



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

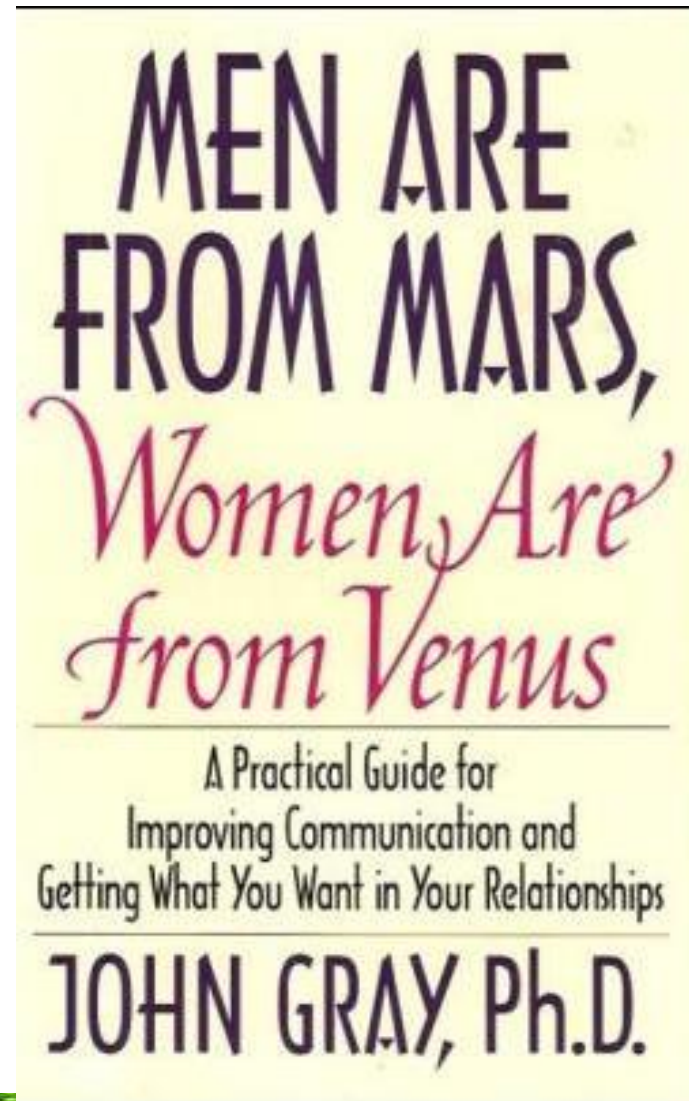
Christian Life Assembly

Jim Hoffman

The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- There are differences between men and women that go way beyond the obvious ones having to do with sex organs and appearance.
- Not all of the differences are enunciated in the Bible, but is it not obvious to all that men and women, as much alike as we are biologically, are very, very, different creatures?



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- Gen 2:18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” 19 So the Lord God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. 20 He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.



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- So after making man, God had Adam name all of the animals, and in so doing it became evident to Adam that he was perfect, but incomplete.
- He could not fulfill the mission God would soon assign to him of populating the earth.
- And do not think for a moment that God was somehow caught off guard that Adam was incomplete for his mission; God is never surprised by anything that happens.



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- In fact God was showing us something about these creatures who were made in His image that was, and is different from the animal kingdom.
- He was showing that He has an order to His creation of this most complex of all His creation.
- He was showing a harmony between men and women that He did not see the need to demonstrate when He created all other living things.



In the Beginning

- If Adam had to describe Eve in a single word, he may well have said “soft”. Women have a “softness” about them, but that should never be construed to mean weakness.
- Proverbs tells us a lot about women and how much influence they have in their homes and in the market place.
- In fact, in terms of influence, women frequently have as much or more influence than men.



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- In Proverbs 31 we have King Lemuel, who was most likely Solomon, writing down the things his mother taught him about women.
- Proverbs 31 is considered by most to be the gold standard for biblical feminism and what it means to be a woman.
- Who better than Solomon to write about women and the influence they have over men – he pursued them to his own downfall.



