



4 | GENESIS 1:27-31

JESUS AND GENDER

As Christians, we are called to shine the light of God's original design into our dark world. God made humanity with only two genders: male and female. Our culture's gender confusion can be cured through repentance and restoration of mind by the light of God's word of truth. Living according to God's design and order allows all people to flourish.

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Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre! ⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. ⁹ He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry. ¹⁰ His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, ¹¹ but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.
—Psalm 147:7-11

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WELCOME: We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

Introduction

I couldn't believe the price of the house next to our church I pastored, 15 years ago in Hanover Park, Illinois (now the church parsonage). The value was half of what it should have been because it had been taken over and inhabited by the Latin Kings gang. Graffiti covered the house inside and out. Wall, cabinets, and appliances were vandalized. Everything needed replaced. Our church bought the house for a great price. How in the world can we fix this place up without losing a lot of money? "We got this," said the brother who led the committee. He gathered volunteer union laborers from his construction company. What a difference it was to see the finished product compared to the dump we bought at first.

The lost people of this world are a lot like that broken-down house. Like that house, we were created beautifully, but our souls are now in utter disrepair. Every single room has been dirtied and damaged by sin. Not one part of it shines with anything like the pure glory that was so evident when humanity was first created. Sin has left us as people made in God's image to be broken and distorted by sin.¹

Key thought: As Christians, we are called to shine the light of God's original design into our dark world. God made humanity with only two genders: male and female. Our culture's gender confusion can be cured through repentance and restoration of mind by the light of God's word of truth. Living according to God's design and order allows all people to flourish.

For human flourishing to take place on earth, we must respect the order of God's creation in gender. God made only two genders: male and female. This is not debatable as we will see from the Scriptures.

1. MAN'S GENDER (1:27)

For human flourishing to take place on earth, we must **respect the order of God's creation** in **gender**. God made only two genders: male and female. This is not debatable.

Genesis 1:27 | So God created man in his own image in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

EQUALITY IN GENDER

1 Peter 3:7 | ...heirs together of the grace of life...

Though men and women are different, male and female are created in **the image of God as equals** (cf 1 Pet 3:7). **One is not better than the other or more loved by God than the other.** Men and women equally bear the image of God. That being said, the Bible also teaches that men and women have complementary roles (Eph 5, 1 Pet 3, Gen 2).

The Bible later says that the wife is the **"helper fit"** for man, which some have translated as "an adversarial equal" like a puzzle piece (cf 3:16). In **some ways this is like a left and right hand that are similar but different** and that work together with one hand taking the lead.

¹ Paul David Tripp, *Broken-down House: Living Productively in a World Gone Bad* (Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherd Press, 2009).

Men are not implicitly better or more spiritual than women and neither are women better than men.

Certainly, **men are naturally better at some tasks** than women and the **same is true of women**, in regard to men. But men and women are equal. Because men and women are equal **there is no superiority or inferiority dichotomy**. Both male and female have been ordained by God to accomplish his purposes on the earth.

DISTINCTIONS IN GENDER

There are only two genders according to the Bible: male and female. **Boys will always be boys and girls will always be girls.**

Men and women are different genetically, socially, physically, emotionally, and sexually.

Men and Women are Genetically Different

Men and women are created differently in every cell of their bodies. It goes **far beyond X and Y chromosomes**. In fact, a full third of our genome is behaving very differently in men and women.²

Men and Women are Socially Different

God says that woman is created as a “helper” who is “fit” for man. It could be translated an “adversarial equal” such as a puzzle piece with the specific goal of helping.³ The idea of **helping does not mean less than an equal as God himself is called our helper** (Psa 54:4). This helper role most clearly takes place in marriage. That isn’t to say that all people should be married. The greatest people who have ever lived such as Jesus and Paul were single. But marriage is a key component for the majority of people.

Women are sociologically generally more vulnerable than men and most of the time **take on nurturing roles**. **Men** because they are physically stronger are more often in **protecting roles**. This isn’t to say women aren’t protecting, but in marriage, it is right that men protect the house and that men put women and children first in a life raft, etc. It’s also not to say men are not to be tender and nurturing, they most certainly should, but it is not their primary role in the home.

