearing it wrong
 2. Man is the glory of God, and woman is the glory of *that* glory
 3. Woman is the completed creation, humanity 2.0, God’s magnum opus
 4. In a word, she is the crowning jewel of creation
 - a. Husbands, sons, fathers – do you see that the women in your life are not just fellow image-bearers who look different? They are the glory of creation. They are *your* glory.
 - b. This is why from young on, boys never ever hit girls, but protect them
 - c. This is why children learn manners, but those manners are especially important to exercise around ladies
 - d. This is why we take our hats off, not just in the presence of God, but also when a lady walks into the room

- e. This is why we open doors and walk *behind* a woman and not in front of her
 - i. In one of my farming circles, I am frequently with a staff of people, one of whom has fairly strong feminist leanings
 - ii. She noticed one time after spending about a week in Ottawa as a group that I always walked behind the ladies – she actually seemed to be honoured by it
- 5. Because of this dynamic of the woman being the crowning jewel, of the man being the head and protector, because woman is herself the finishing touch and the beautiful and glorious crowning jewel of creation, she has an innate desire to be desired
 - a. If she feels unloved or unwanted, she instinctively knows something is wrong, and she will seek atonement on her own
 - i. Even though the vast majority of girls who cut probably have no idea what they're trying to accomplish, the image of God in them means that they are attempting blood atonement
 - 1. *"I'm dirty. I'm shameful. I'm unlovely. I'm unacceptable. Blood must be shed. Someone needs to die."*

2. And if she is cut off from Christ as her husband, she will try to cover her shame with her own blood
- b. As a general rule, *men want, and women want to be wanted*
 - c. The fact that we are designed this way means women are prone to particular sexual sins, which is why the Bible instructs women in particular in modesty
 - i. 1 Timothy 2:9 – “*women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire*”
 - ii. Women are automatically and necessarily in a place of sexual power over men (will discuss more next Sunday), and this is basically a good thing, but frequently women abuse this power to get an upper hand over a man, or to destroy him completely
 1. Delilah knew what she was doing
 2. Potiphar’s wife also knew how to destroy a man’s reputation
 - d. Men are on a mission of dominion, and women are the glory at their side, making the dominion mandate possible, enjoyable, and meaningful

- e. Because we are incurably made in the image of God, this too shows up in our artistic expressions
 - i. Think of books or movies written by men for men, and those written by women for women
 - ii. The stories men tell for other men are stories about war, about taming the west, about some mission or some accomplishment
 - iii. The stories women tell for other women are stories about relationships, about interpersonal complexity and tension and resolution
 - iv. Men are oriented towards the mission, and women are oriented towards the man and the family
 - 1. This is good. If we understand why it is this way, we can also understand why some instructions and some warnings in Scripture are gender-specific

6. Proverbs 12:4 – *“An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rotteness in his bones.”*

- a. Solomon emphasises the same theme, that a woman is a finishing touch and a crowning jewel
- b. When this works well, and a husband and a wife both know what they’re designed for, everything works well

- c. But when Eve's daughters give in to the temptation they were warned about in the curse, everything starts to fall apart
 - i. Genesis 3:16 – *“Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”*
 - ii. Gender roles are established at creation and distorted by the fall
 - iii. Positive feedback (creation) – a man fulfills his calling by taking dominion – BUILD – FIGHT – PROTECT – LEAD
 - 1. He's building a household economy
 - 2. He's fighting enemies and sins that threaten the family
 - 3. He's a brick wall protecting his wife and children and church and community from harm
 - 4. He's leading from the front
 - 5. In return, his wife feels cherished, loved, and wanted, which means she honours him with her words, with the way she cares for him, and with her sexual availability to him
 - 6. The more he gets this, the stronger he feels, and the better he does
 - iv. Negative feedback (fall) – a man is negligent in taking dominion
 - 1. He's lazy and never seems to find the time lead his family in prayer or devotions
 - 2. Instead of being a brick wall, he starts using his wife and children as a shield (is there anything more contemptible?)
 - 3. He's leading from the rear

4. In return, his wife feels vulnerable, unloved, and unwanted which means she starts to bark and nag at him
 - a. She may not even understand why she's angry and frustrated, especially since she's living in a world that's lying to her about her glory as a woman
 - b. She may become sexually unresponsive either as a means of punishment or because she's emotionally disconnected
5. The more he gets this, the more useless he becomes
 - a. This is the worthless guy sitting at the bar sharing his wisdom with the young guys so he can feel a false sense of respect somewhere
- d. I have seen some pretty difficult marriage situations. Most of them are difficult not because they're complex but because there's so many years of bad behaviour that people have gotten accustomed to. But generally, diagnosing the problem is pretty simple.
 - i. This feedback loop is working in reverse, and we have to find practical ways of turning it forward.
- e. It is the man's responsibility to do this, but the woman is integral to making it work. Since we're talking about the feminine mandate here, I want you ladies to very seriously consider the wisdom of God when it comes to the effect you have on the men in your life:
 - i. We just saw that a woman who brings shame on her husband is a *rottenness in his bones*

