

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

God's Grand Design

The Beauty of Biblical Complementarity

Distortions of Biblical Complementarity

Genesis 3:1-24

Distortions of Complementarity

1. The reversal of God's design
 - Adam was charged with guarding the garden, yet is passive in subduing the serpent
 - Adam sinned by "listening to the voice of his wife"
 - Adam, not Eve, is held responsible for sin entering the world (c.f. Rom. 5:12ff)

Distortions of Complementarity

2. The effects of human corruption
 - Adam and Eve experience shame and alienation from one another
 - Adam has moved from celebrating the woman to blaming her, and ultimately blaming God

Distortions of Complementarity

3. The results of God's judgment
 - gender specific – the consequences relate to their primary roles and realms of responsibility
 - a pattern of struggle in which the wife will seek control and the husband will assert authority

Glimmers of Hope

- The promised "seed" of the woman
 - "he" will defeat God's adversary (bruise his head), yet only through his suffering (bruise his heel)
 - Adam names his wife "Eve" ("life") signaling her unique, essential role in God's promise