



Order My Steps



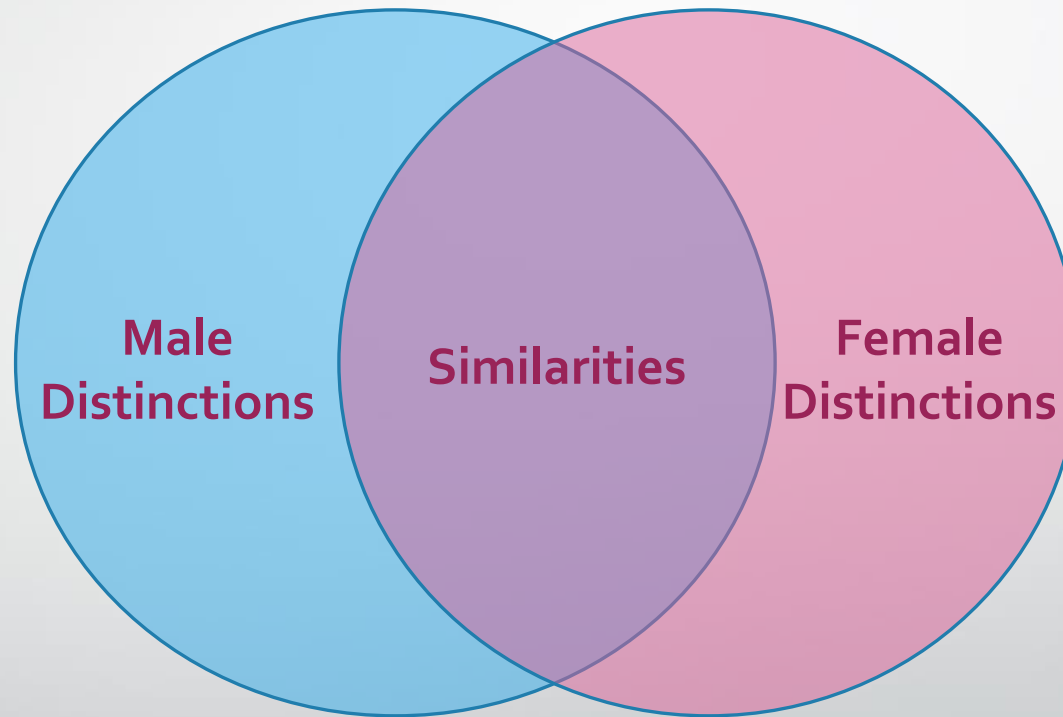
Gender Roles and Identity

What the Bible Says About Men and Women – and Why It Matters

Lesson 2 – Gender Reflects the Image of
God in Creation

In the Beginning – Similarities and Distinctions

Geneses 1:27 - So God created man in his own image

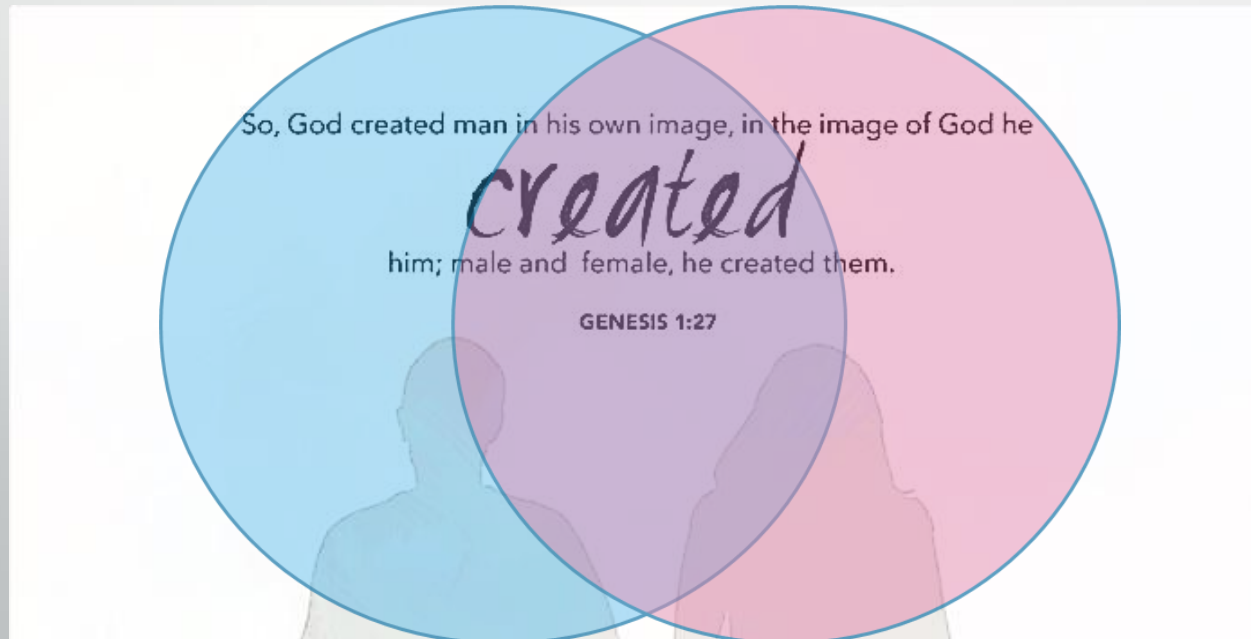


in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Similarities and Differences Reflect God's Image