1. How do you bring shame?
 2. Complaining about your husband to others
 3. Correcting him in public
 - a. May be fitting if it affects others, but trivial details in telling a story is a show of dishonour
 4. Comparing him to other men who may be making more money or are better at a particular task
- ii. There's also Proverbs that people like to chuckle about because they seem so antiquated in our day. But remember, it's us who have lost our minds, not everyone else in history. *These proverbs continue to be the inerrant words of God in 2023.*
- iii. Proverbs 27:15-16 – *“A continual dripping on a rainy day and a quarrelsome wife are alike; 16 to restrain her is to restrain the wind or to grasp oil in one's right hand.”*
- iv. Proverbs 21:9, 19 – *“It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife”...“It is better to live in a desert land than with a quarrelsome and fretful woman.”*
- f. Ladies, if you want a strong man who lives up to his calling, honour him. If you want an underperforming, defeated, discouraged man, chase after him with your many words and your many corrections
- i. Women find other ineffective ways of communicating (eg. Books, seminars, etc.), so who is the slow learner?

- ii. Even defeated men have enough dignity that they don't want to be led by a woman
- iii. Things start to look very different when women take charge and feminine sensibilities inform a people
 - 1. Safety and caution are prized over courage and dominion
 - 2. Holiness gets reduced to pietism
 - a. Temperance movement = social justice movement today
 - b. Machen and conservative Christians pushing back
 - 3. Not an absolute chapter-and-verse prohibition against women in civil government, however
 - a. Isaiah 3:12 – women rulers are spoken of as a judgement from God
 - b. Deborah – godly enough woman to know she was part of the play God was running against Barak and Israel
 - c. Safe to say, though, that a society that has 50% female cabinet ministers is indeed a society that has rottenness in its bones

7. Moving back to the theme of design and creation...

- a. Ephesians 5:22-33 – *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might*

sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 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. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

- i. Do you hear the echo of Genesis here?
 - ii. Men are designed to image Christ, and women are designed to image the Church, and the one-flesh union is to image our union with Christ, and the fruitfulness and expansion that happens as a result
 - iii. This means that a woman is the church, the household of God
 1. And Christ delegates real authority to the church when He gives us the keys to the kingdom
 2. Church authority is real authority, and as a result, a woman’s authority in her home is real authority
8. Proverbs 14:1 – *“The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.”*
- a. The man is oriented to the mission, and the woman is oriented to the relationships

- b. And the place relationships happen is in the home; the church prepares herself for the return of her Husband, and His steadfast love provides her with both the desire and the tools to fulfill her task
- c. I gave a four-job summary of a man's calling (BUILD – FIGHT – PROTECT – LEAD), and here is where we see the core mission of a woman's calling (FILL – CREATE – NURTURE – BEAUTIFY)
- d. When a godly woman builds her house, we see her taking on all these roles
 - i. She FILLS her house with children and laughter and the smell of fresh bread
 - ii. She CREATES a warm and inviting aura both in her home and all around her presence
 - iii. She NURTURES the lives she has created as well as many others around her
 - iv. She BEAUTIFIES everything she touches
 - 1. This is where a godly woman is at her most glorious
 - 2. Her ability to transform plain and even profane things into glory and beauty is tremendous
 - 3. She transforms a paycheque into a house that looks inviting; she transforms chocolate milk and peanut butter sandwiches into a little army of helpers that will weed the garden with her
 - 4. Women frequently get discouraged at the seemingly mundane and unimportant task of doing the same things over and over again, especially when children are little

- a. It is good to be reminded here that you aren't making macaroni and cheese for the 20th time, you're making little people who are going to live forever
 - b. You're not changing a diaper for the 4th time this morning, you're changing the heart of a little person who is going to go out there and Lord willing man his station in the kingdom of God
5. Not to be too graphic, but think of how a woman multiplies and beautifies in the most remarkable way possible – she takes very inglorious and earthy raw materials and creates human beings out of it! Don't let the wonder of this pass you by just because you've seen it many times! A woman is capable of creating human beings!
- e. And this brings us to another inescapable concept – just like a husband *is* leading, so a wife *is* a home maker
 - i. Everyone who is alive had their mother as their first home
 - ii. A woman's body is a home
 - iii. Just a simple observation from nature very plainly teaches that men and women are here for different things
 - 1. A woman has a home inside her body
 - 2. She has hips on which to rest a baby, and breasts to feed it
 - 3. Nature is shouting at us, and Scripture is explaining it to us and yet we choose to remain in our intentional confusion

