

Questions About Whether Women were Created to Serve a Secondary Role to Man?

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Isn't a proven fact that man was created first, then God recognized that man needed a companion so he then created Woman as a "helpmeet" to help and assist man in doing the ministry God him to? In other words, women were created to serve in only a secondary role as the primary mission and ministry was given to man?

Answer:

You're asking an important and deeply theological question that many have wrestled with — and it goes to the **heart of God's design for men and women** in creation, ministry, and mission.

Let's walk through this carefully, using **Scripture, Hebrew language, and God's redemptive plan** to understand what the Bible actually teaches about the role and value of women.

Was Man Created First? Yes. But That's Not the Whole Story.

Genesis 2:7

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground..."

Yes, Adam was created first. But Genesis doesn't end there.

Genesis 2:18

"And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*"

This is the first time God declares something in creation "**not good**" — the loneliness and incompleteness of man. And His solution was not an assistant, servant, or inferior — but a **partner**, a co-laborer.

What Does "Help Meet" Actually Mean?

In Hebrew, the phrase is:
‘ezer kənegdô (עֵזֶר כְּנֶגְדּוֹ)

Let’s break it down:

‘Ezer (עֵזֶר) — “Help”

- This word **does NOT** mean assistant or servant.
- In fact, it’s used **over 20 times** in the Old Testament, **mostly for God**

Himself!

“Our help [ezer] is in the name of the LORD...” — Psalm 124:8

“God is my helper [ezer]” — Psalm 54:4

So Eve was not a “junior” or “lesser” being — the word ‘ezer refers to a **strong rescuer, protector, and ally**. A source of strength when one is in need.

Kənegdô (כְּנֶגְדּוֹ) — “Corresponding to him” or “face-to-face”

- This means someone who **stands opposite as an equal counterpart**.
- Not behind him. Not beneath him. But **beside him**, as a **mirror image** or counterpart.

So ‘ezer kənegdô could best be translated:

“a powerful ally who stands equal and opposite him.”

So Was Woman Created in a Secondary Role?

No. According to the biblical language and narrative:

- Woman was not an **afterthought**, but the **necessary solution** to complete humanity.
- Adam was incomplete without Eve.
- The mission given to humanity (Genesis 1:28 – to be fruitful, multiply, have dominion) was given to **both** male and female.
- Eve was not created to be a servant to Adam’s ministry — she was created to **share the ministry** of reflecting God’s image and ruling the earth.

Genesis 1:27

“So God created man in his own image... male and female He created them.”

Both man and woman are **fully in the image of God**. Neither is secondary.

Woman Was the Strength of Man

Here's a powerful insight:

- Adam was made from dust.
- Eve was made from **refined living tissue** — from his side.
- Her creation was **intentional**, specific, and special.

In Jewish thought, the creation of woman was often seen as the **climax** of God's creative work — **the last masterpiece**, not a secondary servant.

What About Roles in the Church or Home?

- While **roles may differ** in some traditions or churches, **worth and value do not**.
- God never said woman was less spiritual, less called, or less valuable.
- In fact, **through a woman** (Mary), the Savior came into the world.
- And the **first person to preach the resurrection** was a woman (Mary Magdalene).

Final Thought

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

— **Galatians 3:28**

The Bible doesn't teach that women are lesser or meant only to assist men in ministry. Rather, women are shown to be:

- Strong allies
- Bearers of God's image
- Partners in mission
- Leaders, prophets, and proclaimers of truth

God made **man and woman** to reflect His fullness — **together**.