

Mothers, Women, Glorious

My whole point is mainly for the guys: I want to convince you that the woman in your life is a *really really cool* creature one that is worthy of and deserving of your honor and much more because she is really and truly that spectacular.

How could this be any more important *today*, even in this very church? Everywhere we look, women want to be treated like men, men want to treat women like newspapers, and television shows use this crumbling in marriages as the basis for entire comedy shows. The Feminist movement has left us a society that no longer recognizes anything special or unique about women, nothing spectacularly tender, and gentle; there's nothing unique left to celebrate, to honor, and to prize. And to top it all, the few people who are still deciding it's worth it to get married end up having relationships like the "Married with Children" sitcom where husband and wife simply *tolerate* each other, all the while wishing they were in some other relationship.

The very last thing you see and are taught is that the woman in your life is spectacularly precious; she's to be prized, treasured, and honored. You are to delight in her like a little school boy at Christmas. When was the last time you saw or experienced *that* in a marriage?

So here's what we're going to do. For the next thirty minutes, let's completely set aside everything we *think* about the women in our lives and everything we've read and seen modeled on television and seen modeled in others. Men, let's start with the foundation and let's see who women really are and how we should really feel about them. We begin with Genesis 1. We're going to build a biblical worldview for the close women in your life.

- 1) Genesis 1:27. Men, that *woman* in your life is not a horse to be whipped or a dog to be yelled at, that woman is an *image-bearer* of your King! *Woman is an image-bearer of God.*
 - a) What is an image-bearer (what does it mean to be made in the image of God)?
 - i) Children resemble their parents. They might have similar likes, looks, laughs, things like that.
 - ii) *Resembling* someone and being an *image-bearer* of someone are very similar ideas.
 - iii) To say that men and women are image-bearers of God is to say that, in some special ways, they resemble God. Other people can look at a woman and they can see and learn and be reminded of certain qualities or characteristics of God.
 - b) The women in your life have a God-given *resemblance* to God. Look at a woman and you see, in a faded and incomplete way, *an image of God.*
 - c) And some of the ways that a woman resembles (or images) God are unique to women. Women images God *uniquely*. There are things about her soft, incredible body, about her *heart* and the way she feels and empathizes, about her soul and faith, things like these that uniquely resemble God because he made her. Things which we won't find any other creature in the world so resembling the Creator! These make her incredibly special.
 - d) Men, *let's marvel at them! Let's rejoice over them and soak up their beauty.* What a treasure!
- 2) Genesis 2:18-25 – Helpers in fulfilling God's creation purposes for mankind
 - a) God says in v. 18 that there is no one able to help Adam be what God called him to be and do what God called him to do (cf. Gen. 1:26, 2:15). Nothing else in *all of creation* was suitable to

labor alongside man to fulfill God's creation purposes. Therefore, God *made someone* specifically for this purpose to labor and live and even join with man in serving, honoring, and obeying God in bringing about God's Kingdom. He made *woman*. Adam needed Eve.

- b) So as much as our pride despises admitting it: *we need woman to be the man God wants us to be*. We are incomplete in ourselves. We are inadequate, and woman is God's way of making us adequate.
- c) What an offense to God when we *despise* the women in our lives (whether actively hating them or passively neglecting them). What an offense to God who is the one who said we need them! Let's rejoice in them and in God's provision for us in woman.

3) Genesis 3:20 – Woman as life-giver

- a) Immediately after God cursed Adam and Eve because of their sin, we're told that "[t]he man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living." (Gen. 3:20)
- b) Adam called her Eve because the name comes from the Hebrew for "life-giver". Adam was recognizing that this helper God had given him was a spectacular *life-giver* for all peoples.
- c) One of the things that makes woman so glorious and prized is that she has the divine opportunity to pursue bringing *new life* (children) into this world with her husband.
 - i) Think of the phenomenon of bringing forth life from copulation.
 - ii) It is *jaw-droppingly* profound.
- d) And I would be remiss if I didn't stop and say a couple things about that.
 - i) One, the tendency in the media to frown upon a woman deciding to primarily stay home and have and raise children, the tendency of calling that a wasted life and encouraging women to get on birth-control to minimize her child-rearing years and get back into the secular work-place as soon as possible, well insert some word here that means garbage.
 - ii) Two, that unique quality and gift is nothing to sneeze at. God uses the body of a woman to create and nurture new life, and do you realize that that *person* that is then instantly created will go on for eternity? What starts in mom's belly is an eternal person with eternal consequences. Furthermore, in the entire history of the world, God has only used *two* things to bring about every single instance of human life: his Word and women.
 - iii) Three, if the giving and bearing of life to further the creation purposes of God is the most *unique and glorious way* that woman helps man and even images God, then abortion is the most destructive thing to true womanhood.
- e) What we've said so far is enough to destroy any misogynist attitude (woman-hating) that treats women as *inferior* or *lesser* than men. They are image-bearers of God. They, like men, received the creation mandate and are part of fulfilling the same purposes of God.
- f) At the same time, what we've said is *also* enough to debunk any foolish feminist idea that says women are exactly like men. That's equally foolish and destructive. We believe in God's creation work according to Genesis, and therefore the differences between man and woman are not chance but rather God-ordained and orchestrated. We should celebrate and rejoice in them. We're equally glorious, and we equally image-God. But ***we are different!*** We have different roles and different functions and those are given by God and that's gives us each a unique honor.

4) 1 Peter 3:7 – Woman as an heir of God's eternal Kingdom

- a) Our believing wives and our believing mothers are *heirs with us* of the grace of life.

- i) If your wife is clinging to Jesus as her redeemer of her life and the hope for her sins, then think about this: the God of the Universe has declared her one of his chosen ones.
 - ii) He has declared her an *heir*; she is in line like a princess to receive an eternal share in the inheritance of Christ!
 - b) What if you were married to the up and coming heir to the throne of England? How would you treat her? How would you talk about her? How would you spend your time and organize your life? Men, the throne of England's got *nothing* on your wife, if she is born-again.
- 5) 1 Peter 3:7 again – Woman as the “weaker vessel”
- a) *Vessel* is a common Greek metaphor for the “body”.
 - b) We sometimes get stuck on that word “weaker” and someone says, “Well I’m not weak. I can do as much as a man. I could outwork any man in here...” But look closer at what Peter says, ***honor*** her as the weaker vessel.
 - i) What’s he saying? Weak sounds dishonorable. Why is he calling it honorable?
 - ii) Peter doesn’t mean *weak* as in small, worthless, and inferior.
 - iii) A weaker *vessel*, in this metaphor, reminds us of fine china, or a hand-crafted crystal vase. It might chip easier than a metal camping plate, but such “weaker vessels” aren’t despised; they’re treated with delicate care put in display cases for people to enjoy. Peter is saying, Husbands, honor your wives by treating them *like that!*
 - c) For guys, the body of a woman is something incredible, even intoxicating. God made women such that a man is *to be in awe* of the body of a woman. To us, it just seems too perfect. Their bodies are fine china to us!
 - d) And Peter is saying that that dynamic between us is not meant to make us plaster nasty pictures of them all over the internet for other men to look at. No that extreme gentleness and that intoxication is to lead a *husband* to *honor and esteem his wife* as if she was the most valuable and delightful thing he’d ever encountered.
 - e) And honestly, Peter is concerned here with much more than just husbands honoring their wives by holding doors and scooting in chairs. Those things can be meaningless in themselves. His concern is that we do those things from a husband’s or a son’s heart that *truly holds* this woman in his heart as special, as precious, and as valuable.

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