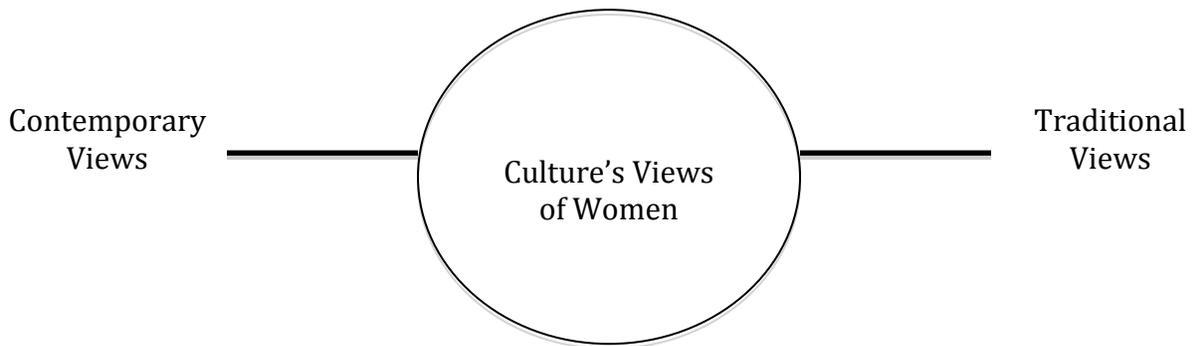


Foundations of Biblical Womanhood
By Ashley Chesnut
Genesis 1-3



- Use the web above and ask the ladies to describe how American culture has traditionally viewed the role of women and how our current culture views women. Below are some common views.
- Traditional Views
 - Domestic – cooks, cleans, and cares for the children
 - Quiet, gentle, and self-sacrificing (can also be a doormat)
 - Submits to her husband (and even to men in general)
 - In need of protection
 - Stay-at-home wife and mother
 - Industrious and productive
 - Divorce was rare
 - In the church, women served as piano players, secretaries, choir members, planners of the church socials, and Sunday school teachers (especially for the children).
- Contemporary Views
 - Women hold more college degrees and more advanced degrees than men in America.
 - Expresses skepticism about marriage
 - Balks at the idea of submitting to anyone
 - Wants equality – equal rights and equal pay
 - Independent

- Feminism – It is the idea that women can do anything that men can do. It’s a fight against gender roles because feminists equate a person’s role with their worth. They advocate empowerment for women (feeling good about one’s self and believing in yourself).
- “As a movement, feminism happened because women were being sinned against...But feminism also arose because women were sinning in response.” –Carolyn McCulley, *Radical Womanhood*

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?

- We know what the world has thought and currently thinks about women, but what does God think? What was His original design for women, for men, and for marriage?
- To understand biblical femininity, we must go back to the beginning when God originally formed the first man and woman – back before sin had entered the picture.
- This is foundational for understanding the NT texts that deal with relationships and the roles of men and women.
- It helps us to understand God’s intentions and how sin affects our relationships and our roles.

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

- EXAMPLE - Think about a wedding
 - Music starts. Grandparents. Parents, Bridesmaids, Ring bearer.
 - All leading up to a climax – the entrance of the bride.
 - That’s what Genesis 1:1-25 does, it leads up to a climax – the creation of man and woman.

What It is

- Imago dei = image of God
- This doctrine answers the existential/universal question – “Who am I?”

What does this mean?

- How are we in God’s image?
 - We don’t really know what God looks like, so we can’t say much about the physical (in the same way that someone would tell you that you look like your mom or dad).
 - We are like God in:
 - Moral understanding – understanding of right and wrong
 - Intellectual capacity
 - Relational beings
 - Spirit/Soul – We’ll live for the rest of eternity
 - Ability to reason and use language
- **We REFLECT God.**
 - Our value and worth stem from being made in God’s image.
 - 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.
 - Who we are is dependent on God and His design.
 - Our understanding of worth affects our view of ourselves

