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Transformation in the Family

WOMEN—GOD'S SECRET WEAPON (Part 1)

Man and woman walking in harmony reflect God's image on earth.

"And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them." (Gen. 1:27)

*Definition of a Stronghold: "It is a mindset impregnated with hopelessness that forces you to accept as unchangeable situations or outcomes that you know are contrary to the will of God" (see *That None Should Perish* by Ed Silvano, page 152).*

***We must rediscover the value of women
in order to tap the full potential in marriage.***

- *At the end of each day (except the second day) God looked at what He had created and declared, "It is good," but on the sixth day He added, "it is very good" (1:31 – or extremely good).*
- *This seems to suggest that the sixth day was the most satisfying. Why?*
- *The answer to this question reveals an amazing and often overlooked dimension of the extraordinary value of women.*

THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT (Genesis 1 - 2)

- *God created all the animals and pronounced it **GOOD** (Gen. 1:25).*
- *Next, God created man and stated that it was **NOT GOOD**. Why? Because Adam lacked a suitable help (the woman – Gen. 1:27; 2:18). In other words, he was incomplete.*
- *To remedy this, God created the woman (Gen. 1:31) and at the end of that day He stated it was **VERY GOOD**.*

The chart tracking divine satisfaction on the sixth day went like this:

Good—~~not good~~—VERY good

A touch of divine humor?

- God said, “It is not good,” because man needs a suitable help (Gen. 2:18).
- After creating the animals God sent Adam to name them (v.19-20a).
- Next we read in Gen. 2:20 that no suitable help was found for him (among the animals). Why?
- Possibly because God wanted Adam to realize that what he needed had not been created yet. It had to be tailor-made and required a personal investment (one of his ribs).

The Creation of Eve (Genesis 2:21-22)

- Divine anesthesia that caused the first artificially induced sleep for God to perform the first surgery, which included a transplant/grafting (rib)
- God fashioned into a woman the rib taken from a man.

What did Eve look like?

- She was the finest raw material shaped by the best designer in the most pristine environment.

This is why it is accurate to state that women are **twice refined** because God used higher-grade raw material (flesh) and a more sophisticated technique (fashioning) as opposed to the dust He used to shape man.

Practical consequences of woman’s uniqueness

- It is practically impossible for men to fully understand women.
We are too different!
- This is why Peter instructs wives to win their disobedient husbands without words (1 Pet. 3:2).
- Consequently, men are instructed to “live with them in an understanding way,” (1 Pet. 3:7). This suggests a state of perpetual observation, appreciating how different (and inexplicable) women are instead of trying to change them to make them...like men!

The God-given responsibility to create a joyful and affirming home environment where the wife can become everything God designed her to be lies primarily with the husband (Deut. 24:5, Eph. 5:33, Matthew 19:5).

A word of encouragement for men:

God has entrusted us with the crown of His creation because He considers us capable of caring for it.

Unique aspects of a woman:

God has entrusted women with the ability

1. To host life inside their body.
2. To nurture a newborn.
3. To shape a child's character during the key early years.

**God's most important secret was entrusted to a woman – Mary.
(God reversed what the devil did in the Garden.)**

1. It was a woman who first heard His heartbeat.
2. It was a woman who first caressed His body.
3. It was a woman who first wrapped Him in (special) diapers.
4. It was a woman who first put Him in a safe place.

Jesus' earthly life began with a woman (Mary) taking care of Him and ended with Him taking care of her.

Women in the Bible

Women held the faith in extraordinary circumstances. In the Bible, women have proven themselves worthy of trust, faithfulness and leadership. Moses' mother and sister; Rahab; Hannah, Deborah; Esther; Elizabeth; Lydia and Priscilla.

The testimony of Women in the Bible

- Spirituality: More easily filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Intuition: Sarai/Abram (Gen. 16:1-7)
- Sensitivity: Ministry to Jesus Christ's heart: Mary (see Matthew 26:6-13)
- Humility: Moved/broken in His presence
- Intercession: Hannah/Eli
- Generosity: Women's financial support of Jesus and his apostles (Luke 8:3).
- Loyalty: They stood near the cross while men stood at a distance.
- Courage: Women dared to go to the Tomb the day after the crucifixion.
- Faith: They believed without seeing.

After the resurrection Jesus appeared first to the women and made them:

- The first messengers
- The first evangelists
- The first prophets
- The first teachers

Final Review

The sixth day was VERY good because:

- Eve's creation brought completeness to it.
- God upgraded His technique from shaping to fashioning.
- God designed Eve with the ability to host life, thus creating a channel for the Messiah to be born.

Reflecting the image of God on earth (marriage, family, school, marketplace, society) requires both genders walking in harmony.

APPLICATION

- The divine announcement of a rematch in Genesis 3:14,15
- Luke 19:10 and the restoration of everything that was lost in Eden.
"For the Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost."