

Roles of Men and Women in the Church Creation Order

Definitions:

Complementarian: Men and women have been created are equal and different. They therefore have different roles and yet they complement each other, fit together and in fulfilling those God ordained roles bless and serve one another.

Egalitarianism: Men and women are created equal and all of their relationships should reflect that equality. Roles are easily interchangeable and reversible.

1 Timothy 2:8-13...Following Paul's Reasoning

1 Corinthians 11:3ff.

Genesis Evidence: Gen. 1-2

"The Bible gives us only two chapters on the creation of the world before the fall. If we're honest, most of us would like more information. Where exactly was the garden of Eden? What did it look like? What did it smell like? Were the days twenty-four hour days? How old did Adam appear to be? How old did the trees appear to be? Were there mosquitoes? But of all the things we might want to know more clearly, it's worth noting what God *does* tell us about in some detail. He tells us quite a bit about the man and the woman- how they are the same, how they are different, and how they were made for each other.

If we are to think rightly and feel rightly and embrace rightly what it means to be male and female, we need to appreciate that God doesn't give arbitrary rules for men and women to follow. Whatever "rules" there are for men and women in the church are never mere rules; they reflect the sort of differentiated and complementary image bearers God designed us to be from the beginning. Once we understand the first chapters of Genesis, and how God has embedded sexual differentiation and sexual union (in marriage) in the natural order of the created world, everything else we see in the Bible about being a man or being a woman makes more sense. All good theology starts in Genesis, but it never stops there." Kevin DeYoung, *Men and Women in the Church*, pp. 24-25.

God as "helper" Exodus 18:4; Psalm 33:20; Psalm 146:5

"We tend to psychologize Adam's aloneness and interpret "helper" along lines of comfort and companionship. This is one possible aspect of the term. Calvin said Eve was God's gift to Adam "to assist him to live well". But "helper" cannot be divorced from the broader concerns of the creation mandate. It was not good for man to be alone because by himself he could not "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Gen. 1:28). Here again we see the ordered complementarity of male and female. Another man could have helped Adam till the soil. Another man could have provided relational respite and energy for Adam. God could have gifted Adam a plow or a team of oxen or a fraternity of manly friends- all of which would have been useful, even delightful. But none would have been a helper fit for the crucial task of producing and rearing children. If mankind is to have dominion

on the earth, there must be a man to work the garden and a woman to be his helpmate". DeYong, p. 28.

"The man was dust refined, but the woman was dust double-refined, one remove further from the earth.... That the woman was *made of a rib out of the side of Adam*; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved. Adam lost a rib, and without any diminution to his strength or comeliness (for, doubtless, the flesh was closed without a scar); but in lieu thereof he had a help meet for him, which abundantly made up his loss: what God takes away from his people he will, one way or other, restore with advantage." Mathew Henry, Commentary: Genesis

Matthew 19:3-6