

CHAPTER 4

"GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE MALE"

God designed and equipped the male to carry out every purpose and function he has been given."



MEN'S ZOOM BIBLE STUDY – EVERY THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

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**AGAPE LOVE WORD PRAYER &
FAITH FAMILY MINISTRY**

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GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE MALE

GOD DESIGNED AND EQUIPPED THE MALE TO CARRY OUT EVERY PURPOSE AND FUNCTION HE HAS BEEN GIVEN.

Many men are still wondering why they exist. Yet the Creator of man did not leave us guessing about who the male is supposed to be and what he is designed to do. In this chapter, we are going to explore God's original intentions for men, so that there's no more worry, no more guessing as to their reason for being. We turn again to Proverbs 19:21 for the vital truth, "*Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.*" Many are our opinions of what man should be, but the Lord's purpose is the only one that counts—and this purpose is the key to our fulfillment.

What we will be looking at is the male's ideal purpose. This is not where we are right now. Yet God's ideal is what we should be moving toward; and by His grace, we will.

THE CREATION OF THE MALE-MAN

We first need to remember that God creates according to the requirements of His purposes. In the previous chapter, we learned that God desired to dominate and influence the planet through mankind, and so He created man—the spirit—in His image and then placed the man in two physical "houses," male and female. "*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them*" (Gen. 1:27).

I would like to point out here that since the spirit-man dwells in both male and female, we may refer to the male as a "male-man" and to the female as a "female-man." This will remind us that men and women are both "man." The distinctions between men and women are physical and functional, rather than of their essence.

The purpose of man—the spirit—and the purpose of the male are two different things, although they are related. Man was created in God's image for the purposes we discussed in the previous chapter. Male was made to serve the needs of man on earth and to enable him to fulfill his purpose.

**THE MALE WAS MADE TO
SERVE THE NEEDS OF MAN
ON EARTH.**

Genesis 2 gives us a more detailed explanation of the manner in which God made male and female. First, He "formed" the male: "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Gen. 2:7). The male was made first, and there was an interlude of time before the female was made. There is much we can learn about God's purposes for the male by what the male saw, heard, and learned during this interlude.

Remember that the purpose of something determines its nature, its design, and its features. This means that the nature, design, and qualities of males were decided upon by God and created by Him according to what He determined was best for the sake of His purposes.

ELEMENTS OF THE MALE'S PURPOSE

The purpose of the male may be summed up as *his priority, his position, and his assignment*.

- *Priority* refers to the man's order in creation and what this means in regard to his reason for being.
- *Position* refers to the environment and place in which the man is to carry out his purpose.
- *Assignment* means the functions or tasks that the man has been given.

1. THE MALE'S PRIORITY

The order in which the male was created gives us the first indication of his reason for being. Why did God make the male first? It was not because the male was better, but because of his purpose.

When you think about it, God really made only one human being. When He created the female, He didn't go back to the soil, but He

fashioned her from the side of the man. (See Genesis 2:21–23.) Only the male came directly from the earth. This was because the male was designed by God to be the foundation of the human family. The woman came out of the man rather than the earth because she was designed to rest on the man—to have the male as her support.

**THE MALE IS THE FOUNDATION
OF THE HUMAN FAMILY.**

I believe that the foundation of society, the infrastructure God intended for this world, has been misunderstood. We often say that the family is the foundation of society. It is very true that the family is the adhesive that holds it together. Yet God did not start to build earthly society with a family. He began it with one person. He began it with the male-man.

Remember our discussion of the principles of purpose in chapter 2? Because God is a God of purpose, He planned everything before He began to create, so that when He started digging the foundation, He knew exactly what He wanted and what the completed picture would look like. But he had to start with the foundation.

Have you ever seen a contractor build a house starting with the roof? Have you ever seen a guy walk into an empty lot and hold up a window in the air, trying to get it to stay? You don't start with the windows. You don't start with the roof. You don't start with the rafters. Likewise, God starts like any other builder. The priority in building is always what you need to do first. You start with the foundation.

God's communications to man in the Bible indicate the importance He places on building from the foundation up. What did Jesus describe as our foremost priority? What we're building on. (See Matthew 7:24–27.) He said, in effect, "Now, some of you are building on sand. Your building looks good, but I don't care how good your building looks. If your foundation isn't right, there's going to be a great crash."

Paul said, "No one can lay any [spiritual] foundation other than the one already laid" (1 Cor. 3:11). What—or rather, who—is that foundation? "Jesus Christ" (v. 11). So God does not think of foundations in terms of only concrete and water, but also in terms of people.

