

## Begin at the Beginning

KSBC May 23, 2010

Reflecting God: Male, Female and Marriage

Genesis 2:18-25

**Introduction** We turn to the beginning of our Bibles to explore some of the most profound issues that your mind has ever questioned or considered. Where did you come from? Why are you here? Why boy and girl? You know these are important questions because so much controversy, debate, militancy and adrenalin are produced when these basic questions are brought up. Try talking with people often about the distinctiveness and equality of male female roles. Position yourself clearly with your neighbors and coworkers that marriage is restricted to one man, one woman for a lifetime. Beyond that, argue that male female roles/distinctions and one man one woman marriage are both wonderfully good and beneficial. Most of you would find debate and ridicule from both inside and outside the church community if you were to actually rejoice in God's creative design regarding these issues.

We continue our study of the first chapters of the Bible to shape and change our thinking for the glory of God. Consider by way of brief and quick review what we have discovered in our first two studies:

Our creator owner God is . . .

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Self existent. | God is independent of all that everything else depends on.                           |
| 2. Powerful.      | God has no limits, all he wants to do he does. He wills nonbeing into being.         |
| 3. Purposeful.    | God does everything according to his desire, purpose and will.                       |
| 4. Good.          | God is the final standard for what is good. All that God does is worthy of approval. |

You, on the other hand find meaning and purpose in these truths:

- |  |              |   |
|--|--------------|---|
| 1. You are created by God.               | 1:26-27; 2:7 | You have no independent existence apart from him. |
| 2. You bear God's image and likeness.    | 1:26,27      | You are distinct from all other creation.         |
| 3. You are intentionally male or female. | 1:27         | You have a God given role and perspective.        |
| 4. You are loved by your creator God.    | 1:28; 2:8    | You are wired to enjoy God and give him joy.      |
| 5. You are morally responsible.          | 2:9; 16,17   | You are a complete person only as you obey God.   |

This morning we continue in our study of Genesis chapter 2 and discover that the concepts of male female distinctions and marriage are built into the very design of our being created by God. Enjoying and reflecting God as a male or a female is a bit challenging. Enjoying and reflecting God in your marriage seems unreachable at times. Answers for gender role distinction and relationship distortions are found in the story of the creation of man and woman.

Read Genesis 2:18-25

One way to measure the importance and weight of the topics of male female distinctions and one man one woman marriage is by the incredible and persistent opposition and experimentation that collects around them. You along with our fellow humans are determined to prove that there is joy, satisfaction and value found in living our lives without regard for our creator owner's design and intent.

Note these six ways in which the created intent of the verses we just read are compromised both throughout biblical history as well as in our time.

- Polygamy                    one man/one woman design; Gen.4:19 within 6 generations after Adam
- Divorce                    durability/permanence of covenant
- Adultery                    (prostitution)    bond of fidelity
- Homosexuality            rebellion against creative design                    Rom.1
- Sterility                    sometimes curse/judgment; most often God's plan
- Gender distortion        failed leadership, worth/significance defined by power/independence

The battle in our culture, schools and families over gender definition and the sanctity of marriage is not a social battle that will be solved by making individual desire the highest value. It is not a scientific battle that will produce lasting joy and significance by tracking the wiring of the human personality. It is not an educational battle that will produce clarity and agreement by pretending and pressing minds into an illogical and lonely mold. The battle in our everyday lives over what is a boy, what is a girl and why is marriage to be protected, is an enormous battle that is a direct campaign of rebellion against our creator owner. It is a biblical and theological battle with major powers behind it and significant casualties resulting from it.

We again recognize our faith constraints. We believe the Bible is true and communicates God's thinking in everything it speaks to. We come to God's words to have our thinking, experience and feelings shaped. It is obvious that one of our major responsibilities regarding our creator owner God is to listen carefully and do what he says. Notice that whether you listen to evangelical feminists or Christian homosexuals, both must wrestle the text of scripture into various contortions to even come close to sensibility. Even then, the simplest of Bible believing, God loving people scratch their chins in wonder and confusion at the best arguments in defense of these unbiblical positions.

