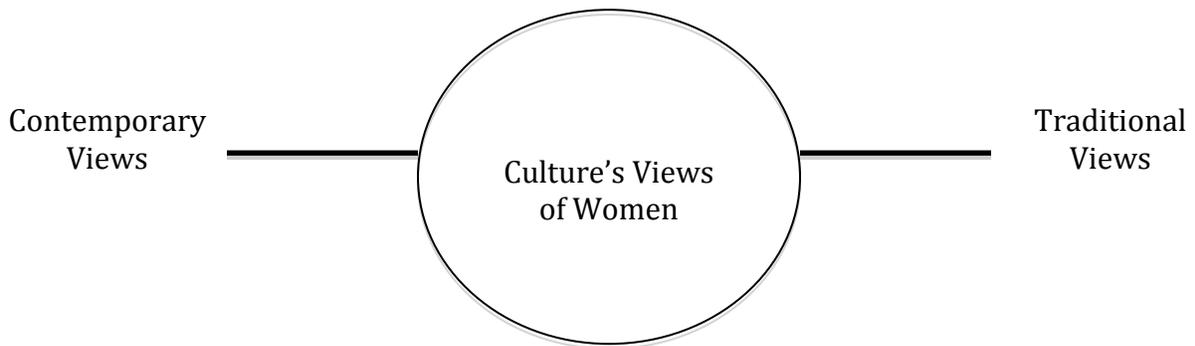


Foundations for Biblical Womanhood
By Ashley Chesnut
Genesis 1-3



Discussion Questions

- Toward what end of the spectrum do you lean? Why?
- How is your understanding of womanhood the same or different from your mother or grandmother?
- What are the strengths/weaknesses of your views? Of their views?
- What does the Bible say about the traditional view? The contemporary view?

WOMEN & CREATION Genesis 1-2

Why Start Here?

The Imago Dei (Gen. 1:26-27)

What It Is

What does this mean?

- We REFLECT God.
 - Our value does *not* come from what we can do or offer.
 - Our value does *not* come from what we look like.
 - Our value does *not* come from what/who we know.
 - Our value does *not* come from what we have or don't have.

- We REPRESENT God.

"Biblical masculinity and femininity are not dependent upon marriage. If masculinity and femininity are dependent upon marriage, then half of the world's population is not fully male or female!" (Grace Institute, Ezer: Biblical Femininity).

"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilization – these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is with immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit – immortal horrors or everlasting splendors." –C.S. Lewis, "The Weight of Glory"

The Creation Mandate (Gen. 1:26-31)

- Exercise Dominion

- Be Fruitful, Multiply, & Fill the Earth

Formation of Man (Gen. 2:4-9)

Creation of Woman (Gen. 2:18-25)

“Helper” or *ezer* (v. 18)

“Fit for him” or *kenegdo* (v. 18)

Corresponding to him, according to his opposite, counterpart, like-opposite-to, alike but different, corresponding opposite

“The man and woman thus corresponded physically, socially, and spiritually. As Delitzsch describes her, the woman by relative difference but essential quality would be man’s fitting complement. What he lacked (‘not good’) she supplied; and it would be safe to say that what she lacked, he supplied, for life in common requires mutual help.” –Allen Ross, Creation and Blessing

A Woman’s Identity, Calling, & Role

- **Identity** – God created you in His image as a woman. As women, we reflect the image of God in ways that are distinct from men. The image of God is displayed through both masculinity and femininity, which is why He created men and women.
- **Calling** – God designs us to be helpers. This is why we were created. While being helpers never changes, how it plays out in your life (at work, at home, in ministry, etc.) can change. The shape of your calling is affected by your *role* and by your *individuality* (what makes you, you – your gifts, passions, interests, background, strengths, weaknesses, wounds, etc.).
- **Role** – Your role will shift with each season of your life because roles are temporary. Roles might include wife, mother, student, employee, boss, athlete, etc. “Roles may bring clarity to how and with whom you live out your calling, but they do not determine your identity or your calling” (Grace Institute, *Ezer: A Conversation about Sexuality*).

How God Made Her

Institution of Marriage

**Women & the Fall
Genesis 3**

“Satan has always tempted people to set God’s word aside so that they would be free to live in defiance of what God prohibited – even while claiming to worship the God they will not obey.”

–Allen P. Ross, *Recalling the Hope of Glory*

Satan’s “Shrewd” Approach (vv. 1-5)

God’s Command in Gen. 2:16-17	Eve’s Statement in Gen. 3:2-3
1. “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,” (v. 16)	1. Eve <i>diminished</i> God’s words (v. 2).
2. “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,” (v. 17)	2. Eve <i>added</i> to God’s words (v. 3).
3. “for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (v. 17)	3. Eve <i>softened</i> God’s words (v. 3).

Knowing God’s Word for Yourself

- Think through the time and space that you can meet with God each day.
- Keep pen and a paper with you as you study God’s Word.
- Ways to study Scripture:
 - Read through the Bible in a year
 - Study a book, character, or topic of the Bible
- Quick Questions to Ask:
 - **Head:** As a result of reading this passage, what does God want me to know?
 - Observe: What do I see? What words and phrases jump out at me? What is the text saying? Who? What? When? Where? Why?
 - Understand: What does it mean? Keep what you read in context of the surrounding verses and chapters and in light of all of Scripture.
 - Connect: How does it relate? How do these verses relate to God, others, and me?
 - **Heart:** As a result of reading this passage, what does God want me to desire or not to desire?
 - Apply: How should I think? What in my heart needs to change? Does my motivation for what I do align with Scripture?
 - **Hands:** As a result of reading this passage, what does God want me to do?
 - Apply: What do I do? What am I going to do as a result of what I read and learned? What should I *be*? What should I *do*? Where should I *go*? Who will I *teach*?