That is why, when God began to build the human race, He began by laying the foundation of the male. God placed males at the bottom of the entire building of humanity. This means that society is only as strong as its males. If

**WHEN MEN HAVE CRACKS
IN THE SUBSTRUCTURE OF
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ON SHAKY GROUND.**

the males don't learn what it means to be a strong foundation in God, then society is sunk. That goes for America, Canada, Russia, China—all the nations of the world. If the male leaves the home, or if he neglects his responsibility, you have a house built on sand. It becomes very difficult for those windows to stay intact. The

rafters rock when the pressures come because the man isn't there.

You children of divorce know what I'm talking about. Your mother was a single parent and had to struggle, so that you weren't sure what was going to happen to the family. Of course, you are grateful to your mother. You really appreciate what she did, and you thank God that she weathered the storm and got through life. She did well. However, you all suffered the trauma of a missing foundation.

When the male-man has cracks and faults in the substructure of his life, then the whole building is on shaky ground. Now men, let's talk. This is the year you must decide to get yourself on solid ground, for as the man goes, so goes the family, society, and the world. Take a look at the condition of our societies and nations. How do you think the men are doing?

Our societies are in a mess because, as the foundation, men have become sandy—uncertain and unstable. How can you build a human race on a foundation that is full of sand mixed with straw? A foundation is always measured by how much weight can be placed on it.

When I was building my house, the architect and contractor were discussing all these figures, and I got confused. I was sitting there acting as if I knew what they were talking about. They were saying things like, "How much weight can the foundation hold?" I said, "Concrete is concrete." But, no, I found out that they had to calculate things like the height of the house, how many stories it would have, and what the roof would weigh when it was finished. They had to check all those things before they even started the foundation. Why? Because if there are twenty tons weighing on

the foundation, they have to put in enough reinforced steel so that when the weight sits on it, it doesn't crack. The foundation has to have the first priority because everything else will be built on it.

Again, when God made the male first, He wasn't saying that the male is more important than the female. He was saying that the male has a specific responsibility. He has a purpose to fulfill that is just like the foundation. Even though the foundation is important, it's not more important than the other parts of the building. The foundation can't perform all the functions itself. For example, it cannot protect the occupants from the weather. You can walk around saying, "I have a \$500,000 foundation here." Isn't that nice—solid concrete. But then the rain comes. The foundation can't keep you dry; only the roof can. It's the same way with the human family. The foundation is crucial, but the rest of the family is essential, also.

**THE FOUNDATION HAS TO HAVE
THE FIRST PRIORITY BECAUSE
EVERYTHING ELSE WILL BE
BUILT ON IT.**

Remember that the foundation is often hidden. I don't see the foundation of my house anymore, even though I was involved in discussions about it and watched it being dug and poured. I know it's there, because I saw it being put in. Today, I walk on the foundation all the time, but I never see it. The foundation is meant to be solid, dependable, but not necessarily seen.

Many of you men need to live like the foundation you were created to be—just be there and keep the home steady so that your wife and children can always lean on you and know that you aren't going to crack. Many young boys with absentee fathers—men who are missing either physically or emotionally—are walking in mud instead of on concrete. These young boys are trying to find a foundation for their lives, but there's mud all over them, because there's just no place where they can stand on solid ground. Their foundations are missing. Then, when they grow up, they will go out and try to become foundations themselves. The only problem is, they were never shown what a true foundation is.

I once heard the statement, "A young boy becomes a man when his father tells him he's a man." Many young boys never had a father to tell them who they are. The purpose of the male-man is to give foundation to the structure of life.

I'm praying that God will raise up some strong foundational men. Men who will stand by their wives and stand with their children and be there as a stabilizer. Men whose families will feel secure in their strength. It doesn't matter what your father was—you can be a strong foundation by becoming the man God created you to be.

**WHEN A NEGATIVE HISTORY
PREDICTS YOUR FUTURE,
YOUR PRESENT IS IN TROUBLE.**

I was speaking about this topic in Barbados recently, and a young man said to me, "But you don't understand the history of the Afro-Caribbean man. I inherited my granddaddy and great-granddaddy's legacy, you know." I said, "Hold it right there. Whenever a negative history predicts your future, your present is in trouble. Don't come and tell me that you have to repeat your history. What we are about is *creating* history. We need to create a new history for all our children's children." And then I told him, "It doesn't matter who your grandfather was. The important issue is what your *grandchildren* are going to say about you."

Solomon said, "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children" (Prov. 13:22). I like that. A good man doesn't think about the past. He thinks about the future. A good man doesn't leave an inheritance of just money and land. That's not the only inheritance Solomon was talking about. He was talking about a family heritage, something to stand on, something to lean on throughout life.

Maybe when you were growing up, your father left when things got tough. You think you need to do the same thing now that you have a family. Let me tell you: if you have a little boy, and you leave, you'll teach him the same thing your father taught you. It doesn't stop. It causes a perpetual cycle of destruction. We have to stop this cycle by getting back to God's Manual and getting on course again.