- Does your treatment of yourself reflect that you understand that you're made in God's image?
 - Striving for perfection
 - Low self-confidence (read Eph. 1!)
 - Insecurity
 - Comparison
 - Workaholic
 - Basing your identity on your relationships, how you look, your job, your grades, your spouse/kids, etc.
 - How we perceive ourselves affects our choices.
 - At the root, our identity is wrapped up in what we worship, and if we make anything more important than God it will lead us to trample on others and harm ourselves.
 - Our view of worth affects how we treat other people
 - Trafficking, infanticide, abortion, snubbing, euthanasia, sexism, etc.
 - How do you treat the people around you? What does this say about your understanding of what it means to be made in God's image?
- **We REPRESENT God on the earth.**

"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
 - We are vice-regents (ruling under God with His authority in the place He had put them).
 - This command suggests putting down opposition and perhaps anticipated a conflict with evil
 - Protecting from potential threats
 - Adam and Eve would fail at this task

- Involves ruling well over creation (taking care of the earth, creation care)
 - We're not responsible caretakers when we pillage the earth's resources or thoughtlessly consume products.
- Be Fruitful, Multiply, & Fill the Earth
 - Fill the world with God's image
 - For us, this can happen whether married or single
 - Single – Making disciples
 - Married – Making disciples and having children (whom we raise to follow God)
 - It involves producing a living soul that will live forever
 - Monumental responsibility to parent and disciple a child!

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

- God made the home then made the man. He first prepared the place for the man and woman to live.
- “Formed” (v. 7)
 - Potter forming the clay (think play-do) then animating it
- As the Potter, God has the ability to do what He wants with what is His (Rom. 9:20-23)
- Inbreathing of a soul – gives man life and, representatively, gives him spiritual understanding and a conscience

Creation of Woman & the Institution of Marriage (Gen. 2:18-25)

- For the first time in Genesis, something is “not good.”
 - Even in a perfect environment, Adam needed a helper, a companion fit for him.
 - God makes this determination, and God is the one who does something to rectify the situation.
 - It's not like God made man then recognized He needed to make woman. It was God's plan from the beginning.
- Man could not do all that God had planned alone (look at the creation mandates we just talked about). He was created to need a partner.

“Helper” or *ezer* (v. 18)

- Turn to your neighbor and tell them your gut reaction at v. 18 saying that Adam needing a helper, that women are made to be helpers.
- Most of us don't like this term. We don't like being called a “helper” because we think it's demeaning.
 - This is not so!
 - This is not a subordinate or demeaning team in Scripture.
 - 16 out of the 19 times this word is used in the Old Testament, it describes God. He's not weak or inferior!
 - It points to God's strength, to the fact that He has what His people lack
- Woman provides what is lacking in man. She can do what man alone cannot do.
 - Humans cannot fulfill their destiny without mutual assistance.
 - God sent Adam someone of enormous power, power that was very different from his own.

- What was she created to help man **do**?
 - Give glory to God
 - Obey the creation mandates
 - Be fruitful, display/spread God’s glory, God wants spiritual kids
 - Help him fulfill his (Adam’s) purpose
- She’s NOT created to be man’s possession or slave.
 - She was made on account of man.
 - She exists because he exists. It’s his creation that led to her existence and not the other way around.
 - There’s directionality, an inclination to connect to man as a result of this.
- The two were to “*unite their capacities and characteristics into a spiritual union in the worship and service of the Lord.*” –Adam Ross, *Recalling the Hope of Glory*

“Fit for him” or *kenegdo* (v. 18)

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

- EXAMPLE: puzzle pieces
- Woman is like him
 - Woman shares man’s nature.
 - She’s an image-bearer.
- Woman is different from him but corresponds to him.
 - We’re incredibly different from men. We have radically different views of the world.
 - She complements him.
 - Physically – obvious corresponding physical differences
 - Emotionally – she’s relational
 - Mentally – waffles and spaghetti (from the book *Men are Like Waffles and Women are Like Spaghetti*)
- We need this. We need people who are different from us. We’re better because of them and vice versa (iron sharpening iron).
 - We’re mirrors to each other.
 - God uses your spouse to help you.
 - “Your wisdom portfolio has been permanently diversified.” –Tim Keller
- “If we’re both the same, one is unnecessary.” –Michael Easley, Fellowship Bible Church

*“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.).

