



**God's Divine Design Under Attack – Part 1**  
**Various Scriptures**  
**GCSP – 07/12/2008**

As I am growing in my walk with the Lord and learning to become more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, I am discovering that I have to set aside my own desires and plans more often than I am comfortable with. This is especially the case when it comes to what I am teaching and preaching. As most of you know I greatly prefer to teach and preach sequentially through a Book of the Bible. I like to start in chapter 1, verse 1, of a particular Book of Scripture and work my way through to the last verse of the last chapter. My reasoning for this approach is make sure I am teaching the whole counsel of God and not just picking and choosing what is easiest or most palatable.

I still believe this method is the most profitable for all of us and I will still more often than not be employing this method, but I would be ridiculously stupid to ignore the Holy Spirit in the name of keeping on my schedule and my plan.

The Spirit has led our Wednesday evening study away from the Book of Isaiah for a season, as we studied angels and demons for several months, as we are currently discussing several biblical aspects of the marriage relationship, and we will be studying spiritual gifts very shortly. The Spirit has also led me to take a break from studying the Gospel of Matthew on Saturday evenings and to look at biblical manhood and womanhood for the next several weeks.

Besides the prompting of the Holy Spirit, which is really all that is needed, my reasoning for temporarily pursuing this topic is because God's divine design for men, women, the marriage relationship, and the family is under demonic attack. And while this attack has manifested itself more clearly in the world, like any demonic disease, it has infected the church of Jesus Christ; and if it has not yet reached epidemic proportions it is dangerously close.

I do not have any single passage of Scripture that this series will be based upon but we will obviously be using God's Word to deal with this topic. I will be using several other resources throughout this series, including but not limited to, "Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood" by John Piper and Wayne Grudem, "Divine Design" by John MacArthur, "Intimate Marriage" by R.C. Sproul, "Rocking the Rolls" by Howard Hendricks and Robert Lewis, "The Exemplary Husband" by Stuart Scott, and "The Excellent Wife" by Martha Peace. Tonight a lot of groundwork will need to be laid out to initially set the stage, so please do not think I am ignoring God's Word – we will open His Book in a few moments.

Let's pray before we move on.

The most aggressive attack of recent history on God's divine design began to take root in the sixties. Back then it was called the women's liberation movement. Today it is more widely known as feminism. And before anyone begins to assign blame to the female sex, the impetus for the women's liberation movement can be easily linked to men overstepping their biblical bounds in how they have treated women through the

centuries. The bottom line is Satan and his demons are at the core; men and women have simply been willing pawns in this evil game.

The main agenda of feminism is to totally eliminate the God-designed and God-ordained differences between men and women. Unfortunately, the disease of feminism has infected the church to such an extent that there is a clearly defined movement called evangelical feminism. This movement has tried to mix the tenets of feminism with the Bible, and thus we have many denominations that employ female elders and pastors, which is a direct violation of Scripture.

Can I make a profound statement before we go any farther? Men and women are different; and not just physically. We are different in so many ways and it is good; it is good because God designed us that way. And the more we attempt to go against God's design the more we will suffer the consequences of that sinful action.

Feminism is an affront to God and evangelical feminism is even worse; and both have been utter failures. Feminism has not only damaged and destroyed the lives of countless women it has had the same effect on men and children as well.

It is no surprise to men and women who know their Bibles that men and women are different by design, but it apparently has been a surprise to those who have been pushing the feminist agenda for the last several decades.

Let me read you a few documented cases that speak to the failure of feminism:

According to a front page article in the Los Angeles Times, the former Soviet Union is seeing a growing movement among the Russian women, seeking the "freedom" to be full-time wives and mothers. For years the Russians have been at the forefront of experimenting with gender roles and the traditional wife and mother of the Bible has not existed there for as long as anyone can recall. The vast majority of young women in Russia are fighting for the right to be stay-at-home moms.

One cover story of Time Magazine headlined, "Why Men and Women Are Different? It isn't just upbringing. New studies show they are born that way." Duh! The headline gives the aura of this being a shocking revelation.

Government studies have been conducted to "discover" that we are different from birth. Children have been placed in rooms to observe which toys they gravitate toward, and lo and behold the boys choose to play with cars, trucks, and Lincoln Logs while the girls go straight for the dolls and kitchen toys. Who would have thought that?