- Genesis 1:26a,27

^{26a} Then God said, "Let us make man **in our image**, after our **likeness**... So God created man **in his own image**, **in the image** of God he created him; **male and female** he created them.

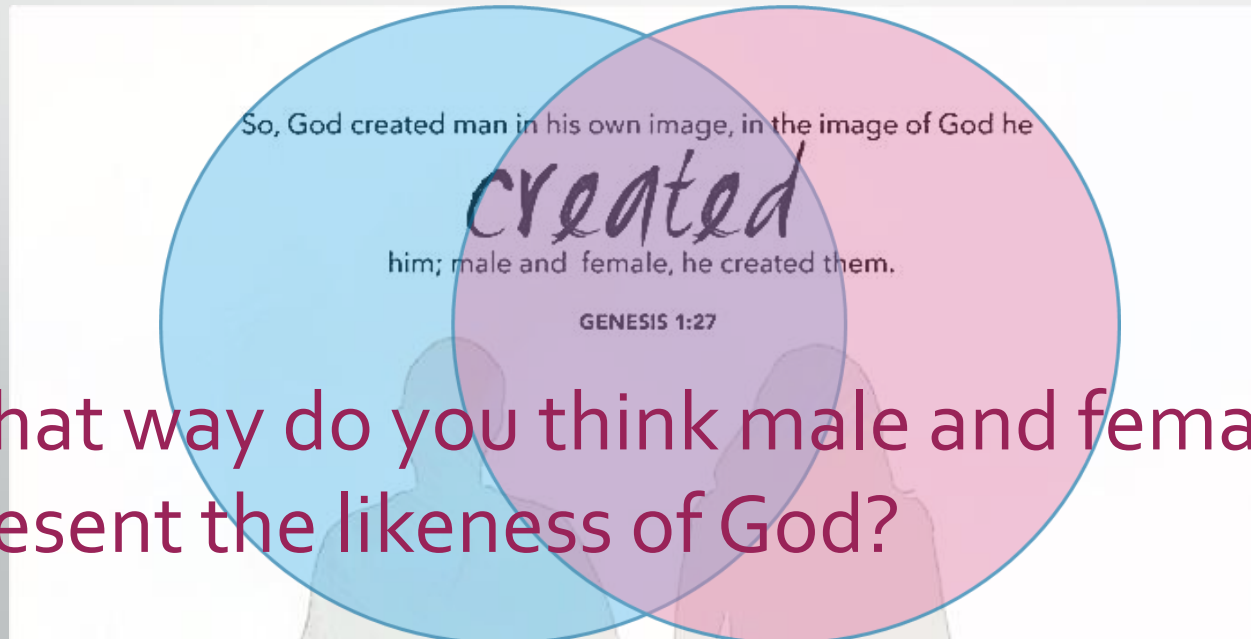


Similarities and Differences Reflect God's Image

- Genesis 5:1-23

This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him **in the likeness of God**.

