



## Lesson 5 – God’s Blueprint

### The Creational Pattern for Men, Women, and Family

When asked about marriage, Jesus went to Genesis 1-2. When discussing how men and women should relate, Paul went back to Genesis 1-2. If we want to have successful marriages, churches, and families, we need to get back to God’s blueprint: Genesis 1-2.

#### God’s Pattern for Marriage

When Jesus answers a question about divorce and remarriage, he goes back to Genesis and even asks “Have ye not read?” The Pharisees should have known to check the blueprint.

#### Marriage is Between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus makes sure to include that in the beginning God made them “male and female.” Here He intentionally combines instructions on marriage with an earlier passage on God creating both men and women because He wanted to give God’s big plan for marriage.

#### Marriage is a \_\_\_\_\_ Commitment

Although this passage is hotly debated, what is clear is that Jesus’ position is radical to the Pharisees and His disciples. That someone would get married and end that marriage is deeply broken because divorce was never God’s intention and should be avoided at all costs.

#### Marriage Provides for \_\_\_\_\_

God’s plan from the beginning was for man to “fill the earth.” Part of the dominion mandate is for mankind to have families. Some believers never marry, and some are unable to have children, but the general creation pattern is for believers to marry and have children.



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## God's Pattern for Men and Women

We live in a culture where the differences between men and women are being erased. Yet even during the era of the New Testament church, Paul had to deal with Christians pushing at the boundaries of what God designed.

### Was Paul \_\_\_\_\_?

Many people today have two visions of Paul. Some see Paul as a sexist who put unnecessary restrictions on women (1 Corinthians 11:2-16, 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:11-15). Others sees him as a great liberator of women, calling for equality of the sexes before it was cool (Romans 16; Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 11). Some will try to argue that we should go with the Paul we like and explain away passages we don't, but that doesn't really work. Paul argues from creation that there are differences between men and women. He has a high view of women, yes, but he still sees differences between men and women.

### Men and Women \_\_\_\_\_ Each Other

Genesis teaches that woman was made to be "a help meet" for Adam (Genesis 2:18), or "a helper who complements him." Woman is an absolutely necessary counterpart for man if he is going to do the work God calls him to.

### Men Are Tasked with \_\_\_\_\_

One group of Christian thinkers (see *Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism*) came with the follow definition to describe man's role:

*"At the heart of mature masculinity is a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for and protect women in ways appropriate to a man's differing relationships."*

### Women Are Tasked with \_\_\_\_\_

The same group came up with this definition for women:

*"At the heart of mature femininity is a freeing disposition to affirm, receive and nurture strength and leadership from worthy men in ways appropriate to a woman's differing relationships."*

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