

# QFMC 5 Day Devotional

Week of September 7, 2025 by Ryan Massey

## Day 1: God's Original Design—Equality and Partnership in Creation

From the very beginning, God created men and women together in His image, charging both to rule and reign over creation as equal partners. There was no hierarchy or domination; instead, both were called to reflect God's goodness side by side, embodying the fullness of what it means to be human. This original intent was for mutual dignity, shared responsibility, and partnership, a vision that stands in stark contrast to the brokenness and power struggles that later entered the world. As you consider your relationships, remember that God's design is for unity and shared purpose, not competition or control.

*Genesis 1:26-28 (ESV)*

*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."*

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

*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."*

**Reflection: In what relationship in your life do you need to intentionally seek partnership and mutual respect, rather than falling into patterns of control or competition?**

## Day 2: The Fracture of Sin—Brokenness and Power Struggles

Sin shattered the harmony of God's creation, introducing a power struggle between men and women and distorting relationships with God and each other. Instead of working together, humanity began to experience division, domination, and the desire to control, which has echoed through history and shaped societal norms. This brokenness is not God's intent, but a result of turning away from Him, and it continues to affect our relationships today. Recognizing this helps us understand the roots of conflict and the need for God's grace to restore what was lost.

*Genesis 3:16 (ESV)*

*To the woman he said,  
"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;*

*in pain you shall bring forth children.  
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,  
but he shall rule over you.”*

**Reflection: Where do you see the effects of brokenness and power struggles in your relationships, and how can you invite God’s healing into those places today?**

## Day 3: New Creation Relationships—Mutual Love, Dignity, and Service

In Christ, relationships are radically reshaped from the patterns of domination and hierarchy that the world accepts as normal. Paul’s teaching in Colossians calls for mutual love, dignity, and service—wives are given the dignity of voluntary submission, husbands are called to sacrificial love, children are recognized as moral agents, and even slaves are addressed with worth and value. Every relationship is reframed under the lordship of Jesus, pointing us back to God’s original intent and inviting us to live as new creation people marked by love and partnership.

*Colossians 3:18–4:1 (ESV)*

*Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

*Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.*

*Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*

*Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

*Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.*

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

*For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.*

*Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.*

**Reflection: How can you intentionally practice mutual love, dignity, and service in one specific relationship this week, reflecting Christ’s new creation vision?**

## Day 4: Jesus Is Lord Over Every Relationship

When Jesus is truly Lord, every relationship—marriage, family, work, and community—is transformed. No longer do we operate out of self-interest, power, or old patterns, but we submit our words, actions, and attitudes to Christ, seeking to honor Him in all things. This means asking hard questions about whether our relationships reflect His love, humility, and justice, and being willing to let Him reshape our hearts and habits. Living under the lordship of Jesus is not just a belief, but a daily practice that changes how we treat others and how we see ourselves.

*Philippians 2:3-5 (ESV)*

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.*

**Reflection: What is one practical way you can submit a relationship or interaction to the lordship of Jesus today, allowing Him to guide your words and actions?**

## Day 5: Living as New Creation—Hope, Baptism, and Community

Baptism is a powerful sign of dying to the old self and rising to new life in Christ, symbolizing that we are made new and that Jesus is Lord over every part of our lives. This new creation life is not lived alone, but in the context of community, where we encourage one another, celebrate steps of faith, and walk together in obedience. As we embrace our identity as new creations, we are called to let Christ's presence shape our relationships, our choices, and our daily living, trusting that His Spirit empowers us to live differently in a broken world.

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

**Reflection: What is one area of your life where you need to embrace your identity as a new creation in Christ, and how can you step forward in faith and community this week?**