Socially **men tend to be leaders and women tend to be helpers according to the way God has designed us**. Within gender equality, there are clear biological differences between men and women that result in **general sociological differences**. Men tend to be more interested in tasks and things while women are more interested in people. Men tend to be more independent, and women tend to be more agreeable.

Men and Women are Physically Different

Physically, **men are generally much stronger than women**. For example, sports programs and provided for different genders (i.e., NBA vs. WNBA). Military special ops are exclusively male because of the physical demand.

Men and Women are Emotionally Different

Women are generally emotionally more vulnerable than men not because they are weaker, but because they care and connect more due to their **nurturing nature**. Women are

² Moran Gershoni, and Shmuel Pietrokovski, *The Landscape of Sex-Differential Transcriptome and its Consequent Selection in Human Adults*. BMC Biol 15, 7 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12915-017-0352-z>.

³ Peter H. Davids et al., *Hard Sayings of the Bible* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996, 93).

connectors. Men tend to be able to disconnect for periods of time to focus on an overarching goal.

Men and Women are Sexually Different

Procreation is a key part of the flourishing of the human race and **the “plumbing” of men and women are distinctly different**. Our sexual maleness or femaleness alone — is an essential part of our God-given identity, whether we’re married or not. Your sexuality is rooted in your biological and anatomical identity.

COMPLEMENTARY IN GENDER

Genesis 2:18 | It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.

Men and women are different but complementary. **Complementary roles of men and women were established before the fall**. God’s calling for humanity is to image him by bringing human flourishing to the world. That **glorious flourishing is impossible** without men and women working together and **complementing each other**.

This is especially seen in marriage where the man is to lead, and the woman is to support that leadership. **Godly leadership is servant-leadership** where the husband **listens to and serves the wife like Jesus did**. As men we use our masculinity to serve and protect women. Women use their femininity to nurture and support men. Remember Jesus words.

Matthew 20:28 | The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

MODERN CONFUSION IN GENDER

There are **only two biological sexes or genders**: male and female. This is hard, immutable science.

Genesis 1:27 | So God created man in his own image in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

The idea that anyone can change their gender is modern pseudo-science, which is to say, it is completely made up and anti-science.

Even the world’s most famous atheist can see the commonsense science, and he actually agrees with his creator on this. **Richard Dawkins recently said in an interview with Piers Morgan** that he rejects the idea of transgenderism on the basis of simple science. He agreed that “pretend biology doesn’t exist.” I never thought I’d quote Dawkins favorably but he said something that is correct, and we have to give him credit.

As a biologist, there are two sexes and that's all there is to it.⁴

Jesus is the author of gender, and he gets to define it. He says God created humanity with only two genders. Men and women are created differently in every cell of their bodies. Each person normally has one pair of sex chromosomes in each cell. **Men have the XY chromosome** pair in each cell. **Women have the XX chromosome** pair in every cell. **No one is able to change your God-given gender. Carving up a person’s body does not change a person from one gender to another.**

⁴ Gabriel Hays, “Richard Dawkins Declares There Are Only Two Sexes as Matter of Science: ‘That’s All There Is to It’,” *Fox News* (FOX News Network, March 21, 2023), <https://www.foxnews.com/media/richard-dawkins-declares-only-two-sexes-matter-science-thats-all>.

2. MAN'S PROCREATION (1:28)

Part of married people's **identity is that we are to be fruitful and multiply** if we are able. Whether a person is single or married, we should **all support the nuclear family** of mother and father with children if possible since we all came from a nuclear family, and this is God's design for human flourishing. One of God's purposes for marriage is procreation. **God is the one who is responsible for the family**; it's his idea.

Genesis 1:28a | And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."

Promotes biblical marriage. This means **marriage is between one man and one woman for life**. God placed a man and a woman in the garden to procreate. **Two men can't procreate. Two women can't procreate.** To say **two people of the same gender are "married" is a falsehood**. The Bible calls it unnatural fornication. Homosexuals together never has been and never will be marriage. God can save fornicators. He can save any sinner. But we cannot redeem sin by renaming it. All sin, including homosexuality, is rebellion against God. Jesus had to die for this kind of enslaving, addictive sin. He can redeem anyone.