God’s “No”

“With irresistible power desire seizes mastery over the flesh...It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for money...Joy in God is extinguished in us and we seek all our joy in the creature. At this moment, God is quite unreal to us, he loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real...Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God...The lust thus aroused envelops the mind and will of man in deepest darkness. The power of clear discrimination and of decision are taken from us. The questions present themselves: ‘Is what the flesh desires really sin in this case?’ ‘Is it really not permitted to me, yes – expected of me, now, here, in my particular situation, to appease desire?’ ...It is here that everything within me rises up against the Word of God.”

–Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Temptation*

Chiasm in Genesis 3

- Confrontation with Man (Gen. 3:9-12)
- Confrontation with the Woman (Gen. 3:13)
- Cursing of the Serpent (Gen. 3:14-15)
- Consequences for the Woman (Gen. 3:16)
- Consequences for the Man (Gen. 3:17-19)

The Proto-Euangelion (the First Gospel) in Genesis 3:15

Consequences of the Fall (Gen. 3:14-21)

Person	Sin	Consequence
Serpent	Tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God <i>by eating food.</i>	
Eve		1. Children 2. Husband
Adam		

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Sin's Distortion of Men

The description of the men is taken from "The Cross & Christian Manhood" by David Platt, Podcast, June 16, 2013.

Passive "Sin leads men to abdicate their responsibility"	Aggressive "Sin leads men to abuse their authority"
Won't Grow Up Walter	Tough Guy Tom
Absent from Reality Andy	Get What I Want Gary
Too Cool Carl	Living for What Won't Last Larry
Blame It On Everybody (& Everything) Else	Can't Put Work Down Dan
Rest in Retirement Ron	Put A Good Face On It Frank

Sin's Distortion of Women

Passive	Aggressive
Dora the Doormat	Wear the Pants Wanda
Manipulative Molly & Controlling Callie	Feminist Fran
Needy Nora	Independent Ivy
Back Pocket Girl Brenda	Seductive Sarah
Victim Valerie	Tough Girl Tess

How does sin affect a woman's identity, calling, and role?

God's Provision in Paradise Lost (Gen. 3:21-24)

"It is also to be remarked that the clothing which God provided was in itself different from what the man had thought of. Adam took leaves from an inanimate, unfeeling tree; God deprived an animal of life, that the shame of his creature might be relieved. This was the last thing Adam would have thought of doing. To us life is cheap and death familiar, but Adam recognized death as a punishment of sin. Death was to early man a sign of God's anger. And he had to learn that sin could be covered not by a bunch of leaves snatched from a bush as he passed by...but only by pain and blood. Sin cannot be atoned for by any mechanical action nor without expenditure of feeling. Suffering must ever follow wrongdoing. From the first sin to the last, the track of the sinner is marked with blood...It was made apparent that sin was a real and deep evil, and that by no easy and cheap process could the sinner be restored...Men have found that their sin reaches beyond their own life and person, that it inflicts injury and involves disturbances and distress, that it changes utterly our relation to life and to God, and that we cannot rise above its own consequences save the intervention of God Himself, by an intervention which tells us of the sorrow He suffers on our account."

-Marcus Dods, *The Book of Genesis*

"The motifs in this chapter-toil, sweat, thorns, the conflict, the tree, death, dust, and the seed – all will be reflected in the experiences of the Christ, who became the curse, sweat great drops of blood in bitter agony, wore a crown of thorns, hung on a tree until he was dead, and was placed in the dust of death..." –Allen Ross, *Creation & Blessing*

Resources for Studying Genesis

- *Creation & Blessing* by Allen P. Ross
- *Beginning & Blessing* by R. Kent Hughes (Preaching the Bible Series)
- *Genesis* by Bruce K. Waltke
- *Genesis: What Were We Put in the World to Do?* by Redeemer Presbyterian in NYC
- *Genesis 1-15* by Gordon Wenham (WBC Series)
- *The Book of Genesis: Chapters 1-17* by Victor Hamilton (NICOT Series)
- *Genesis* by Nahum M. Sarna (JPS Torah Commentary)
- *Genesis 1-11:26* by Kenneth Mathews (NAC Series)
- *Genesis* by Gerhard von Rad
- *A Commentary on the Book of Genesis from Adam to Noah* by Umberto Cassuto
- *Old Testament Theology* by Paul House
- Genesis 1-11 series by Fellowship Bible Church, Nashville, TN, 2010 (podcasts)
- Genesis series by Timothy Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian in NYC, 2000 (podcasts)

- “Prologue: Creation” by David Platt, January 2010 (podcast)
- “Proto-Euangelion: The First Gospel” by David Platt, November 2006 (podcast)
- “Biblical Manhood and Womanhood” by David Platt, May 2011 (podcast)
- *Recalling the Hope of Glory* by Allen P. Ross