

God & Gender

Week 1: God's Design for Men and Women

Weekly Summary: When a "bad Samaritan" met Jesus, she was shocked by his behavior. He engaged her, confused her, and then saved her, turning her into the Bible's most unlikely missionary. This message reminds us that Jesus is still offering the water of life to the most unlikely people in the most unlikely places.

- ◆ Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- ◆ Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.

- ◆ Take Away 1: Gender is not an **accident**. It is a special gift of God.

- ◆ Genesis 2:7a - The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground.

- ◆ Genesis 2:7b - "God] breathed into his nostrils and gave him the breath of life.

- ◆ Genesis 2:20-22 - But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man.

- ◆ Genesis 2:23 - "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman for she was taken out of man."

- ◆ Genesis 3:20 - Adam named his wife Eve because she would become the mother of all the living.

- ◆ Take Away 2: God creates **dependence** between the two genders.

- ◆ Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

- ◆ Take Away 3: God values both male and female **equally**.

Points to Ponder

1. Moses used a special Hebrew word once in Genesis 1:1 to explain the special and spectacular way God created the world. What is the Holy Spirit emphasizing by leading Moses to use that same Hebrew word three times in regards to humans in Genesis 1:27? Comment on the process of how God created male and female. See Psalm 139:13-14
2. Have you been the victim of a gender stereotype? Have you wrongfully stereotyped someone else? Give examples. How is the dependence that God created between genders a blessing? A challenge?
3. Have you ever questioned God's love for you because of your gender? List blessings that apply equally to a Christian male and female.

Homework For Next Week: Ephesians 5:21-33 & 1 Corinthians 13