- What are your gifts? Your passions? What personality type has God given you? What are your prior experiences?
 - If you don't know, find out!
 - God wants to use all of this. It all informs how He wants you to live out your calling.
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- **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

- God's single awareness program for Adam (vv. 19-20)
 - God made Adam aware of his solitude by seeing that he, unlike the animals, did not have a partner, a fitting companion
 - Emphasis on *God's* action in all of this.
 - Naming of the animals – a way of demonstrating his God-given dominion and authority
 - He didn't find his *ezer* among the animals.
 - “Rather than squandering his most precious gift on who is unappreciative, God waits until Adam is prepared to appreciate the gift of woman.” –Bruce Waltke
- (vv. 21-22) **Rib** – a structure that holds (like a joist or stud), is curved
- “made” = “fashioned”
 - God as a fine craftsman building something specifically for Adam with a hand-in-glove fit for him
 - Takes careful, precise craftsmanship to do this with a rib
- Why make woman out of man?
 - To make her corresponding yet different from him.
 - She's made out of him, out of the very stuff of Adam.
 - She belongs with him.
 - She's suited for him.
- God knew from the beginning that this would point to the big picture of what He was accomplishing in His plan of redemption.
 - God wounded the man (the firstborn of creation) – to give him his bride.
 - It cost the man dearly.
 - God pierced his side.
 - See the commonalities with Christ.
 - His side was pierced while He was on the cross.
 - God wounded His son – Christ – in order to bring Him His bride – the church (us).
 - It cost the Son dearly – it cost Him His life – to make this happen.

Institution of Marriage

- (v. 22) God is the Father presenting the bride to the first groom.
 - The first moment of boy meets girl in human history.
- (v. 23) Adam's solitude and naming of the animals prepped him to realize the gift he'd been given.
- The Bible begins and ends with a marriage (marriage supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19-22).
- "therefore" (v. 24)
 - When God brings woman to man, it is God's design for the man to leave his parents and to start a new family.
 - Adam and Eve didn't have parents, but God was setting this precedent, explaining His design.
 - What does leaving the parents mean? (parents do not have their tentacles in your marriage)
- "Hold fast" or "cleave" (v. 24)
 - It means that you're glued or cemented together
 - They are "one flesh"
 - Therefore, to separate them would cause great damage to both because, when married, they are no longer two separate people. They are one.
 - This is a picture of the deepest intimacy where everything is shared. It's deep community where both are truly known.
 - God's design for marriage is one man and one woman.
 - It's Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.
- What does this mean for singles?
 - We're not meant to live in isolation. We need community.
 - Not every person will marry, but marriage is the norm.

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*

- (2:25) “naked and not ashamed”
 - There was no fear, no sin affecting their relationship
 - No shame or guilt
 - They were open and trusting
 - Nothing to hide from God or each other
 - Sin is what makes us feel the need to cover up before God and others
 - They were confident in who God made them to be
 - *“There was innocence and purity before the Fall. Sexuality had not been spoiled by sin. Man looked at woman without lust. Woman looked at herself and liked what she saw.”*
- Inclusio – bookends or parenthesis/brackets
 - How they go from naked and not ashamed (2:25) to naked and ashamed (3:7).

Satan’s “Shrewd” Approach (vv. 1-5)

- Crafty/shrewd (v. 1) – not a bad thing in itself
 - Means you know where the traps are
 - But Satan not only knows where the traps are, he wants to push people into them.
- Shrewd in WHO he approached
 - Woman had not heard God’s command directly from Him (Gen. 2:16). She got it secondhand from Adam.
- Shrewd in WHAT he called God
 - Terms for God
 - Chapter 1 – “God” or Elohim (All-powerful Creator)
 - Go back to 2:4 (chapter 2 as it involves God’s creation of people) – “LORD God” or Yahweh (covenant, relational name for God)
 - But Satan uses the word Elohim rather than Yahweh. Why? To make God seem more distant.
- Shrewd in the QUESTIONS that he asked
 - He attacks what God’s Word means before moving on to attack God’s character

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). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Left out “every” • Not focusing on all that God had given to them. Puts the focus on what He doesn’t give.
2. “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,” (v. 17)	
3. “for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (v. 17)	2. Eve <i>added</i> to God’s words (v. 3). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes God appear harsh
	3. Eve <i>softened</i> God’s words (v. 3).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The certainty of death was removed.
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Knowing God's Word for Yourself

