

Biblical Femininity – Part 1
(God’s View of Womanhood)

INTRODUCTION:

1. This needs addressing because it is a biblical subject, but also because it is quite pertinent considering our society’s view on the subject.
2. Women and gender have become both the fascination as well as the unfortunate victims of our culture.
 - A. Women, supposedly in hopes of exalting and freeing them from the oppression of a “man’s world,” are being told they can do and be anything they want, including being masculine, or even becoming men themselves.
 - B. The result, however, has instead brought havoc to the minds, lives, and achievements of women.
 - i. For, the application of this fluid view of gender has also been applied to males resulting in men invading the woman’s world, which includes women’s locker/dressing rooms, competing for women’s jobs, honors (i.e., woman of the year), and in sports that were previously reserved for biological women only!
 - ii. So, despite the rhetoric, all the world has done in its rebellion against God’s design for men and women is produce more challenges and suffering for men and especially women.
3. What the world fails to see, because it is blinded by sin, is that God ascribes infinitely greater dignity, power, and worth to women than the world does.
 - A. For, God knows the real value of women and that the real problem women face is not truly social but spiritual. In other words, God knows sin is behind her struggles, which means that only He can provide the answers.
 - B. And it is God’s answers that I want to consider today, His answers to the question of what it means to be a woman and how to express her femininity in this broken world.
4. To do that I want to talk about:
 - A. Creation and femininity/womanhood
 - B. The woman of Proverbs 31
 - C. Biblical elements of womanhood revealed throughout the Bible.

BODY:

I. Creation and womanhood:

- A. Creation teaches that both the man and woman were created in His image (**Gen. 1:26-28** – “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”²⁷ **God created man in His own image**, in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created **them**.²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”).
 1. This means what gender God made you is an expression of His image in you. To reject one’s gender, therefore, as is being done today, is to reject the Creators’ image in oneself, which He will not take lightly (Rom. 1:21ff.).
 2. Secondly, and on a more positive note, because males and females are made in God’s image, neither are superior or inferior to the other.
 - a. This means that the ways we are made differently, which includes our physical, mental, and emotional makeup, should not be viewed as a plus or minus over the other sex.
 - b. Both have equal value and purpose in God’s plan.
- B. Creation teaches that God made man and woman to work **together** to fill the earth and subdue the earth (1:28).
 1. Man, who was created *from the earth*, finds his purpose more suited to exercising dominion over the earth, though the woman also plays a significant role (Gen. 2:15 – “Then the LORD God took the **man** and put him into the garden of Eden to **cultivate** it and keep it.”).

2. Woman, who was created from the rib of man, finds her purpose more suited to filling the earth by bearing children in the marriage relationship, with man playing a significant role.
 - a. Gen. 2:22-24 – “The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” ²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be **joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.**”
 - b. Gen. 3:20 – “Now the man called his wife’s name **Eve**, because she was **the mother of all the living.**” That was said before any children, indicating knowledge of her role.
 - c. So, **the man and the woman need each other** to fulfill God’s mandate (1:28).

II. Creation teaches that God made woman to be a helper for the man (Gen. 2:18-20 – “Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a **helper suitable for him.**” ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a **helper suitable for him.**)