Our fight is both to protect ourselves from false teachers and to promote correct doctrine. We plan to address the reflecting God's glory in your marriage two weeks from this morning. This morning we intend to answer the question of how you can reflect God's majestic glory in your maleness and femaleness. Both male domination and feminism share the same core value. Your personal significance and worth is measured or produced by power, authority and independence. Remove all limits, ceilings and stereotypes. Real people have power, freedom, and do not answer to or limit themselves to narrow, repressive and demeaning expectations. Both men and women have climbed hard up the ladder of worth and significance only to find the ladder was leaning against the wrong wall.

Two simple truths about your maleness and femaleness form Genesis chapters 1 & 2:

1. God created you male or female with careful design.                    1:26-28; 2:18-25

Three principles from the creation account help shape our thinking about our gender identity:

Male and female are designed by God . . .

- a. Equal in personhood and significance.                    1:26-27

Image/likeness of God and dominion over creation common to both

- b. Distinct in role and authority.                    1:26-27; 2:18ff

Order, male prior to female; role, female for male; authority/headship; submission/helper

c. Suitable in relationship and work. 2:18-25

Helper fit for; procreation; dominion

Creative design is foundational for God reflecting life and relationships:

- In the gospel            you are all sons of God            Gal.3:18            1Pet.3:7
- In the church            roles and responsibilities            1Timothy 2:8-15            1Cor.11:7-9
- In the family            headship and submission            Eph. 5:22-23

2. God intends your personal worth to be found in him. 1:26-28; 2:18ff

Note that man – male & female, were created by design to live with God, enjoying relationship with both him and each other. They had no value, identity, significance or worth outside the context of their creator owner. God made you a male or a female so that his glory would be reflected through your maleness and femaleness. In submitting yourself to your creator and his design for you, he is glorified and you are satisfied.

What does it mean to reflect God's glory as a man? What does God intend a man to be and do?

- Listen to and obey God. 1:28; 2:16
- Work hard 2:15 lead, feed, protect; responsibility for benefit of others
- Ask for help 2:18 humility, you get in trouble by yourself.

What does it mean to reflect God's glory as a woman? What does God intend a woman to be and do?

- Listen to and obey God. 1:28; 2:22
- Work hard 2:18; 1:27-28 helper, completer
- Embrace authority 2:18 submission for benefit and protection

Power of 1Peter 3:1-6; Blessedness of Prov. 31 model; Influence of 2Tim.1:3-5

Conclusion

1. Repent of your attempts to shape your life in some fashion other than God's creative design.
2. Admit your need of a savior deliverer to forgive your sin, give you new life and make you a child of God.  
Gal. 3:23-29 restoration to God's family through Jesus Christ.
3. Be encouraged and steadfast in your efforts to grow in reflecting God's glory as a whole person.

### Small Group Questions

1. What observations, impressions or questions do you have from the study today?
2. Read Genesis 1:26 – 2:18 as a group. What terms or concepts are significant, cause questions or stand out to you for some reason?
3. What do you think of the statement that feminism and male domination have the same core value of measuring significance by power, authority or freedom? How has this value manifested itself in your life?
4. What are the current ways the subject of gender identity intersects your everyday life? What are the questions or issues you face regarding maleness and femaleness? Do you find principles in the study/passage that are helpful?
5. Describe for the group the basis of your self-worth. What makes you feel significant and how does that relate to our study of Genesis 1-2?
6. Review the 3 descriptive points under main point #1. Have group members explain them to each other. Are they true? Are they found in Genesis 1-2? Which one is most helpful for you? Which is most difficult to grasp?
7. Would you allow your daughter to wrestle or play football on the boy's high school team? Would you allow your son to play if there was a girl on the team? Why? Defend your response from the scriptures.
8. Does 1Corinthians 11:7-9 or any other passage of scripture require an obvious distinction between male and female in dress and behavior? 1Peter 3:1-7 may help a bit on this. How do you spell 'modesty' and how do you think it relates to maleness and femaleness?
9. What do you want to do, use or remember from today's study?