- Eve was deceived because she didn't know God's Word well enough!
- 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*?
- Eve LISTENED to Satan. Listening in itself wasn't disobedience, but we have to be wise in what we choose to listen to. Because the more we listen to something, the more it fills our mind and the more we start to believe or acting on what thinking about. It's a slippery slope that's easier to avoid if we better monitor what we choose to expose ourselves to.
- "Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst; he promises honor, and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure, and pain; he promises profit, and pays with loss; he promises life, and pays with death." -Thomas Brooks
- John 8:44
- But Satan's lies for us come - not in the form of a serpent - but in the form of ads, TV shows, movies, things people say to us, music we listen to, books we read (like 50 Shades of Gray), etc. He approaches us in ways we don't expect.
- If it hadn't been so attractive of an offer, do you think Eve would have gone for it?
- She didn't stop to count the cost, to think through the consequences, to ask Adam what he thought. She didn't take time to consider if what she was hearing was truth? She responded in the moment. THIS IS US!

- We do what we feel when we feel it. I feel like eating that pint of ice cream, so I will. I feel like buying that shirt, so I do, even though it's not a wise use of my money right now. I feel like watching this TV show right now, so I do, even though I should be studying for that test. It feels right. It sounds good. It's what we want. So we do it.

God's "No"

- (2:16-17) Have you wondered why God made the tree to begin with?
 - The tree itself was not evil.
 - God wanted man to learn about good and evil on *His* terms.
 - *Not* by experiencing evil.
 - He wanted them to know good and evil like He does – without having sinned themselves.
 - The tree was a concrete way to teach man about good and evil without him committing evil in the first place.
 - God's "no" was not a result of the Fall. Even in perfect Eden, God saw fit to give prohibitions. His "no" is not a bad thing. It protects us. God's no was what was best for Adam and Eve, and when He tells us no, it too is for our own good.
 - Obeying God frees us. It does not deprive us.
 - "No" doesn't always feel good, but we have to trust God's goodness and perfect plan, even when we don't have answers or if His way doesn't make sense.
 - True wisdom comes from fearing the Lord and obeying His commands (which is what the whole book of Proverbs is getting at).

"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*

- Instead of focusing on the blessing and provision of God, Eve focused on what she didn't have, on what God didn't give her.
- (v. 6) "good"
 - Irony – Woman's estimation of good differed from God's estimation (1:31)
- 1 John 2:15-16: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions – is not from the Father but is from the world."
 - Practicality for food
 - Aesthetic beauty
 - Potential for wisdom

- “Natural desires for food, beauty, and knowledge are gifts from God but are to be used within His restrictions. The world ignores these restrictions.” –Allen Ross
- She acted to get for herself apart from God’s provision.
 - Always creates problems for us when we try to take control and when we doubt God’s goodness.
 - What do you NOT have that you believe God is withholding from you?
 - Do you trust that I He hasn’t given it to you (whatever “it” is), that He knows what is best for you?
- (vv. 8-9) God wasn’t asking about man’s physical location but about where he was in relationship to God.
 - Our tendency is to avoid our sin, but God wants us to confront it and confess it.
 - God pursues us, and He pursues us in our sin (Rom. 5:6).
 - God showed Adam how He wants us to respond to sin (v. 11) - confession

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

- “Proto-euangelion” is Greek for “first gospel” or “first good news,” and Genesis 3:15 contains the first reference in Scripture to God’s salvation.
- In the midst of judgment, God proclaims good news – hope and grace
- Striking of the heel – Christ’s suffering on the cross
- Crushing of his head – Christ’s death and resurrection defeated Satan

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

Person	Sin	Consequence
Serpent	Tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God <i>by eating food.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “more crafty” (3:1) & “more cursed” (3:14) – Talionic Justice • Would slither and eat dust – humbling • Genesis 3:15
	Although deceived (1 Tim. 2), she disobeyed God by	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For women, her two closest earthly relationships were affected.

