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## **EPISODE 12: GENESIS 1, 2, 3 AND OUR CREATOR'S GOOD DESIGNS FOR WOMEN**

When asked a question about the fundamental nature of marriage, Jesus instinctively and unashamedly returned to the Genesis account for His answer. We do the same with our initial foray into discovering God's design for women. In this episode, we walk through the text of Genesis 1, 2, and 3, identifying some of the essential glories of femininity.

Don't miss these big ideas:

**Don't miss the Spirit's insistence of the goodness of God's creation of and design for women.**

Nothing in Genesis 1 or 2 (except the quickly remedied absence of the woman!) is a mistake or curse. God repeatedly affirms the goodness of all that He creates, including the woman and all of her attendant callings. He (literally) places His blessing on the man and woman *as constituted*. For a woman to embrace her femininity is to align herself with a reality that God has placed His divine stamp of approval on.

**Don't miss the unparalleled dignity inherent in humanity, both men and women.**

- Humanity is the crown of God's creation - and Eve is the final, breathtaking flourish!
- We are the only creature to bear the divine image.
- Adam and Eve are the only creatures created not merely by verbal fiat but through the intimate means of breath and handcrafting.
- Humanity alone receives a mandate to rule the world as holy stewards and fill the earth with glory bearers.

**Don't miss the equality of the man and the woman.**

- Each bears God's image.
- They are mentioned *in tandem* when God's bifurcation of the sexes is revealed.
- They are a perfect biological, social, and spiritual *fit* for each other.
- They are both responsible moral agents, individually held to account for their sin.

### **Don't miss the distinction between the man and the woman.**

- There is a bifurcation of the sexes. We don't see two Adams, but one masculine Adam and one feminine Eve, sexually compatible.
- There is a creation order. Adam and Eve are not created simultaneously or in the same manner, but Adam first from the ground, and Eve second from Adam's side.

### **Don't miss the specific callings assigned to the man as "head."**

- Adam is assigned responsibility for the woman/race, and therefore infused with authority.
- The entire race is named after Adam.
- Adam is given the command about the fruit and expected to lead Eve in understanding and obedience.
- Adam names Eve.
- Adam is to initiate the marriage (leave and cleave).
- Adam's biology speaks to initiative.
- Adam is help responsible in a pronounced way for their sin as He is first addressed and last cursed.

### **Don't miss the unique callings assigned to the woman as "helper."**

- Eve's calling is one of submission and partnership.
- Eve is created as a complement to Adam, to come alongside Him with all of her intelligence and energy and capacity, that together they might take up the glorious work of subduing and filling the earth.
- As a symbol of her feminine calling to submission, Eve takes on the name(s) Adam gives to her, forerunning our cultural practice of a wife taking her husband's surname.
- Eve's biology speaks to reception.

### **Be sure to emphasize these distinct callings DO NOT imply superiority or inferiority.**

Authority does not imply superiority, nor submission inferiority. For example, Adam was not demeaning Eve by naming her, and Eve was not being demeaned in accepting Adam's naming. Adam was taking responsibility for Eve in a thoughtful, careful, honor-infusing way, and Eve was entrusting herself to God's good design. Another example: Adam's breath is taken when he first sees Eve, and his affectionate and poetic burst gives no hint of a superior self-understanding. He knows he is encountering an equal.

### **Don't miss the glory and safety of God's creative intent for sexuality within the bounds of marriage.**

God does not merely create Adam and Eve as co-workers, but as *lovers*. Adam rhapsodies over Eve when he sees her. They are naked and without shame, invited into all the physical and emotional delights of a holy, heterosexual marriage relationship. There is safety for each of them in the arms of the other.

**Don't miss that the fall into sin is, among other things, a moral failure by way of role reversal.**

- Adam was charged to work and *keep* the garden, and yet the dragon is present, roaming free.
- Eve acts without regard to her head.
- Adam submits to Eve's initiative in eating of the fruit.
- Adam blames Eve when their sin is discovered, rather than taking responsibility and offering his life in exchange for hers.

**Don't miss that the woman's curses land directly on her feminine callings.**

The woman's primary creative orientation is toward the glories of marriage (glad submission and partnership) and motherhood (fruitfulness), and these are the exact arenas where her sin will wreak havoc on her. Bearing (and raising!) children will become a difficult and painful ordeal, and submission to her husband will be experienced as a threatening burden rather than a relational delight.

**Don't miss the glorious "proto-evangelion" or glimpse of the coming gospel.**

A son (seed) is promised who will redeem humanity from all that was lost through sin. In other words, by God's grace, the woman's embrace of her femininity will be the means by which God saves the world. Woah!

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