2. THE MALE'S POSITION

Man's priority in creation not only means that he was designed to be the foundation of the human family, but also that he was the first to be positioned on earth according to God's purposes. He was the first to have a relationship with God, to experience God's creation, and to receive God's instructions.

IN THE GARDEN

The male was placed in the environment in which he was meant to carry out his purpose: "Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed" (Gen. 2:8). This point is very, very crucial. God put the man in the environment in which he was supposed to remain in order to fulfill his reason for being. What was this environment like?

A PLACE OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

"Eden" comes from a Hebrew word meaning "delicate," "delight," or "pleasure." The word for "garden" means "an enclosure" or something "fenced in." This was more than an ordinary garden. All that was influencing heaven influenced that particular location on earth. God did not start by placing man over the entire earth or by placing him just anywhere on the earth. He placed man at the spot called Eden, where there was a glory connection between the seen and the unseen. There was glory flowing back and forth from this particular place on earth.

The Garden can be considered God's "incubator" for His new offspring. Sometimes a newborn baby is placed in an incubator so that he can become physically acclimated to his environment. In a sense, man was in God all along, since he was "*chosen...before the foundation of the world*" (Eph. 1:4 KJV). It was as if man was so used to the environment of being in God that God chose a special place on the planet and put His anointing on it for the sake of the man when He put him on the earth. In this way, the transition wouldn't be a strain on him. He could live in a controlled environment—a little spot of heaven on earth.

**THE PRIMARY PURPOSE
OF THE MALE IS TO BE IN
GOD'S PRESENCE.**

A PLACE OF GOD'S CONTINUAL PRESENCE

A central reason that God placed the male in the Garden was so that he could be in His presence all the time. He could walk and talk with the Lord in the cool of the day. He could hear God's voice. This was a place where communion, fellowship, and oneness with God was always intact.

A manufacturer will always position a part in the location where it can best carry out its purpose. Similarly, we can conclude from what we've learned about the environment of the Garden that the primary purpose of the male-man is to be in God's presence. The male is not wired to function outside the presence of the Lord.

**GOD DIDN'T INTEND FOR
ADAM TO MOVE FROM THE
GARDEN. HE INTENDED FOR
THE GARDEN TO MOVE OVER
THE EARTH.**

Here's the significance: God never intended for Adam to move from the Garden. He intended for the *Garden to move over the earth*. God wanted Adam to take the presence of the Garden and spread it throughout the world. This is what He meant when He told Adam to have dominion over the earth. This is still God's purpose. As it says in Isaiah 11:9, "*The earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*" Adam could fulfill this purpose only if he was in constant communion with the God of the Garden.

If a man is not living in the presence of God, he might be moving, but he is not really functioning. Outside the presence of God, he's a dangerous, uncontrolled beast. Paul said that a man without God is a creature without conscience. (See Romans 1:28-32.) You can't trust the perspective of a man who doesn't know God. You cannot totally trust the perspective of one who is just beginning to get to know God either, because he's still getting used to the Presence.

It is only by continually being in God's presence that our minds and hearts can be renewed. We need to learn to walk "*in step with the Spirit*" (Gal. 5:25), rather than in step with our own ideas about life. As the prophet Jeremiah said, "*The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*" (Jer. 17:9).

The problem with many of us men is that we think we don't need God when, in fact, He's the first thing we need. I'm amazed when I observe men trying to make it without God. They may appear to be making it, but they aren't. They're not fulfilling their true purpose. Often, the "making it" is just an external face they put on to keep people from seeing the way things

really are. If you knew what was truly going on in their lives, you'd know they weren't making it.

We should never doubt our need of God. What was the first thing that God gave the male? He didn't give him a woman, a job, or even a command; He gave him His presence.

It isn't enough just to go to church. We need to be in touch with Him constantly, hearing His voice, listening to His commands, following His direction. Why? Because our inner beings need to be strengthened (Eph. 3:16), and because we are responsible for leading those for whom we are accountable. That's why God gave Adam Himself before He gave him anyone or anything else.

God built into the male a need for His presence. That is why all men are searching for God in one way or another, whether they acknowledge it or not. It doesn't matter if they are Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Unitarians, even satanists. No matter who they are, they are searching for the same Person. Men will always find some kind of religion, even if they call it atheism. They have a hunger to believe in something or someone greater than themselves.

That passion to find God's presence is what produces cults. It's the male-man's cry for God. Deep in your heart, you really want God, young man. You really want God, older man. You're trying everything else, but you're really looking for God. It's built into you. You can have fame, authority, influence, money, and everything else, but there is still something missing in your life, my friend. I know what it is. You're looking for God.