Eve	eating the fruit. Then gave to her husband to eat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>whole process</i> of childbearing would be painful. • Humanity was told to increase, now that would be painful. <p>2. Husband</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire – prompting to do evil (Gen. 4:7) • “rule” – describes more than just leadership • “dominion” –mastery, lordship, harsh oppression • “...because the woman prompted the man to sin in giving himself something to eat, that is, taking the lead rather than maintaining a partnership, the man would have dominion over her. I would thus translate, ‘Your desire was to your husband, but he shall have mastery over you.’ The punishment, then, would also be talionic for the woman.” –Allen Ross • This is NOT teaching about submission. That misses the point because Gen. 3 is an oracle about sin. • Submission and headship are not a consequence of sin but are part of God’s original design for marriage (Eph. 5). • Male headship – not male dominion – was the pre-Fall design.
Adam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disobeyed God by eating the fruit • Acted passively – listened to the voice of his wife instead of to God, even though He knew God’s Word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He ate the fruit, so he would experience toil in eating. • Work is NOT a result of the Fall, but the work being hard IS. • Death, decomposition, and dust – man wanted divinity, but in attempt to obtain it, wrought death. After death, he turns to dust, which the serpent would eat.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Man might aspire to be like God, but he's quickly reminded that he's dust.
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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
<p>Dora the Doormat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She lets others run all over her. • Does these things she doesn't want to do because she cannot say "no" • Mindless (doesn't think for herself) • Clarify that submission is different than being a doormat. • Example: oppressed women (like many women in Islamic countries) 	<p>Wear the Pants Wanda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Boss" • Commands attention • Natural leader with a "Lion" personality type • Confidant, dynamic, competitive, dominant • Will not be bossed around
<p>Manipulative Molly & Controlling Callie (twins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passive aggressive • Their weapons include sulking, crying, sighing, and complaining to get what they want • Smiles to your face but sabotages or backstabs you • Manipulates circumstances and people to get what she wants • Externally seems like a nice person, but internally is insecure, bitter, and/or angry • Doesn't forget being wronged • Tends to be jealous and envious 	<p>Feminist Fran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Don't open the door for me or try to pay my way. I can do it for myself." • Takes gentlemanly behavior as an insult • "I have rights!" – I can do what I want with my body. • Don't try to stop me or get in my way. • Men contribute and are responsible for female oppression • "Anything you can do, I can do better." • It's one thing to be against discrimination; it's another to be against the Bible's definition of womanhood.
<p>Needy Nora</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can't be alone • Always has to have somebody • Clingy • Codependent 	<p>Independent Ivy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-sufficient and self-reliant • There is usually some sort of woundedness inside. • "I don't need a man."

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vies for attention and will do anything to get it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always has to have a back-up plan and is scared to depend on someone else, to be vulnerable with them, and to give them power over her • Does what is best for <i>her</i>
<p>Back Pocket Girl Brenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lets guys use her as a “surrogate” girlfriend when they’re bored, lonely, or in-between girlfriends. She’s their go-to girl. • She gets emotionally attached to guys who are not interested in commitment. She lets herself get used and gives away her emotional purity. • She never ends the relationship but keeps letting him into her life, even though she keeps getting hurt by him. • Example: Kate Winslet’s character in <i>The Holiday</i> 	<p>Seductive Sarah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Woman of Folly in Proverbs or the Evil Queen in <i>Once Upon a Time</i> • All relationships serve a purpose – either personal pleasure or some other personal agenda (career advancement, social status, etc.) • Takes more than she gives • Assertive, strong, and clever • Uses sex to her benefit • Cynical and untrusting • Will use people to get what she wants • Likes the power she feels when she “conquers”
<p>Victim Valerie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing is ever her fault • Feels entitled • Doesn’t claim responsibility • Everyone is against me or out to get me • Pity me. “Pour me.” • Wants attention. 	<p>Tough Girl Tess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: Sandra Bullock’s character in <i>Miss Congeniality</i> • Acts like a guy and tries to be one of the guys • Doesn’t let herself get emotionally attached

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

- IDENTITY - Even after the Fall, we are still image-bearers, but we’re marred.
 - What was destroyed was our original righteousness.
 - Although stained by sin, the image remains and will one day be restored.
- CALLING
 - *“But if Eve is an archetype, that is, if she represents every woman as Adam represents every man, then the story portrays a characteristic of human nature – the woman at her worst would be a nemesis to the man, and the man at his worst would dominate the woman.”* –Allen Ross
- CALLING & ROLE
 - We will either act in the Spirit or act in the flesh.
 - This affects how we use the gifts/talents God has given to us (calling) as well as the people we are in relationship with (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