The co-author of the provocatively titled book, "Brain Sex: The Real Difference Between Men and Women" details irrefutable evidence for innate differences between men and women. She was spurred on to write this book while working on her doctorate in genetics at Oxford University amid the radical feminist movement of the seventies. She noticed that most scientists were afraid to publish their findings on male/female differences in deference to political correctness. The introduction to her book says:

*"Men are different from women. They are equal only in their common membership of the same species, humankind. To maintain that they are the same in aptitude, skill, or behavior is to build a society based on a biological and scientific lie."*

*"The sexes are different because their brains are different. The brain, the chief administrative and emotional organ of life, is differently constructed in men and in women; it processes information in a different way, which results in different perceptions and behavior."*

*"In the past ten years there has been an explosion of scientific research into what makes the sexes different. Doctors, scientists, psychologists and sociologists, working apart, have produced a body of findings which, taken together, paints a remarkably consistent picture. And the picture is one of startling sexual asymmetry."*

*"It is time to explode the social myth that men and women are virtually interchangeable, all things being equal. All things are not equal."*

Another book, written by a single mother, states:

*"Rifling through the pages of your daughter's public school books, what you won't see is a single image celebrating the work women do as wives and mothers. That information is carefully and systematically expunged from the official cultural record. Sexual equality is our culture's rationale for denying the existence of specifically female contributions, an excuse for withdrawing social approval and protection when women refuse to behave just like men. When a culture begins to promote false conceptions of sex, gender, and family, the reverberations are felt immediately, penetrating deep into the least public and most intimate realms of our daily lives."*

An article in Atlantic Monthly concludes:

*"Over the past two and a half decades Americans have been conducting what is tantamount to a vast natural experiment in family life. This is the first generation in the nation's history to do worse psychologically, socially, and economically than its parents."*

During the 1992 presidential campaign, Marilyn Quayle, wife of former vice president Dan Quayle, had this to say in a featured speech:

*"Not everyone believed that the family was so oppressive that women could only thrive apart from it. I sometimes think liberals are angry because they believed the grandiose promises of the liberation movement. They're disappointed because most women do not wish to be liberated from their essential natures as women. Most of us love being mothers and wives, which gives our lives a richness that few men or women get from professional accomplishment alone. Nor has it made for a better society to liberate men from their obligations as husbands and fathers."*

While many in our culture are attempting to remove feminist ideas from the mainstream of society, the church has allowed these ideas to infiltrate its walls. That should not

surprise us in the least. The church has mimicked the world almost as long as the institution of the church has existed. And besides that, feminism began in the Garden of Eden. Eve listened to Satan's lies, stepped out from under Adam's authority, and acted independently.

Satan's goal from the start was to overthrow God's design for His elect. That is why it is so tragic when the church is duped into helping him carry out his assault on God. Scripture is very clear in defining the God-designed roles of men and women in society, in the family, and in the church. So let's finally turn to Scripture to build our case and reaffirm the wonder's of God's design.

Turn with me in your Bibles to **Genesis**, the Book of beginnings.

### **Genesis 1:27-28**

First we must notice that God created both man and woman in His image. One is not superior and one is not inferior to the other. Both possess intellect, emotion, personality and will that has been designed in the image of God.

Secondly we see that God blessed them as man and woman. The man and the woman were coregents; they were both given the task to rule together over God's creation.

In chapter 2 we get some added detail as to God's creation of man and woman, and we also get some initial insight into God's divine design for the two of them.

### **Genesis 2:7**

God not only created man first, He created him in an entirely different manner than He did the woman. Man was created from the dust of the ground. Man was made from dirt, which may explain why little boys are more apt to play in the mud than little girls are.

### **Genesis 2:18-25**

Adam immediately recognizes that Eve is his perfect companion. He did not see any blemishes or shortcomings in her, because both her character and his attitude were pure. There was nothing to criticize in Eve and there was no critical spirit in Adam.

Let's spend a little time on two words in this account. The first is **helper**, or help-meet, or help-mate, as some translations put it; and the second is the word **suitable**. The Hebrew word translated as **helper** in the NASB is best translated in this way. There are no hidden meanings or even shades of meaning; it simply means help or helper. The word appears in Scripture 21 times.

Through the years some have looked upon this divine order or this divine design as a lesser role or a menial subservient task. It has been disparaged almost as a slave at the beck and call of the master.

Hold your place in Genesis and turn with me in your Bibles to **Psalm 115**.

### **Psalm 115:9-11**

What are some things that come to mind when you envision the Lord as your helper? The Lord as our helper accomplishes what we could not do alone. We require His

assistance to get the job done. We would fail or at the very minimum be incomplete apart from His help.

### **Psalm 121:1-4**

The helper is vital. The helper is there when the tough times come. The helper watches out and is alert to the dangers all around. The helper keeps your feet steady.