In the Beginning

- So when God formed Eve out of Adam's side this is what He had in mind – the woman of Proverbs 31 describes what God had in mind for a woman and a wife.
- Prov 19:14 House and wealth are the inheritance from fathers, but a wise, understanding, and sensible wife is [a gift and blessing] from the Lord. (Amplified Bible)
- So who is this woman of influence designed by God?



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- Proverbs 31:11 *Her husband can trust her*, and she will greatly enrich his life. 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
- She can be trusted with the checkbook, can be trusted to be faithful, and be trusted to look out for the best interests of her husband.
- Romans 13:10 Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law. (others would certainly include one's husband)



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- Proverbs 31:13 She finds wool and flax and busily spins it. (she not only loves and looks out for husband, but she is busy getting things like clothing for her family done)
- Proverbs 31:14 She is like a merchant's ship, bringing her food from afar. 15 She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day's work for her servant girls.
- She makes sure her family is fed – she goes into the marketplace, buys food, and then prepares it for her family.



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- Proverbs 31:16 She goes to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- She is a capable business woman – she can evaluate a real estate deal and even close the deal with her own earnings.
- And then, after buying the field, she even plants a vineyard on it.



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- At some point in the next few weeks we will dig into the intelligence that Adam possessed and Eve would have been his intellectual equal.
- The secular humanists that believe in evolution assume that the first humans merely grunted to make sounds and communicate.
- The Bible, however, makes a better claim that Adam and Eve were perhaps far more intelligent and capable than the brightest of the bright today.



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- Proverbs 31:17 She is energetic and strong, a hard worker. 18 She makes sure her dealings are profitable; her lamp burns late into the night.
- She works hard, she is capable of watching over the household finances to ensure the family is secure.
- And we also see here that this same one who gets up early to feed her family, works late into the night.



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- Proverbs 31:23 Her husband is well known at the city gates, where he sits with the other civic leaders.
- The verse above demonstrates the effectiveness of all of her wisdom, trustworthiness, business savvy, and hard work – her husband is a leader in the community.
- And why is he able to “sit at the gates and be a civic leader”? Because he has a support system that is second to none!



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- We could go on through Proverbs 31 and discover much, much, more about the woman God had in mind when He fashioned Eve, but those details are for another time.
- So by the time Adam names his new companion “woman”, God had already equipped her to be the perfect compliment to him.
- Different roles, different strengths, but these two will compliment each other in a way that makes each of them complete.



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- We should think in terms of “equal, but different” and as it turns out the modern day “feminist” movement that we see is rooted in truth.
- The feminists that make the news are weirdos who want to do away with men which, if taken to its logical conclusion, is biologically suicidal.
- But don't let a few on the fringe detract from what God had in mind from the start – equal, but different.



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- The question was raised last week of “if God had equality in mind, then why are our societies dominated by male power?”.
- And the answer is found in the order of creation, and in the fall of man which we will study in a few weeks.
- In the weeks to come we will cover this in more detail, but for now let’s just say that God has a plan that has been largely rejected by mankind.



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- It is also quite evident that of the two sexes, God made women more appealing to the eye than men.
- We rarely, if ever hear, “what a beautiful man he is”, or have you ever seen a beauty contest populated by men?
- The appearance of women is softer because she has an extra layer of fat under her skin that literally softens her appearance.



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- The beauty of women has sort of been hijacked by the world to the extent that only physical appearance matters.
- So much so that women are objectified and teenage girls are sometimes suicidal if they don't fit the mold of what the word says is beautiful.
- So let us not spend so much time on outward appearances, but let us concern ourselves with what the bible calls "the hidden man (person) of the heart".



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- The Apostle Peter had some advice for women with respect to being “beautiful”.
- 1st Peter 3:4 Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. 4 *You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.* 5 This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They put their trust in God and accepted the authority of their husbands.



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- 1st Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
- Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.



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Psalm 139:14 - I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; *your works are wonderful*, I know that full well.



Questions