Promotes multi-generational godliness. Procreation affects the culture, not merely by sheer numbers, but by the **influence of godliness**. This is **not just a command to procreate but to promote multi-generational godliness**. We are called to pass the faith of Christ down to the next generation, so that hundreds of years from now, our children's children will be serving God. Yet Americans are having fewer kids, and professing Christians are no exception, according to a recent article in Christianity Today.

FERTILITY RATE

Promotes societal flourishing. If anyone in our country wants to be strong and win the culture wars, then he who has the most children wins. Societal flourishing occurs as godly people have godly children.

America's overall fertility rate has been about **1.7 births per woman**, which is not a replacement level. **Japan's** for example is right now at 1.34 births per woman and almost 40% of the population is over 60⁵. For conservative Protestants, including Evangelicals, the number used to significantly higher, at 2.7. Today, that has dropped to 2.3.⁶ Dear friends, the way we conquer the culture is by raising up godly children in godly homes. Boys become men and girls become women. It's not hard to understand, but it is vital. **We are called to have children if we are married and able to have children.**

MARRIAGE FOR PROCREATION

One purpose of God making humanity male and female and having them marry is for procreation. The Bible still tells us about **how blessed it is to have children**! The prophet Malachi speaks of this very verse.

⁵ Statistics Bureau of Japan, "Chapter 2: Population and Households" from *Japan Statistical Yearbook* (Tokyo: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication, 2020), <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/nenkan/1431-02.htm/>.

⁶ As quoted in Gene Veith, "Evangelicals' Birth Rate Is Now Nearly as Low as That of Secularists," *Cranach: The Blog of Veith* (Patheos, February 3, 2020), <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2020/02/evangelicals-birth-rate-is-now-nearly-as-low-as-that-of-secularists/>.

Malachi 2:15 | Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

To raise up godly children from the marriage union is **a key element of God's call for human flourishing**. For this to take place, husband and wife must be devoted to help and care for one another. We must better ourselves, that we may day by day be **kinder and gentler** to one another. The reason is that **when the marriage flourishes, the children flourish**, and the society flourishes. Only when both parents remain faithful to their marriage vows can the children be given the security which provides the basis for godly living. The family was intended to be the school in which God's way of life was practiced and learned.⁷

Young couples should want to have a good number of children. This is the blessing and bounty of the Lord.

Psalms 127:3-5 | Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. ⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.⁵ Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!

Couples who cannot have children have many options. They can see the burden of childlessness as a call to serve God in greater ways of ministry, expanding the Lord's kingdom. They can also choose to serve the Lord through adoption.

3. MAN'S DOMINION (1:28-31)

Man is given dominion, or **stewardship to flourish in the earth**. We are to maintain the earth, and we are to take what God's created and be creative ourselves.

Just as powerful earthly kings, to indicate their claim to dominion, erect an image of themselves in the provinces of their empire where they do not personally appear, so man is placed upon earth in God's image as God's sovereign emblem. He is really only God's representative, **summoned to maintain and enforce God's claim to dominion over the earth**.⁸

A CALL FOR FLOURISHING

Genesis 1:28b | And God said to them, "...have dominion..."

As God created all things, mankind is to mirror him and take what God makes and **create from what God has created**. This entails being creative and ambitious and productive.

YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

Young men, this means that you should not just be sitting around serving yourself, but there should be a holy ambition for Christ and his kingdom, **for job and career and starting a family of your own**. For most men, **human flourishing involves a career, marriage, and raising kids**. You are not here on earth on a holiday. You are to have dominion over the earth. Because of the fall that means spiritual warfare. **The Christian who isolates or stagnates is not flourishing**.

Young ladies you should be eager to flourish, whether married or unmarried, you should be involved in God's church, serving the Lord, ambitious for his kingdom.

⁷ Joyce G. Baldwin, *Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 28, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1972), 240–241.

⁸ Gerhard von Rad, *Genesis: A Commentary*, trans. John H. Marks, The Old Testament Library (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1972), 60.

Give up your plans to God. Young men and women, this means you pray that your plans and ambitions would align with God’s eternal purposes.

Grow up in Christ. This means you grow up, and you say, “Not my will, but yours be done.” **Grow up and put childish things away.** Let God mold your desires to fit his heart.