This is the same Hebrew word. Is the helper a slave in this context? Is the helper someone who is ordered around on a whim? Is the helper somehow on a lower scale or a lower class of person? – Not in the least. Being a helper is a high and divine calling; so high and so divine that the Lord Himself uses the same term to describe one aspect of His own character in relationship to us, His children.

Ladies, you have been given an unimaginable privilege when God declared you to be the helper.

Turn back to Genesis and let's look at the second key word in the passage we were looking at – **suitable**. Although this particular Hebrew construction is difficult to translate, the gist is that of being a compliment or a completion. The most famous scene in the movie Jerry McGuire is when the main character says to the woman he is in love with, "*You complete me.*" This is the meaning of suitable in the context we find in **Genesis 2:18** and **2:20**. To be suitable is to complete what was lacking and make it whole.

Can we once and for all eliminate the negative connotations of what it means to be a suitable helper?

Man was given the headship in the relationship, but in a pure and God-designed relationship, that headship will manifest itself out of a consuming love to the woman God has provided to you, and her submission to your authority will be manifest in a consuming love for the man God has provided for her. No selfishness or self-will should mar the marriage relationship; each should live for each other in perfect fulfillment of their created purpose under God's provision and care.

A man, just by the virtue of his manhood, is called to lead for God. A woman, just by the virtue of her womanhood, is called to help for God.

So how do evangelical feminists deal with this clear teaching of Scripture?

One classic evangelical feminist is Aida Spencer, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church. She claims the meaning of the Hebrew word that is translated "helper" could actually be translated "in front of", thus God created Eve to be in front of Adam. The woman who helps is then the ruler over the one she helps.

That my friends is nothing but a blasphemous perversion of God's Word. Miss Spencer has simply come up with a way to twist the Word of God in order to justify her own sinful desire to rule.

God did not create Eve to be superior to Adam but neither did He create her to be his slave. God did create the perfect relationship and I submit to you that the only reason marriages struggle today is when one or both parties are wandering outside of that perfect design. Adam saw Eve as one with him in every respect. But we will not achieve this perfect union without a fight.

### **Genesis 3:1-7**

Notice Satan did not directly attack Adam. Adam fell but he was not the primary point of attack. Instead Satan chose to attack Eve. Why?

Adam was the head. By God's divine purpose and plan Adam was the leader. If Adam had been the one who first ate of the fruit and then gave to Eve, it could be said that Eve was only doing as she was created to do – follow her husband's leadership. It would have been no less a sin but it would not have completely accomplished Satan's plan to subvert God's design. Instead, he attacks Eve. And beloved, her first sin was not taking a bite of the fruit, her first sin was adding to the Word of God (**v. 3**), her second sin was eating the forbidden fruit, and her third sin was stepping out from under the authority of her husband by giving to him to eat as well.

Satan's attack on Adam's headship was a success and the feminist movement was born. Adam sinned not only by eating the fruit of the tree but by relinquishing his headship to Eve. Both Adam and Eve twisted God's plan for their relationship – and men and women are still twisting God's plan today.

When the church today goes so far as to commend this reversal of the God-ordained roles of headship in the family and in the church, aren't we commending what God has condemned?

Let's briefly look at the consequences of this first twisting of God's divine design as we wrap things up.

1. Death
2. Pain in child-bearing
3. Strenuous work
4. Marital strife

In **Genesis 2:17** God told Adam, "**For in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.**" Physically and spiritually Adam and Eve were created to live eternally. When they sinned against God they immediately died spiritually and their bodies immediately began to physically die. Death was not an option before sin.

### **Genesis 3:16a**

The wonderful joy of having a child is somewhat overshadowed by the pain a woman must endure throughout the pregnancy – and intensified at birth.

### **Genesis 3:17-19**

Earning a living and surviving in this world was never meant to be a struggle.

### **Genesis 3:16b**

This curse of marital strife is two-fold. First, since Eve usurped Adam's authority women are now cursed to always desire that authority over their husbands. The word translated as desire means a desire to control not a physical or sexual desire.

The second aspect of this curse is that the man will rule over the wife. And in this context it is not the beauty of his God-ordained headship but that he will have a great tendency to abuse his headship in a self-serving way.

Women have a sinful inclination to usurp man's authority and men have a sinful inclination to put women under their feet.

We saw the roles we have been assigned by God and we also have now seen the curse we must live with as a consequence of not abiding by those roles. The Apostle Paul restates these same roles in **Ephesians 5**.

So how do we get back to God's divine plan? How do we overcome the curse? How do we experience the beauty and the perfection of God's purpose for marriage?

We have more foundation to lay before we can begin to answer these questions, and you will have to come back next time if you desire to get back to God's way; if you want to go back to Eden.

Let's pray.