

## SS: Marriage, Male & Female, 2023

### Lesson 1: Male & Female at Creation

**Summary of the Lesson:** *Together as male and female, man is the image of God. Together, they multiply and fill the earth. The male alone was created from the ground and for the ground. The male alone was given the divine command and warning. The male alone named the animals. The female alone was created from the male and for the male. From the very first pages of the Bible we see both equality and differentiation between the sexes.*

1. **First, note that TOGETHER, as male and female, man was called to have dominion, in large measure by multiplying and filling the earth.**

**Gen. 1:26-28** *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 thing that creeps on the earth.”*

<sup>27</sup> *So God created man in his own image, **in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.***

**28** *And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

2. **Note second that the male/female distinction is of the essence of our bearing the image of God.**

*God created man in his own image, **in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (v27).** For humans to accurately reflect who God is and what he is like, it was necessary that man be not only male but also female.*

Is. 49:13-16; Ps. 121:1-2 (and numerous similar texts, compared with Gen. 2:18)

3. **The male alone was created from the ground and for the ground.**

**Gen. 2:5** *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,** <sup>6</sup> and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— <sup>7</sup> **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. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, **and there he put the man whom he had formed.** <sup>9</sup> ...*

<sup>15</sup> *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

**Cf. Gen. 3:17-19**

**APPLICATION QUESTION:** How should these verses color the raising of our sons?

**4. The male alone was given the initial divine command and warning.**

**Gen 2:16-17** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,<sup>17</sup> 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.”*

**APPLICATION QUESTION:** What parallel do we see in the NT re the greater responsibility of fathers in the home?

**5. The male alone named the animals.**

**Gen 2:18-20** *Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”<sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup> **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.*

**6. Fourth, note that the female alone was taken from the man and for the man. She was brought to the man.**

**Gen 2:18, 21-22** *Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”<sup>19</sup> ... But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.*

**Cf. Gen. 3:16; 1Co 11:7-12**

Men are generally called to be leaders and providers. They are called to take responsibility. Women were created to be helpers, to come alongside. Their role is to support and serve. We noted earlier that God himself identifies himself as the helper of his people. In no way does such a role convey inferiority. **Ps. 115:9-11**

**APPLICATION QUESTION:** Given the primacy of marriage in the creation account, why is the world to come one in which “*people will neither marry nor be given in marriage*”?

**Matt 22:30** *For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.*