What God is calling for human flourishing that creates a **stable and enriched civilization.** Being created in God’s image, humans were given the task of forming cities, cultures, civilizations and filling them with people living in an **orderly, functional way.** By doing this we reflect God. This shows forth something of who he is. It **expands his rule over the whole earth via his image-bearers** – humans.

We are fully human when we are imaging God by filling the earth and subduing it, by making civilization happen.

CREATE A CULTURE THAT REFLECTS GOD

The human task of dominion over the earth is to create a culture that reflects God – his order, his control, his justice, his creativity. We can spread God’s glory to the ends of the earth by **developing godly culture and civilization.** Rule over creation, inhabit it, manage it, reflect the creative hand of God in all you do.

Whether you eat or drink or do some other menial tasks, or if you do a great task, **do all to the glory of God** (1 Cor 10:31). Glorify God in all you do.

A CALL FOR STEWARDSHIP

Man’s dominion over the earth is not just a call for flourishing but for **stewardship.** God calls men to “have dominion” and **care for the earth as stewards, managing his creation.** This means we are **responsible creatures.** We are going to **give an account.**

In relation to his rule over the fish and birds and animals, man’s creation involves responsibility as well.⁹ Man is to **care for the plants and the animals.**

Genesis 1:28b-30 | And God said to them, “...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.

In verse 29 **God only gives the vegetation for humans to eat.** The dominion assigned to the human couple over the animal world does not include the prerogative to butcher.¹⁰ There was **no Outback or Ponderosa Steak House until after the flood.**

Genesis 9:3 | Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

It’s part of God’s goodness that he made animals to be tasty and he has given them now to us to enjoy. But the Bible is calling us to **never abuse the creation.** God calls us to go above and beyond to treat animals in a humane way.

So Adam is placed in the garden as a **responsible steward.** He’s to **protect Eve.** He’s to **care for the animals.** He’s to **work the garden it, tending it and keeping it.** He’s going to

⁹ James Montgomery Boice, *Genesis: An Expository Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 95.

¹⁰ Victor P. Hamilton, *The Book of Genesis: Chapters 1-17* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990), 141.

give an account. What marvelous new sounds and scents and sensations he must have experienced every day as he explored the vast, wide world that had been entrusted to him to develop and rule.¹¹

A CALL FOR SUBJUGATION

Man's dominion over the earth also has the idea of recognizing God's dominion and glory reflected in all things. That dominion was forfeited when Adam subjugated himself to the serpent. Now man is subject to the creation. Anything can kill us—a beast, a disease, a freak accident. Hebrews 2 talks about this paradigm. We see the creation language here. Everything under the subjection and dominion of man. But something is missing.¹²

Hebrews 2:6-8 | It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? ⁷You made him a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, ⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

God put everything in subjugation to man, but we don't yet see it because of the fall. Man is subject to Satan, to sin, to death, and to his own carnal desires. Man is enslaved, and in subjection himself.

We don't see the created world in subjection to man. We have earthquakes and floods and fires. We have all the devastation of war. We have all the breakdown in society. All of these things show us that man is not exercising dominion as he should. That's why the author here speaks of the solution. How can man have dominion when he's dying? He's subject to the earth. The earth is not subject to him. Look at the answer here.

Hebrews 2:8b-9 | At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Do you know what he's telling us? Through Jesus we will have dominion. He's telling us that Christ has defeated our greatest enemy, death itself, the result of the curse on the fall of human beings; and that Christ has now been exalted, he's been crowned with glory and honor, he's been exalted as the true man—the man who has defeated death in his death and who has been raised in newness of life and who has ascended to the glory of the Father. He's coming again to subdue the whole earth. Total subjugation and dominion do not come through the first Adam, but through the last Adam, Jesus Christ. Through Christ all of the earth will be subjugated at his coming when he will rule as King of kings and Lord of lords, the ultimate Adam.

A CALL FOR REFLECTING

Genesis 1:31 | 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.

¹¹ John Phillips, *Exploring Genesis: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Ge 1:26–31.