² **Male and female** he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.



- In what way do you think male and female can represent the likeness of God?

Unity in Diversity – Godhead Complimentary Roles

Oeness



Relationship

Glory/Honor

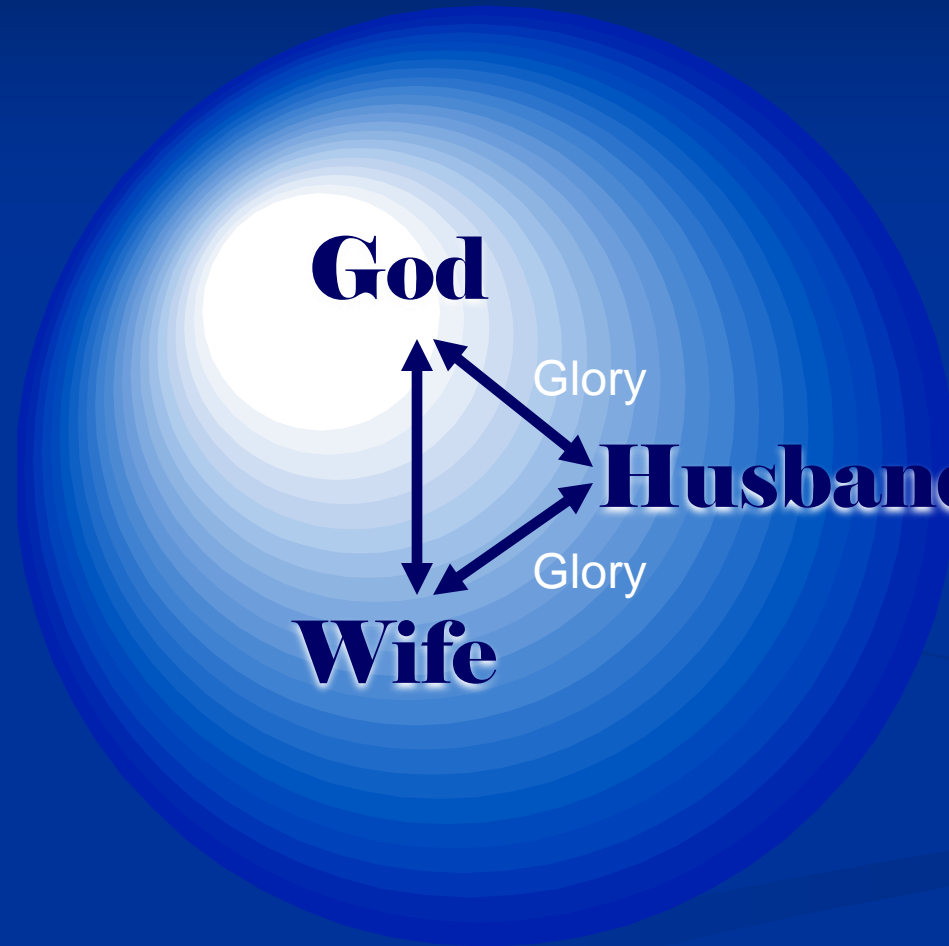
Submission

Service

Unio Mystica

Unity In Diversity – Marriage Complimentary Roles

Oneness



Relationship

Glory/Honor

Submission

Service

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Roles – Filling, Subduing, Ruling

- Genesis 1:26;28

²⁶ 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.”

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.”

Roles - Filling, Subduing, Ruling

- Genesis 1:26;28
- Procreating
- Subduing the Earth
- Ruling Every Living Creature



- How is this role in the Image of God?
- Who is to have this role?
- Is it similarity or complementarity in gender roles?

Roles - Relationship and Responsibility

- Genesis 2:4,7

⁴This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

⁷Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.