- A. To be the man’s **helper** means that being a woman means God has equipped you to provide what the man is lacking, what he needs.
 1. Though *helper* to many today may ring of inferiority, that is not so biblically.
 2. It is a term of **strength**. For, of the 21 times it is found, 14 refer to **God as our helper** (i.e., Psa. 54:4 – “Behold, **God is my helper**; the Lord is the sustainer of my soul.”).
- B. Being a **helper** means that by design women can **express God’s image** to a needy world in a very special way.
 1. When women strengthen, comfort, serve, and nurture others, as they are so able to do, they display the character and love of our helping God.
 2. What a glorious purpose and privilege! And what a shame our world is rejecting it.
- C. The role of **helper** can also be seen in various settings and contexts **outside of marriage**.
 1. We find Esther who boldly risked her life to help Mordecai’s plan to stop genocide against the Jews.
 2. We find there were women who helped Jesus (Luke 8:1-3 – “Soon afterwards, He [Jesus] began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, ² and also some **women** who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others **who were contributing to their support out of their private means.**”).
 3. There was Lydia in Acts 16, Phoebe in Rom 16:1, and Lois and Eunice in 1 Timothy who were the Lord’s disciples, helpers in the church, and examples of great faith.
- D. What we see is that **helping others flourish...**
 1. Has nothing to do with weakness but is, instead, a great example of feminine **strength**.
 2. Is something all women can do, whether old or young, whether married or single.

III. Creation teaches that women will fulfill much of God’s purpose for them in a submissive role.

- A. Half of creation’s mandate, or being fruitful and multiplying, which requires that the woman **bear children**, is to take place in marriage under the headship of her husband.
 1. For, the woman was created with marriage in mind (Gen. 2:18, 22-24 – “Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the **man to be alone**; I will **make him a helper suitable for him.**”...²² The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” ²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and **be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.**”).

- a. We know that the sexual relationship that produces children is to be confined to marriage between a man and a woman (Gal. 5:19, etc.).
 - b. God has ordained that the man is to be the head in the marriage relationship (Eph. 5:22-24 – “Wives, **be subject to your own husbands**, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the **head of the wife**, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the **wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.**”).
2. That submissive role carries over into spiritual matters also, which affects single women as well (1 Tim. 2:12-15 – “But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. ¹³ For it was **Adam who was first created, and then Eve.** ¹⁴ And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. ¹⁵ But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.”).

IV. Creations shows sin to be the source of women’s struggles with femininity and its proper expression.

- A. In fact, the very sin that has brought upon women their many struggles was caused at the beginning by Eve’s and Adam’s rejection of their God-given roles (Gen. 3).
 1. For, sin entered the world because Adam **did not lead** and **protect** Eve from Satan, while Eve **did not help** her Adam.
 2. Instead, Eve **disobeyed** God, refusing to submit to him, and sought to **lead** Adam into that same sin, and Adam willingly **followed!**
 3. Everything was backwards, the very opposite of what God made it to be.
- B. As a result, the world became cursed and broken.
 1. Man, in his relationship to working the earth now finds the earth to fight against him.
 2. Woman, in her relationship with her husband and to childbearing finds pain and difficulty (Gen. 3:6 – “To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband [ESV – “your desire will be contrary to your husband”], and he will rule over you.”).
 3. So, despite all that sin promises it always results in pain, separation, and hardship, providing nothing good ever!
- C. Yet, even within the brokenness that sin has brought to the woman’s world, godly womanhood still has great power (1 Pet. 3:1-2 – “In the same way, you wives, **be submissive to your own husbands** so that even if any of them are **disobedient to the word**, they may be **won without a word by the behavior of their wives**, ² as they observe your **chaste** and **respectful behavior.**”).
 1. So, by a woman making the difficult choice to submit to her husband **who does not submit to God**, great power for good is shown.
 2. Of course, one might ask if there is a time this submission should cease? The answer is yes. For, when her husband demands what is contrary to God’s word, she must be strong and refuse (Acts 5:29 – “We must obey God rather than men.”).
 3. So, it should be understood that it is sin that has created the struggles faced by women, which surely means that God, not further sin, is the answer for women’s struggles.

CONCLUSION:

1. As it has been shown:
 - A. Creation presents a very different view of what it means to be a woman than does the world, seeing the world is deluded by Satan.
 - B. Only by listening to God’s word and following His word will give women the honor and respect they truly deserve.
2. If you are not a Christian, it is my hope that you will see the wonder of God and his grace presented in his word and respond to Jesus today by coming to him as your Lord and Savior in F-R-C-Bp