**ALL MEN ARE SEARCHING FOR
GOD IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.**

Some of you reading this book ran around in the world for a while and eventually came back to God. You ran far and wide trying to get away from Him. You slept with everybody, drank everything, sniffed everything. And now look at you—you're right back in God's presence, and you're glad you found what you were looking for all the time. It's good to come back to the One whom you've been looking for. If this is your experience, you likely don't have any fear of preaching the Gospel—because

you know exactly what men are looking for. Oh, they hide behind all kinds of things—brief-cases, fancy cars, stubbornness, swearing, fighting, drinking—but deep in their hearts, they're looking for God. And you can tell them, "When you're finished searching, I'll be right here. I'll lead you to God," because you've been where they are.

Wouldn't it be great for a family to have a husband or father in the home whom they could know was in touch with God so that they could get direction for their lives? The key is relationship. God put the male in the Garden because He wanted him always to be related to Him in fellowship and communion.

A PLACE OF TRAINING

God's directive to man was, "Fill the earth and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28). Yet God told the male, in essence, "Have dominion over this spot right here so that you become used to ruling on a smaller scale at first." The implication is that God intended for this man to grow in dominion ability by learning to dominate the area in which he was initially placed. If you've been faithful over a little, then your rulership will be expanded to much more. (See Matthew 25:14–23.)

GOD ALWAYS GIVES US JUST ENOUGH TO TRAIN US FOR THE FUTURE.

God is so good to us. He doesn't give us more than we can handle. He always gives us just enough to train us for the rest. I hope you understand this principle. God will always give you just enough so that you can get used to the idea of

more. Many of us want everything right now. We short-circuit God's plan because we grasp for everything at once. God is saying, in effect, "You'll get everything, but not right at this moment. You have not yet developed the character and the experience and the exercising of your potential to enable you to handle more."

The story of the Prodigal Son is a case in point. (See Luke 15:11–32.) The son *demand*ed from his father what was coming to him. He really always had everything, since he was a beloved son of his father and would receive his inheritance. However, his father wanted him to work with him first in the family business. He wanted him to gain experience by helping

to run the estate and by learning responsibility. Then he would be able to handle whatever difficulties he might face in the future.

You should find out what God has qualified you for, then ask for that. If you receive more than you are qualified for, then what you receive may well disqualify you because you're not prepared for it.

So God placed the male in Eden in order to prepare him. Yet, as we'll see, the man couldn't even handle the Garden. Imagine if he had had the whole earth to begin with! It's dangerous to have everything, all at once. I thank God for the process He uses in our lives. God doesn't just promote us. He qualifies us for promotion. Our question of Him should not be, "God, when will You promote me?" but "God, am I ready for promotion?"

3. THE MALE'S ASSIGNMENT

The third thing that determines a man's purpose is his assignment. *Assignment* means a task or something that has been entrusted to you to do. The responsibilities with which God has entrusted the male are very clear, and they indicate his purpose. What God gave Adam to do still holds true for men today because God is a God of purpose and has a reason for everything He does. He is teaching us His plan for mankind in the account of Creation.

VISIONARY AND LEADER

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man" (Gen. 2:15–16). Whom did the Lord command? He commanded the male-man. What did He tell him? "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (vv. 16–17). The male, being first, received all the information, all the revelation, all the communication from God. God wanted him to be the initial recipient of His plan for mankind. He showed him the whole Garden, the whole environment of Eden, a vision of everything He had created, and then He gave him instructions for living.

The female wasn't formed until after the events of the above Scripture passage. Therefore, the male received all that information alone. He was in charge alone. He was responsible alone. He was a leader alone. Thus, the male

was given the charge of being the visionary and leader, the one who would guide those who came after him in the ways of God. You will see as we go along that everything that is necessary to lead the family is built into the male.

This doesn't mean that women don't also have the capacity to be visionaries and leaders. However, the male is the one to whom God first entrusted His plans and purposes for the world. He was a leader before the woman was created. God gave the man the job of passing along what He had communicated to Him. This is still His purpose for males in the family and in society.

EVERYTHING THAT IS NECESSARY TO LEAD THE FAMILY IS BUILT INTO THE MALE.

This fact is very important for men to understand. They have been entrusted with God's purposes. The male is to be responsible for everything under his jurisdiction. This is a serious thing. If something goes wrong in your

family, you are accountable. You may say, as Adam told God when mankind fell, "But the woman..." (See Genesis 3:12.) No, not the woman—you are responsible. God went straight to Adam even though Eve was the one who first ate the fruit. When God asked him, "Where are you?" (v. 9), the question was not one of location, but of position. "You are not fulfilling your purpose of leadership, Adam. What has happened to your family?"

The male's purpose was not chosen by the male but by God. Whatever your purpose, that's where your position comes from. Purpose, rather than social expectation, should determine position. The male is not elected the head of the family. You don't canvas for votes in the family to become the head of the home. If you are a man, you *are* the head of the family. You are the responsible one, whether you like it or not. If you run from this responsibility, it will run after you, because it's not just a role; it's a God-given purpose. However, it needs to be understood in light of God's Word and not in the context of society's definition of what head of the household means. We'll talk more about this in the next chapter.

