

"male and female He created them." (Gen. 1:27)

God's Grand Design

The Beauty of Biblical Complementarity

Foundations of Biblical Complementarity (pt. 2)

Genesis 2:4-25

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven. ⁵Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. ⁶But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. ⁷Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. ⁸The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. ¹⁶The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." ¹⁹Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²²The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

²³And the man 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."
²⁴For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

(Genesis 2:4-25)

Foundations of Biblical Complementarity (pt. 2)

Genesis 2:4-25

Clues of Complementarity

1. The man was created before the woman
2. The man was placed in the garden to work it
3. The man was given the priest-like task of guarding the holiness of the garden-temple
4. The man was responsible for naming the animals

Clues of Complementarity

5. The woman was created *for* the man – a “helper corresponding to him”
6. The woman was created *from* the man
7. The man names/identifies the “woman”
8. The two become one flesh in marriage

³ But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ...⁸ For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; ⁹ for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake...¹¹ However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. ¹² For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man *has his birth* through the woman; and all things originate from God.

(1 Corinthians 11:3, 8-12)

General Implications

1. The benevolent “headship” of the man
 - the man bears primary responsibility to lead in a God-glorifying direction (e.g. provide, protect)

General Implications

2. The essential “helper-ship” of the woman
 - the woman is uniquely created to assist and partner with the man in ruling over creation (particularly through procreation)

General Implications

- ❖ We should celebrate God's beautiful, intentional, complementary design of men and women!