¹² This section adapted from Garrett Kell, “Class 11: Gender Confusion”, *Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, Core Seminars (Washington, D.C.: Capitol Hill Baptist Church, 2018), <https://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/sermon/class-11-gender-confusion/>.

God pronounces his reflection on all creation, specifically the apex of his creation: **male and female**. God did it right. We don't need to carve up our children. God did it right the first time. **It is good**. It's **not just good, but "very good."**

It's good that marriage is between a man and a woman.

It's good that young people marry and have lots of children.

It's good that people serve the Lord and bring human flourishing by righteous choices.

It's good that we know we were made to worship God and enjoy God.

It's good that we treat all people as image bearers with dignity and respect.

It's good that we are accountable stewards to God.

It's all so, so good!

The account powerfully reminds the reader that creation is 'built' for worship. It is so good because **God has made a place for worship**, and he has filled it with a patriarch who is to be a worshipper of the LORD. God has made a place for worship for man, filled with the presence of the divine King. **Worship is the reason God built this temple in the first place.**¹³ This place is where Adam and Eve and all their progeny are to **worship and adore the living God**.

Sadly, **everything did not remain "very good."** The image of God in man was terribly marred when Adam plunged the human race into sin. Even in the account wherein God declares man to be "very good," it is not for long. The fall is coming. **The family tree of Jesus will be put together in this book of beginnings**. Jesus will redeem fallen sinners for himself.

Conclusion

SUMMARY

You are God's image bearer. Jesus came to bring us back to imaging God. He died and arose that we might reflect him in our inward person, and in our outward actions.

We are to reflect him by **living out our gender** in a way that honors him. As a man you take on the responsibility to love and protect and provide for those around you. As a woman you live out your womanhood to nurture and encourage and raising boys and girls to be godly men and women.

Be fruitful and multiply. That implies that most young men and women ought to be seeking marriage, but be careful not to seek your identity, dignity or worth there. You are complete in Jesus Christ.

Have dominion over the earth. **Take responsibility** for your stewardship. This entails a holy ambition, but don't find your identity in your job or calling. **Your identity is in Christ**.

We need to **value each person with dignity** and honor because they are made in God's image.

VANMOOF BIKES IN TV BOXES & PRECIOUS IMAGE

A **Dutch bicycle manufacturer, VanMoof**, has come up with an ingenious idea for ensuring that its product is safely transported to its customers. Oddity Central reports:

The bicycle company VanMoof plans to sell 90 percent of its bicycles online by 2020, but after seeing a considerable number of products getting damaged during deliveries and incurring serious losses, the company was left with two options – rethink its business plan or come up with an effective solution. Thankfully, they managed to come up with something so brilliant that it's bound to be copied by other companies that rely heavily on online sales.¹⁴

Creative director Bex Rad wrote on the company blog:

¹³ Richard Lints, *Identity and Idolatry* (New Studies in Biblical Theology) (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015), 53.

¹⁴ "Bicycle Company Puts TV on Boxes, Reduces Delivery Damage by 80 Percent," Oddity Central, March 2, 2018, <https://www.odditycentral.com/news/bicycle-company-puts-tv-on-boxes-reduces-delivery-damage-by-80-percent.html>

Earlier this year our co-founder Ties Carlier had a flash of genius. Our boxes are about the same size as a (really really reaaaally massive) flatscreen television. Flatscreen televisions always arrive in perfect condition. What if we just printed a flatscreen television on the side of our boxes?¹⁵

By simply printing a flatscreen TV on the boxes, they **reduced the rate of damaged goods** by 70 to 80 percent.

When we understand that **people have been imprinted with the very image of God, we treat people with greater care. When we see people, we need to inwardly shout: HANDLE WITH CARE!** Each one is precious, made in the image of God.

Stand for **life in the womb**, because babies are made in God's image. Stand for those who are **abused through sex trafficking** because these are women and children made in the image of God. Stand for **biblical marriage**, because men and women are made in the image of God. Stand for God's order of creation for gender. Children should be protected not carved up and confused.

Stand against pornography and for purity, because everyone who appears in a photograph is not an object, but someone made in the image of God. God made us male and female, and he didn't make a mistake. He saw that it was not only good but "very good." Amen!

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.—*2 Corinthians 13:14*

¹⁵ Ibid.