TEACHER

God told Adam, in effect, "This is My command: 'Do not eat of the tree in the middle of the Garden, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and

Evil.'" He didn't tell this to Eve. He told it only to Adam, which means that it was the man's responsibility to teach and guide her in the Word of God.

If I were the first one to discover something, and then someone else were to show up on the scene needing to know the information, what would that make me? It would make me the teacher. The fact that I was there first and had all the information would put me in that position. Likewise, the male was given the purpose of being the teacher, not because he's smarter, but because he was first. This is the pattern that God established. Again, this doesn't mean that women are unable to teach, but that God intended men to be primarily responsible for teaching His ways.

In Genesis 3, Satan came to tempt Eve, and he asked her, "Didn't God say you shouldn't eat from any of these trees?" (See verse 1.) Eve's answer was based on what she had heard from

GOD INTENDED MEN TO BE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING HIS WAYS.

Adam, not from God, because Adam had been the one God instructed. She said, "No; we can eat of all the trees except the one that's called the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. We can't even touch it." (See verses 2-3.) Eve learned that from her teacher. Perhaps she added the embellishment, or perhaps Adam did; it's not clear. But the point is that it was Adam's job to teach her God's instructions.

Ephesians 5 tells us that Jesus Himself teaches His bride, the church, "by the washing with water through the word" (v. 26). Christ is a teacher, and "husbands ought to love their wives...just as Christ loved the church" (vv. 28, 25). To this very day, God has not changed His purpose. The male must be responsible for godly instruction. I'm not talking about the way things are right now. I'm talking about what is supposed to be. God expects males to reveal His will and His Word to females. However, in our day, the males have lost God's will so badly that God is telling the females directly. He can do this because the woman has a spirit-man within her and has her own relationship with God. Yet God desires men to be spiritual leaders.

CULTIVATOR

What assignments did God give the male in regard to the Garden? The Bible says, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to

work [*"cultivate" NASB*] it" (Gen. 2:15). So one of the male's responsibilities is to work or cultivate. Let's look first at the idea of the man *cultivating* the Garden.

The nature of the work the male was given to do was not mindless labor—it was cultivation. I wish every man could take hold of this truth. To *cultivate* means to make something grow and produce a greater yield. This means that, if you are a man, your purpose is to cultivate everything around you. *Cultivate* also means to make something fruitful, to develop it into its perfection. The man is to be a developer and a fruit producer. He is to be a source of fruitfulness. God gave this assignment to the male before the female was created, and before the first child was born. Therefore, the purpose of the male-man is to develop and cultivate both people and things to God's glory.

PROVIDER

Now let's look at the idea of the man *working* the Garden. Cultivation involves both creativity and effort. These two things are the nature of true work.

Men, I want to introduce you to one of your primary purposes. It is very simple, nothing complicated. You don't have to try to be Batman. You don't have to compete with Arnold Schwarzenegger or anybody else. You don't have to have big muscles. You can weigh 110 pounds and still fulfill your purpose—no problem. God gave you the assignment of work.

WORK EXPOSES YOUR POTENTIAL.

Now, I hear somebody saying, "I'm so mad at Adam. Because Adam sinned, now I have to go to work." I have news for you: work was given to the man in Genesis 2, before the Fall. In other words, work is not a curse, my friend. Let me tell you the primary reason God gave you work. It is given in Genesis 2:2-3:

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

God Himself worked when He created the world, and He still works to carry out His purposes. For example, Paul said in Philippians 2:13, "*It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*" Because you are made in God's image and likeness, you are designed to work. Yet remember that work is meant to include creativity and cultivation, not drudgery. It is also supposed to be kept in its proper place. In Genesis 2, the Bible says that God worked hard and completed His work, so that He stopped His work and rested. He didn't burn the midnight oil or work seven days a week just for the sake of working. He stopped working when it was appropriate. He told us to do the same. (See Exodus 20:9-10.)

What is the significance of work? *Work exposes your potential.* You cannot show what you have inside unless demands are made on it, and demands are placed on it by work.

God gave the male work because it is related to his purpose. His purpose is to stay in the presence of the Lord and learn to rule and manage what God has given him to do. In this way, he can eventually fulfill God's complete plan for him, which is to dominate the earth.

God gave the male work not only because it exposes his potential and allows him to reflect God's nature, but also because it enables him to provide for those for whom he is responsible in his position as visionary and leader.

Provide comes from a Latin word meaning "to see ahead." The male should be a visionary. He should have a vision for his life, and he should work to see that it is accomplished—for himself, his family, and others under his care. A male is designed for this purpose of provider. In general, he's built physically stronger than the female, particularly in his upper body, because of God's command that he work.

