

RESTORING THE PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GENDER IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE

I Corinthians 11:2-16 ESV

1. THE STANDARD: GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GENDER (11:2-3)

Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.



The Order of the Creation of the Heavens and the Earth (Genesis 1)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was **without form (NO PLAN) and void (NO PURPOSE)** and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

DIVERSITY OF THE PLAN

Day 1: And God said, "Let there be light,"

Day 2: And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

Day 3: And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear."

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth."

DIVERSITY OF THE PURPOSE

Day 4: And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth."

Day 5: And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."

Day 6: And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds."

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every

creeping
God he created him; /

thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, / in the image of
male and female he created them.

The Order of the Creation of Male and Female (Genesis 2)

THE DIVERSITY OF THE MAN’S PLAN: *He reflects the image of God by his birth out of God’s garden*

When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— then **the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**, and the **man became a living creature**.

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and **there he put the man whom he had formed**. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**. A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

THE DIVERSITY OF THE MAN’S PURPOSE: *He reflects the image of God by his role as a keeper of God’s garden*

The Lord God took the man and **put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it**. And the **Lord God commanded the man**, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

THE DIVERSITY OF THE WOMAN’S PURPOSE: *She reflects the image of the Man by her role as a helper of the Man’s loss (loneliness)*

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

THE DIVERSITY OF THE WOMAN’S PLAN: *She reflects the image of the Man through her birth out of the Man’s loss (rib)*

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones / and flesh of my flesh; / she shall be called Woman, / because she was taken out of Man.”

THE UNITY OF THE MAN’S AND WOMAN’S PLAN AND PURPOSE: *They reflect the image of God through their fruitfulness (Woman) and dominion (Man) of the garden*

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

2. THE PROBLEM: THE DESTRUCTION OF GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GENDER (11:4-6)

1. Males Praying and Prophesizing with covered heads

Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head,

2. Females Praying and Prophesizing with uncovered heads

but every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, since it is the same as if her head were shaven. For if a wife will not cover her head, then she should cut her hair short. But since it is disgraceful for a wife to cut off her hair or shave her head, let her cover her head.

The Disorder of the Creation of Gender (Genesis 3)

Satan attacks the Woman' plan (birthed out of the Man) and purpose (helper of the Man)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate,

Satan attacks the Man's plan (birthed out of the Garden) and purpose (keeper of the Garden)

and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Consequences of attacking the plan and purpose of gender

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

God confronts the Man's reversal of creation

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

God confronts the Woman's reversal of creation

Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

God punishes the Serpent's attack on the order of creation

The Lord God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this, / cursed are you above all livestock / and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go, / and dust you shall eat / all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman, / and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head, / and you shall bruise his heel."

God punishes the Woman's reversal of creation

To the woman he said,
"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; / in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, / but he shall rule over you."

God punishes the Man's reversal of creation

And to Adam he said,
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife / and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you, / 'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you; / in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; / and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face / you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground, / for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust, / and to dust you shall return."

God Promises to Restore the Order of Creation

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life

3. THE SOLUTION: SHOW THE PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GENDER (11:7-15)

a) From Creation: Reflect the diversity of gender with a diversity of dress

For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. That is why a wife ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

b) From Creation: The equality of gender is not diminished with a diversity of dress

Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.

c) From Nature: Reflect the diversity of gender with diversity of dress

Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a wife to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not nature itself teach you that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering.

4. THE CONCLUSION: ACCEPT THE PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GENDER (11:16)

If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.