9. Titus 2:3-5 – *“Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.”*
- a. The instructions here are consistent with everything we’ve already seen
 - b. The older women are to use their knowledge and experience to help mentor the young ladies, and this intergenerational transfer of wisdom is centred around the ladies task in building their home
 - c. They are to be oriented to their husbands and children and towards their homes
 - d. Does this mean that a woman’s place is the home?
 - i. Not really. There are women who are single or who are unable to have children, and they will obviously find themselves in other settings where they can bless others with their feminine gifting
 - ii. There are also seasons of life where a mother is no longer needed at home like she once was
 - iii. Further, the virtuous wife of Proverbs 31 is trusted by her husband, she is in the marketplace, she buys land, her hands are busy, her family is clothed, her demeanour helps her husband earn respect among the city fathers, she is looking out for her household, and her children are loyal to her
 - iv. What we see in Titus 2 and in Proverbs 31 is not that a woman’s place is in the home, but that her home is her priority

1. She can do many other things on the side but the one thing she can't do on the side is manage her house
 2. If her home is in order and there's additional energy and gifts and needs, she is free in the Lord to pursue them, but she may not sacrifice her central calling in order to pursue distractions
 3. The household economy is the central focus, and if and when she pursues other ventures, these ventures should be in support of the household economy instead of creating a different life separated from her family
 - a. E.g. – Tanya's job at Holstein Branch
- v. This vocational focus on the family also helps make sense of otherwise difficult verses like 1 Timothy 2:15 – *“Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.”*
1. This is very obviously not saying that a woman is justified differently than a man, or that there's a way to be justified apart from grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone
 2. This is talking about the aspect of our salvation which is our sanctification
 - a. Under normal circumstances, the main arena of a woman's vocational calling will be childbearing – not just creating children but also raising them

- b. This is where most women will be working out their salvation, and the language about continuing in faith, love, holiness, and self-control confirms that we are looking at sanctification here and not justification

10. Of course we can't talk about a topic like this without recognizing that it can be a point of pain

- a. Some women would love to be married but providence has not brought that about
- b. Some women would love to have a baby in their arms, and yet it is not the reality
- c. This doesn't mean that you can't practice the feminine graces – it will just happen in different places
 - i. Perhaps you have nieces and nephews, or children in the church who need special attention or a mentor
 - ii. Perhaps there's a worn-down mom who would welcome some help in her home
 - iii. Perhaps you can find a vocation that suits your skills and interests and shine the light of your feminine glory there
 - iv. Just because a woman isn't a wife or a mother still doesn't make her interchangeable with a man, however
 - 1. Deuteronomy 22:5 – *“A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God.”*
 - 2. The language here suggests a woman carrying weapons – women in combat is an abomination to God

3. But is most also most obviously rules out transgender confusion and cross dressing
4. Styles of masculine and feminine clothing vary from culture to culture, but each culture has its own cues about masculinity and femininity and these are to be respected
5. Men and women are not interchangeable, and even in a vocation outside the home, it is fitting for a woman to find a vocation that is consistent with the unique feminine glory that God has gifted her with
6. A woman doesn't elevate herself, but rather disgraces herself when she abandons God's calling on her life and attempts to be a second rate man

11. Women, you were made for feminine glory. Embrace it. Delight in it. Return this glory back to the Lord 30, 60, and 100 fold.

12. CHARGE

- a. *A woman's glory is her ability to fill and beautify the creation. After God made the man, He saw it was not good for him to be alone. Man without a woman is like Christ without a church. Nothing already made was up to this high and honourable calling, and so the situation called for a fresh creation from God. God made the man for dominion, and next He makes the woman for the man. Together, their task becomes both possible and rewarding. The woman is the glory of the man, which means she is the glory of the glory. She is the crowning jewel, the finishing touch, the magnum opus of creation. Her beauty, her*

diligence, and her tenderness ideally suit her for her calling to fill, create, nurture, and beautify. As she does this, she gains the love and the trust of her husband, her children, her church, and her community. The glory she has received from on high fills creation such that it redounds back to God many times over. A godly woman is a force multiplier. Women, what is God calling you to this week? Do you need to put your phone down to be more intentional with your little ones? Do you need to drop something else that is a distraction from your central calling? How can you use your glory to equip your husband to excel at his calling? Can you see the glory in the mundane task of sending little eternal people out into the world? Are there places outside your home that could be blessed by your gifts? You were made for fullness and beauty. This is your glory in Christ.

13. BENEDICTION

- a. 1 Peter 3:1-6 – *“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious. 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.”*