**GOD HAS EQUIPPED YOU TO
CARRY OUT EVERY PURPOSE
AND FUNCTION YOU HAVE
BEEN GIVEN.**

PROTECTOR

"*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to... take care of it*" (Gen. 2:15). The next responsibility the male was given was to "*take care*" of the Garden. I would include under this responsibility *guarding* and *protecting* the Garden and everything in it. That included the

plants, the animals, even the woman who would be created and live in the Garden. God never told the woman to protect anything. Why? Because the woman is one of the things the man is supposed to protect.

I once asked God, "Lord, with all the responsibilities You gave us men, how do we know we can fulfill them?" His answer was very, very simple. He said, "Whatever I call for, I provide for." It is so true. We are designed as men to fulfill these functions.

God designed the male to protect everything that is in his care and under his covering, so that the male is a natural protector. The man is built in every way to protect. His physical frame is evidence of that, but so is his mental capacity. The way he is structured psychologically is designed to protect. We will discuss this idea more in the chapter entitled, "The Male as Provider and Protector." Rest assured that, as a male, God has equipped you to carry out every purpose and function you have been given.

There's a final aspect of the male as both provider and protector that I want you to recognize. Before the woman came, God gave the man one last responsibility:

Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. (Gen. 2:19–20)

Did you know that the Hebrew concept of naming things actually means to possess them? This idea is very important in the Bible. Why did God tell the male-man to name the animals? Why didn't God name them Himself? It is because whatever you name, you own. Whatever you name, you control. Very interesting. That's why God named the male.

God called us His children because He always wants to have rights to us. We belong to Him. "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). No one else has a right to you because God named you. Do you understand that this is why Satan has no legal rights to you? You are already named, so he can't name you.

This idea is why God made sure that Mary and Joseph didn't name Jesus. He personally named His Son. Why? He didn't want Jesus' earthly parents to possess Him. He knew that the day would come when Jesus would reach twelve years of age and His mother would ask Him, "Why did You leave us, Son?" and He would have to say, "I must be about My Father's business." He named Me. You didn't name Me." (See Luke 2:48–49 NKJV.)

Can I take you one step further? This is why God did not name the woman. Now, men, that's a lot of weight on our shoulders. God chose not to name the female. He wanted the man to be totally responsible for her. This is why, in marriage, a woman has traditionally taken her husband's name. It is to signify that he is responsible for her.

Real men are very careful about naming things, because they know the truth of this principle: what you name, you claim; and what you claim, you have the responsibility for. Young men, don't be so quick to give your name away,

**GOD WANTED THE MAN TO BE
TOTALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE WOMAN.**

because whomever you give your name to, you have to cherish and love; care for and secure; and protect and work for. Young women, the next time a man comes to you and wants to give you his name, see if you want to be claimed. Check him out. Say, "Can you sustain me? Can you supply what I need?" I'm not referring to just money. I'm talking about comfort, knowledge, intellectual stimulation, protection, security. Ask him, "Can you provide these things for me?" Many men have money, but they don't have much sense. You don't want a rich fool. You want a real male-man.

SIX ASPECTS OF THE MALE'S ASSIGNMENT

The male's assignment has revealed six specific purposes that God created the man to fulfill: *visionary, leader, teacher, cultivator, provider, and protector*. If every man could live out these six things, he would begin to realize his true purpose as a male. Any man who does not understand these elements will experience great frustration—which some of you are experiencing right now. To be a strong man means to discover, understand, and fulfill these basic aspects of purpose. These areas are so crucial that we will look at them in more detail in later chapters.

It is important to realize that although some of the traditional male roles reflect these purposes, much of the gender confusion and many of the other problems we're having in our societies have come from our interpretation of these roles. For example, as we saw, being a provider means supplying not only financial support but also emotional and intellectual support. A man whose wife makes more money than he does but who is doing his utmost to work a job and to fulfill these needs can still be a good provider. We need to focus on God's purpose, rather than roles. God will enable men to fulfill their true purpose as they look to Him for guidance and help.

I also want to emphasize that because these areas have to do with the male's purpose, the ability to fulfill them is already in his nature. Many people don't understand how close the relationship is between purpose and nature. The nature of a man reveals who he is and how he functions.

A COMPLETE MAN IS STILL ALONE

All these purposes for the male were given to him by God *before* the creation of the female. This is a vital point to remember: it is the man who is already living and working in his purposes about which God says,

"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Gen. 2:18). You might not think that a man who has a close relationship with God, who understands his role as foundation, who has been given the vision, who can lead, teach, cultivate, provide, and protect, needs anyone else. Yet even a man

who knows and lives in his purpose is not complete, according to God. The male needs a companion, someone to be his helper—not as a subordinate or a sidekick, but as an equal partner with a complementary purpose. This is as true for single men as it is for married men. Men need women as fellow workers and colleagues in this world if they are to fulfill their purpose in life.

