

God's Good Design – Part 2

Bloom Sat 21st August



GETTING STARTED

How would the world describe the 'ideal woman'? Where do you hear these messages from?

1. INTRODUCTION

a) I am Woman

b) I am a Woman of the Word



Bible Reading

Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-25

2. WOMANHOOD IN THE GOSPEL STORY

a) Creation

(i) Created equal in God's image (Gen 1:26-27)

(ii) Created for an ordered relationship of different roles (Gen 2)

(iii) Created for a united mission (Gen 1:28)

b) Fall

c) Redemption

d) Restoration



DISCUSSION

Consider the picture of womanhood in the Gospel storyline. How does it challenge you personally?
How does it encourage you?

3. GOSPEL-SHAPED MARRIAGE

a) Fall-shaped Responses

(i) Rejection of 'helper' role and character

(ii) Relational tension

(iii) Struggle to keep God's mission central

b) Redeemed Marriage



Bible Reading

Ephesians 5:21-33

	Husband and Wife	Christ and the Church
V22	Wives, submit to your own husbands	As to the Lord
V23	Husband is the head of wife	Christ is the head of the church
V24	Wives should submit in everything to their husbands	The church submits to Christ

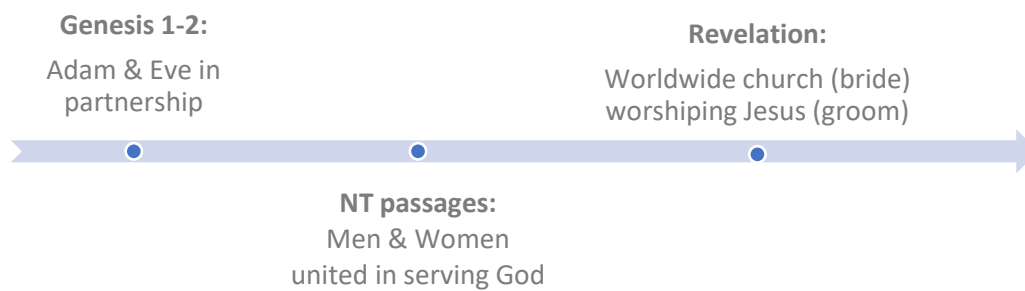
	Husband and Wife	Christ and the Church
V21		Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ
V33	Let each one of you (husbands) love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband	

- c) **Persevere in it**
 - (i) Conviction

- (ii) Longing

4. GOSPEL-SHAPED WOMANHOOD IN PRACTICE

a) Scripture's Trajectory



b) Character

- (i) Submission and quietness

- (ii) Strength as a 'helper'

c) Mission and Implications for Married Women

(i) Embrace the 'helper' role and character

(ii) Strive for relational unity

(iii) Keep God's mission central

d) Mission and Implications for Single Women



DISCUSSION

1. What particular heart issues and sinful tendencies do you need to repent of, in order to be obedient in living out God's design for womanhood?
2. How would fixing your eyes on our glorious eternal marriage help you to persevere in obedience to God's good design, despite the challenges? What is one way you want to intentionally grow in upholding/living out God's design for womanhood?
3. For the following case scenarios, determine how the principles of Scripture would shape the woman's response.

Case scenario 1:

Belinda has been a Christian since she was young, and she's a keen learner of God's Word and fervent in serving at her church. A few years ago, she married Carlos, who's a laidback personality and not as active as Belinda in serving and growing in his faith. In fact, he seems to have hit a plateau and it can be hard to see how the gospel is changing him. Belinda feels the frustration of this. She longs for Carlos to grow in maturity, as she wants to live out the joy of actively serving God as a married unit. She wishes he would be less passive and take more initiative. Sometimes it's easier for her to just organise avenues for him to grow, because otherwise the alternative is that nothing will happen.

Work through the 4 element framework to see how Scripture helps Belinda approach her situation and respond in a godly way.

Creation	What does Scripture say about what Belinda's role as a wife is?
Fall	What heart attitudes and desires might she be prone to in this area? How might this affect her relationship with her husband? How might you similarly struggle in this situation?

Redemption	<p>How does Jesus' death on the Cross help Belinda to die to her sinful heart attitudes and desires?</p> <p>What are some practical ways that Belinda could faithfully live out her helper role in a way that would encourage her husband's growth as a leader? Consider also 1 Peter 3:1-6.</p>
Restoration	<p>How does the assurance of her heavenly marriage change Belinda's perspective and the way she has hope right now?</p>

Case scenario 2:

Monica is in her final year at uni, and she's been growing in her Christian faith particularly over the past couple of years. She is pursuing a demanding course of study in the healthcare profession; working in this field will chew up lots of time and energy. She's conscious of what God's Word says about godly womanhood and prioritising the gospel mission. But she feels stuck because she loves her chosen profession. She wants to know how she, as a single woman, can uphold God's good design whilst continuing in her field of study (and soon work).

Work through the 4 element framework to see how Scripture helps Monica approach her situation and respond in a godly way.

Creation	<p>How does Scripture guide Monica in what godly womanhood looks like in her stage of life? How does this help her to prepare for faithfulness in the next stage of life (eg. if she gets married)?</p>
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Fall	<p>What heart attitudes and desires might Monica have to watch out for in this area?</p> <p>How might you similarly struggle in this situation?</p>
Redemption	<p>How does her unity with Christ help Monica to guard against sinful heart attitudes and desires?</p> <p>What might upholding God's design mean practically for Monica in terms of attitudes, decisions, and how she uses her time now?</p>
Restoration	<p>How does the assurance of her heavenly marriage impact Monica's perspective and the way she has hope right now?</p>

5. CONCLUSION

PRAYER

- For God to work in our heads:
 - To grow us in conviction regarding the truths of Scripture regarding how we were created as women, how the Fall impacts this, and what Jesus redeems us to be
 - To grow us in discernment regarding the ideals the world pushes
- For God to work in our hearts:
 - To guard against sinful tendencies that flow out in characteristics and behaviours contrary to what Scripture commands.
 - That he would help us repent of these heart issues – pray for ones you personally struggle with
 - That he would help us regard our momentary struggles in light of our glorious eternal marriage
- For God to transform our ‘hands’:
 - So that the way we relate to the men around us would reflect the submission and respect God desires of us
 - So that we can work fruitfully in our given stages of life to proclaim and reflect Jesus to the world

REFERENCES

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