Roles - Relationship and Responsibility

- Genesis 2:15-25
¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **work** it and **take care** of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."



Roles - Relationship and Responsibility

- Genesis 2:15-25

¹⁸The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹ Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what **he would name** them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

²⁰ So **the man gave names** to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.



Roles - Relationship and Responsibility

- Genesis 2:15-25

But for Adam no **suitable helper** was found. ²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the Lord God **made a woman** from the rib he had taken **out of the man**, and he brought her to the man.



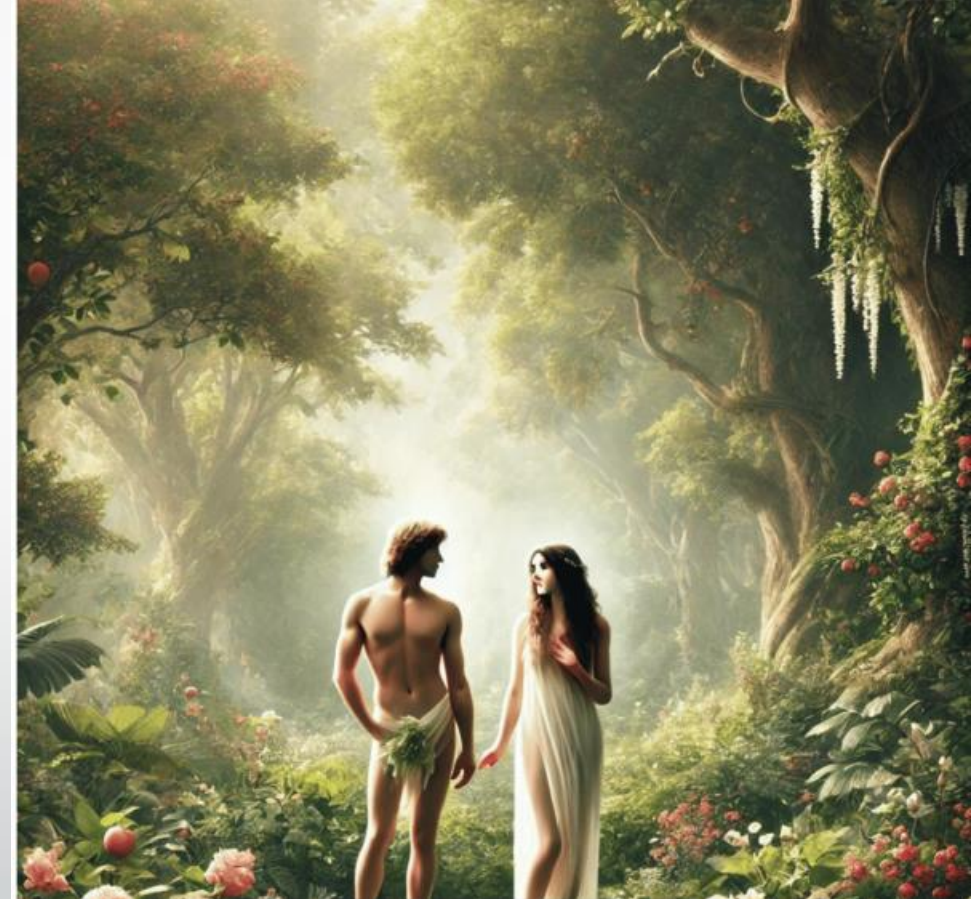
Roles - Relationship and Responsibility

- Genesis 2:15-25

²³ 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.**”

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave
his father and his mother and
hold fast to his wife, and they
shall become **one flesh.**



Roles - Relationship and Responsibility

- Genesis 2:15-25



- Distinctions
 - God creates man from the soil; women comes from man.
 - Man tends the garden; women is strong help.
 - God instructs man; man instructs women.
 - Man names the animals and later women.
- Are these distinctions important?

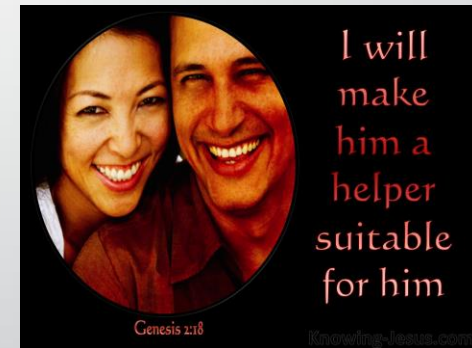
God creates man from the soil; woman from man

- Primogeniture - Rights and responsibilities of the firstborn
- What did it mean to the original readers?
 - Man, not women, bears the rights and responsibilities of the firstborn
- Do other scriptures support Primogeniture?
 - Deut. 21:15-17
 - I Corth. 11:8-12
 - I Tim. 2:13
- What is the significance of women coming from man instead of ground?



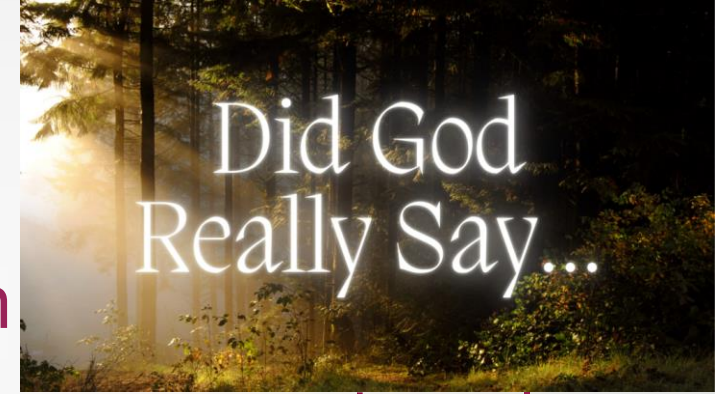
Man tends the ground, woman is strong help

- Man was to work (tend) and keep (take care of) the garden
 - What is the difference between work and keep?
- Woman was to be a “helper” “suitable” for him.
 - Suitable - *Kengdo* – from *neged* – to be face to face, and *k* – like – “like his opposite” or “over against him”
 - Helper- *Ezer* – a strong helper - mostly (16 times) used describe God as our help
 - Ex. 18:4; Psa. 33:20; Psa. 70:5; Psa. 115:9-11; Psa. 121:1-2; Hos.1:3-9
 - *Ezer Kenegdo* – “a strong help corresponding to or opposite him”
 - Can women be shields? Swords? Deliverers?



God instructs man who instructs woman

- Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-3
- Biblical pattern of authority of instruction
 - Priests – Sons of Aaron – O.R. would have seen men in this role
 - Exodus 29:4-9; 29-30; 40:12-15; Deut. 21:5; 31:9-13; Mal. 2-7
 - Prophets – Male and Female
 - Female Examples: Miriam (Exod. 15:20); Deborah (Judg. 4:4); Huldah (2 Kings 22:14); the prophetess (Isa. 8:3); Noadiah (Neh. 6:14)
 - New Testament – Men and Women seen prophesying, praying and teaching – however with some restrictions, that show a clear order of delegated authority with responsibility. (will discuss later)



Man names the animals and women

- Genesis 2:18-20
- Biblical pattern of naming
 - God told Hagar to name her son Ishmael (God hears) (Gen. 16:11)
 - Hagar then gave God the name “the God who sees.” (Gen. 16:13)
 - Isaac and Rebekah named their firstborn son Esau (Gen. 25:25)
 - Pharaoh’s daughter named Moses (Exod. 2:10)
 - Samson’s mother named Samson (Judg. 13:24)
 - Hannah named Samuel (1 Sam.1:20)
- Less about authority of who’s in charge and more about relationship and responsibility



Summary



- Similarity
 - Both genders were created to fill the earth and subdue it.
- Complementarity
 - God uses the work of tending the garden and caring for the animals to illustrate Adam's responsibilities. This requires a combination of strength and gentleness.
 - God uses *Ezer* (strong help) to describe Eve's responsibilities. She is to be his complementary strength and help.
- Order
 - God creates Adam first and gives him the command and privilege of naming the animals and his wife.