

Meeker Christian Church
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Mother's Day
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Today my goal is to perhaps challenge some cultural traditions by sharing some scriptures for you to think about. Specifically the male / female relationship.

In Genesis 2 we are given the sacred creation account of the first women. Listen to this description as if God is speaking directly to you, be inspired and transfixed by the wonder, holiness and human purposefulness of that critical decision and creation by the Sovereign Lord of HIS KINGDOM. Genesis 2:18-23 *18 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. 21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam 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."*

Look at verse 18b I will make him a helper comparable to him. Right here is the crux of our study: The word translated for "helper" in Hebrew is "ezer" which means helper or rescuer. The word "comparable" means a complementary relationship. Together, these terms convey the idea of a partner who is both a helper and a counterpart comparable to Adam, emphasizing their mutual responsible relational nature rather than a subservient or subordinate role. Adam was by God's design in one sense incomplete by virtue of verse 18a *"It is not good that man should be alone"*. The creation plan for Adam was to be completed or fulfilled with this action in the creation process. A female helper/completion partner was not an after-thought, but a design for the balance and what was best and ideal for the created. God could have scooped up a handful of earth and created a female, but His design was much more intimate and sacred for unity for the relationship in His newly populated earth environment.

Remember this is the absolute first creation of man and woman, the first appearance of male and female on planet earth or anywhere for that matter except in the mind of God. Marriage and parenthood are not explained nor modeled so far in creation so we are given all that in the very next verse... Genesis 2:24 *24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* That incredible statement was not defined nor described but it was from the start clearly mandated, even ahead of the description of what it meant.

We see the significant importance of this mandate throughout its Bible usage:

Matthew 19:5 *and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?*

Mark 10:8 *and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.*

Ephesians 5:31 *For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* (Make a note this is written by the apostle Paul for the church in Ephesus.)

Are those Bible writers authoritative and binding for the goodwill, and blessings resulting from the created doing the Creator's will? Are they inspired and authoritative for citizens on earth today to read and obey? Are they meant for you and me?

The Genesis writer was Moses who filled the role of a father and leader of the nation of Israel. And interestingly he is a significant figure in Judaism and is considered a patriarch of all the religions reflecting back to Abraham. He is authoritative.

Matthew was an apostle who had been selected by and was with Jesus during all of His earthly ministry. He is authoritative.

Mark, was a Gospel writer who studied under the Apostles including privately under the Apostle Paul. He is authoritative.

Then there is the Apostle to the gentiles - Paul. He is authoritative by divine appointment, writer of the most books of any author in the New Testament.

Those impeccable authoritative, inspired writers all copied Moses from Genesis 2:24 ... *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

I would suggest it is the definitive and most important and timeless all encompassing statement in creation for the relationship God created for men and women. If we had been taught, and then in turn taught each generation that created design relationship from day one it would be a different world. The spouse is tantamount to a favored arm and hand. One may function without it, but the relationship is impossible to be its fullest and sacred design intent.

A hypothesis statement for this Ladies Day message 2025 is God created two genders - male and female. Examples and scriptures are shared to show that one gender is not designed by the creator as superior to the other, but created as equals with special abilities and functions for completion of both. Not competition, not ever competition in life or marriage or sports... much less the basic creation defiance of modifying or outright

changing physical gender by psychology or medical surgeries! Each gender is a sacred design by God for a completing purpose of regeneration of the species and with that John 10:10 *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

But - oh my - look with the same astonishment of what happens in the very next verse in the female creation Bible record- it is so important for us to assimilate: Genesis Chapter 3:1 *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"*

Immediately the male / female relationship was attacked and has since then been a primary target for satan. If you are not already versed on the fall of mankind initiated by satan in the form of a talking serpent then make a note and study chapter 3 at home and just be aware of the powers of satan and his evil forces to corrupt anything and everything that is from God. Anything and everything that has to do with the will of God, and for the glory of God. Be aware right now that we cannot defeat satan or his forces one on one or by any frontal attack in own strength. You can only be ultimately victorious over satan by equipping your life with Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Please be aware this is Paul writing to the church in Ephesus. Ephesians 6:10-18 *10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [b]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.*

Do you see just how diabolical satan has been? His first victims were the first created and mankind has fallen for his destructive trap of competing male and female relationships instead of universally recognizing the completing beauty and design of God from Creation and emphasized by marriage and propagating completeness for God's purpose. I am obliged to warn you as the time of the end of this church age draws near --- the frequency and intensity of satan and his demolition of mutual gender respect and awe, satans destruction of morals, ethics, modesty, respect and everything the 10 Commandments teaches and that Jesus commanded in the New Testament are targeted by evil and corrupt forces. This world is becoming the Decapolis of which the Jew's feared so much in their day.

On this Mother's Day 2025, I don't have time to read it all, let me ask you to go home and read Proverbs 31:10-31 and study carefully the writer who was characterized as the wisest man who ever lived outside of Jesus. Look at what he was inspired to write to clarify, inspire, and magnify beyond all cultural characterizations (as we remember to take into account the context of his writing 1,000 years before Jesus.) Read it and weep for the incredible description of God's design for womanhood. Men and women both need to read it, one to practice it, the other to honor and respect it and both to rejoice in being in the will of God through it.

I pray a seed has been planted for those of us in this era of mankind to respect, honor and be mutually completed by our comparable gender that brings us to fulfillment as we have seen described in Genesis 2. Which radiates into all of society!

Some may ask - what about New Testament teachings like 1 Timothy 2:11-15 *11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.* Similar in 1 Corinthians and some in others...

First place in your mind the inerrancy and unchangeable nature of scripture, then it is essential to understand the context in which Paul wrote his letters for the churches under the umbrella of the already revealed scripture. And the same with Peter and the rest. Paul was addressing issues in the church at Ephesus, a congregation facing false teachings and disruptions. Remember earlier he was writing them of this "one flesh" mandate?? His instructions were aimed at restoring order and promoting sound doctrine and helping them to become the model people of scriptural revelation like the Jews were supposed to have done! The guidelines are inspired writing for the church age - but totally to be incorporated and interpreted by all scripture leading up to it. From the same author we just read, Paul wrote - this time in 2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.* Oh yes and please note these 1 Timothy 2 writings are not and never were universal guidelines for humans. They are not rules and regulations within and without the church for authority or mandating the male gender to rule and dominate the female gender. Ethnic superiority, or any rulership or authority beyond the sacred and reverent intent of creation and scriptural revelation has inevitable consequences on earth and into all eternity.

Our Bible presents a rich list of women, each playing unique roles in God's unfolding plan throughout history. Their contributions range from acts of courage and faith to moments of weakness and sin. They were mothers, wives, leaders, queens, and disciples, shaping biblical history in profound ways. Their stories teach valuable lessons about faith, obedience, wisdom, and redemption. Together, they illustrate that God works through all people, regardless of gender or status, to fulfill His divine purposes. This inclusive narrative of women enriches the Bible's message of love, grace, and salvation for all. To help us

contextually understand, I would again draw to your attention that Paul and Peter also are the writers who emphasized for us in the New Testament that women, like men, have been given spiritual gifts (1Cor 12:7-11). Women like men are to use their gifts to minister to the body of Christ (1 Peter 4:10) as their ministries are indispensable to the life and growth of the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-26) and society. To be true to the complete revelation of Holy Scripture the church must honor those varied ministries of women and to encourage women to pursue them with all our strength and theirs.