

Handout 1 - Redefining the role of Women in the Church  
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Chapter One

GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN

1. Did God make woman as an inferior secondary creation to man?
2. Did woman's part in the Fall provoke God to decree her subject to man in all things?
3. What is the gender of God?

**1. Did God make woman as an inferior secondary creation to man?**

Genesis 1:26-27 (KJV) - And God said, **Let us make man** in our image, after our likeness: and **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. **So God created man in his own image**, in the image of God created he him; **male and female created he them.**

- "Let them have dominion show that woman was recognized as equal with man in rulership and authority over God's creation."
- Joint dominion was given to Eve.

**Mission and Commission**

Genesis 1:28 (KJV) - **And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

- A charge to multiply, replenish, subdue and have dominion.
- The female was not made less than the male.

**God made man – male and female – a unity**

Genesis 2:18 (KJV) And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

- God took the female part out of the unity he called man and made the two parts to be separate individuals.

**The Marriage Relationship**

Genesis 2:23-24 (KJV) And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

- "God causes the two individuals to regain what was lost in that separation. The two shall be one."
- Page 3 paragraph "Male and female oneness has been clearly set forth in the creation account in Genesis. Therefore, any demeaning of woman – enslaving her, subjugating her, or treating her as inferior – goes contrary to God's original plan and purpose. Man

and woman were created equal in all essential respects – in person, in nature, in dignity, and in commission. They are one in Christ Jesus.”

### **In God’s creation design - Only God was in authority over Adam and Eve**

Two authority mandates in Genesis 1 & 2

1. Adam was commanded not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
2. Adam and Eve were commanded to subdue the earth, be fruitful and multiply, and to have dominion over its animal inhabitants.

### **Did woman’s part in the Fall provoke God to decree her subject to man in all things?**

**Curse given serpent** - Genesis 3:14-15 (KJV) And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

**Curse given Eve** - Genesis 3:16 (KJV) Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

- Desire is a poor translation. Hebrew word *teshuqa* is derived from a verb meaning “to run” or “to run back and forth” which would require a lot of turning. Eve is “turning” from God, and He warns her that if she does that, she will bring herself under the dominion of Adam.
- It is a warning, a prophecy a prediction to Eve that as her “turning” was to her husband rather than to God, her husband would “rule over her.” The latter part of God’s Word here is describing what will happen rather than prescribing or decreeing that man would lord it over her.

**Curse given Adam** – Genesis 3:17-19 (KJV) And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

“The same Hebrew word is used for Eve’s pain in childbearing as is used for Adam’s toil in farming. Both would be significantly marred by sin, again, completely contrary to God’s plan.”

Reading from page 6-7 in Redefining the Role of Women in the Church...

### **What is the gender of God?**

- Femaleness pertains to the image of God as fully as maleness.
- “God is neither male nor female. He transcends both genders since they are both comprehended within His image (see Chapter 3).”