THE CREATION OF THE FEMALE

When God placed the spirit-man in the male, God and man still maintained a relationship of love through their spirits. However, because the

man now had a physical body, he also needed someone with whom he could share his life on earth, someone with whom he could express emotional and physical love.

Genesis 2:20 tells us, "So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found." God presented every animal to the man, but none was suitable for him. There was no one to whom he could relate, no one who could help him in his proprietorship of the earth. So God said, in effect, "It's not good for man to be alone in one body." It is impossible for love to love alone. So God created the woman, the female-man. The primary purpose of the female was to receive love from the male, just as God's major purpose for creating the spirit-man was to have a relationship of love with mankind. Having dominion over the earth was secondary.

MALE AND FEMALE ARE OF THE SAME SUBSTANCE.

1. OF THE SAME SUBSTANCE AND ESSENCE AS THE MALE

The method that God used to create the female is significant to our understanding of the relationship between males and females:

The LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. (Gen. 2:21-22)

Just as God had drawn man from Himself and created him as a spiritual being, He drew the woman out of the man and made her a physical being. This parallel in creation illustrates the oneness and mutual love that God and man and male and female were created to have.

The word "rib" in Genesis 2:22 is the Hebrew word *tsela*. It does not necessarily mean a rib as we understand the word. It could mean "side" or "chamber." The Scripture is telling us that God drew the woman from a part of the man. Why? It is because the receiver has to be exactly like the giver. Just as man needed to be spirit in order to receive love from God and be in relationship with Him, the woman needed to be of the same essence

as the man in order to receive love from him and be in relationship with him.

That is why God did not go back to the soil to fashion another house when He formed the female. If He had done that, she would not have been the exact duplicate of the man. She would not have been made of the essence of the male, the way humanity was made of the essence of God. So God took just what was needed from the male to make an exact replica, and He created the woman.

Now, while males and females are of the same essence, and while the woman is a replica of the man, God actually made them using different methods. The Bible says that the man was "formed" of the dust of the earth (Gen. 2:7). The Hebrew word for "formed" is *yatsar*, meaning to "mold," as a potter molds clay. However, the Bible says that God "made" the woman (v. 22). The Hebrew word for "made" is *banah*, which means to "build" or "construct."

So there was this beautiful structuring in the creation of woman. When God had finished making her, she was just like the man. She was so much in likeness to him that, when God presented her to him, his first words were, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man" (v. 23). And she became his wife. The man's words are both beautiful and instructive. Something that is built has the same components as the material from which it is made or from which it comes. Therefore, God built the female out of the part that He took from the male so that they would be made of exactly the same substance.

2. THE MALE'S PERFECT COMPLEMENT

The female-man is the perfect complement to the male-man. Because the woman came from the man, the man is essentially the giver, and the woman is essentially the receiver. God fashioned the woman to be the receiver. If you look at the way the female body is made, she is a receiver from A to Z. Her receiving complements the male's giving. The woman is like the man because the

EVE WAS GOD'S IDEA FOR ADAM.

receiver has to be of the same essence as the giver. However, in order for the woman to be the receiver, she also has to be different from the man.

Though the woman was built to be like the man, she is also a distinct creation. This fact is highlighted in her physical difference from the man in that she is able to bear children. You could say that a woman is a "wombed man." She is a man with a womb. She is still the same as a male, but she has certain differences. These differences are complementary in nature and are designed so that the male and female can fulfill one another's emotional and physical needs while they are spiritually nourished by God and His love—and so that together they can fulfill their mandate to have dominion over the world. Therefore, men and women were created with complementary designs that reflect their individual roles in the larger purposes for which they were created.

3. THE MALE'S GOD-GIVEN COMPANION

When God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Gen. 2:18), He was saying, in essence, "I will make someone who will solve the male's aloneness."

Now, Adam did not go looking for a wife. She was God's idea for him. Adam was so busy doing what God had told him to do that he didn't even know he needed a woman. God had to tell him, "Man, it's not good for you to be alone." Note that God didn't say Adam was lonely. There is a difference between "being alone" and "being lonely."

You can be lonely in a crowd, but you can be alone and be as happy as a lark. There is nothing wrong with being alone at times. The Bible tells us that it's important to be alone and quiet before the Lord. Jesus often made it a point to go off by Himself in order to pray and rest. Being alone can be healthy, but loneliness is a disease.

Have you noticed that people who are suffering from loneliness never can go into their houses and just sit down in the quiet? As soon as they get inside, they run for the television and click it on. They have to have something going on that will occupy their minds. When they can't find anything on television that they like, they run to their MP3 players or iPods. When they become bored with music, they try something else. They keep doing

things in order to stay occupied. Why? Because they're not comfortable with themselves. They can't stand being alone.

**SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM,
AND YOUR MATE WILL BE
ADDED TO YOU.**

Some of you single men and women are afraid of being alone. When you hit age twenty-five, you begin to think you're past your prime, and so you say to yourselves, "I'm never going to get married. I'd better latch onto the first thing

that comes along." That's the reason many people marry spouses who aren't right for them. Do you know what the problem is? They haven't learned what it means to be a whole person.

Adam was so together as a man that he didn't even know he was alone. He was busy obeying God's Word; he was so occupied with dominating, ruling, and subduing; he was so lost in what he was doing, that he didn't know he needed somebody. But most of us do the reverse. We don't have time for God because we're busy trying to find a mate.

Some people run from church to church looking for a spouse. They think we preachers don't know what they're up to. They don't go to church to worship God; instead, they walk around checking out the opposite sex. They say, "Huh, that's a nice one over there. Really cool." Instead, they're supposed to be getting themselves together so they can be ready for the one whom God is preparing for them. Become so preoccupied and consumed by God that you don't walk around with a passion that's looking for a place to happen.

Adam was so prepared for Eve that when he saw her, all he said was, "Woaaa-man!" But you see, he didn't go looking for her. Jesus talked about the attitude we should have when He said, in effect, "Don't worry about what you're going to eat, what you're going to wear, or whom you're going to marry. Seek first the kingdom of God. Become immersed in His righteousness. Then your mate will be added to you." (See Matthew 6:31-33.)

Become like Adam—get lost in the garden of God's righteousness. Get lost in God, because when He brings you a spouse, you had better understand His ways. Adam was so busy following the command of God that, when his mate came along, he was ready, and it was the right time for him.

4. THE MALE'S "SUITABLE HELPER"

So the woman was God's idea. He made the woman specifically so that the man could have somebody with whom to enjoy creation and share the dominion of the earth.

God said, "I will make a helper suitable for him" (Gen. 2:18). The King James Version uses the words "help meet" rather than "helper suitable" as in the *New International Version* or "helper comparable" as in the *New King James Version*. "Help meet" is not a Hebrew expression, and it's not a holy phrase. When King James ordered an English translation of the Scriptures at the beginning of the seventeenth century, the translators used the words that were common at the time to explain various concepts. *Helpmeet* or *helpmate* are words that developed in the English language based on this King James translation, and they have remained in the language. However, because our use of words has changed, they do not fully capture the concept the Bible is conveying here about the role of the woman.

**EVERYTHING ABOUT THE
WOMAN IS DESIGNED TO HELP.**

The woman is not just someone who helps here and there while the men do the real work. "Meet" actually means "fit"—something that is suitable, compatible, or comparable. This means that females are a perfect match for males in fulfilling God's purposes.

God designed the woman to fulfill her purpose of being a compatible helper for the man. Everything in her is designed to help. Now, the last thing many men want women to believe is that they need their help. Yet God announced from the beginning that a man needs a woman's help. Again, this is true for all men, not just married men. Males need females not only in the family, but in society, in all of life.

One of the reasons our nations are so troubled is that males don't know their own purpose or the purpose of females. Many men don't run their homes properly because they walk around saying, "I am the final authority." They don't realize that the women God gave them are a blessing and that they are there to help them carry out their vision. If you as a

man—whether married or single—believe that you don't need women, you are missing an important aspect of your existence.

Many males with whom I've been in contact over the years believe that women were put on earth by God to destroy them. They think that everything a woman does is conniving and scheming. They don't understand the true nature and purpose of women. If you don't understand why something is the way it is, you will become suspicious of its nature.

SOMETIMES A WOMAN'S HELP IS SEEN AS A THREAT.

For example, sometimes the help that a woman brings a man is interpreted as a threat. He sees it as her trying to take his position. Many men don't understand the value of the woman

in her purpose as helper. So when a woman wants to be a part of what a man is doing, he thinks she's interfering. Yet she is the way she is because of why she was created. She wants to know what you're doing that she can't help with. What could be so secretive, so deep?

Women who are kept at a distance by men keep on reaching out, trying to help, but the men see them as a nuisance and say, "Mind your own business. This is a man's world; find your place." Well, her place is right next to you, helping you. If she can't help you, she will help something—or someone—else.

Some of these precious women are so talented, so experienced in all kinds of things. They have excellent educations, are very accomplished, and are ready to help their husbands or other males in any way they can, but the men get flippant with them because they don't understand God's plan.

One of the reasons for this is that some men can't handle the presence of a complete woman. My friend, you're not a strong man until you can handle the weight of a real woman—I'm talking about a real woman. Some women are off balance. However, there are some real women in the world, and it takes a real man to be a support for them. Many women are loaded with gifts and anointing. Because women have such an awesome capability to help, most men feel powerless when their helper shows up. Why? Because they were never taught what a man is all about and don't know how to fulfill their own purpose.

Do you ever wonder why the church is so filled with women? Often, it is because they don't have anything to help with at home. Do you know why your wife leaves you to go to church? You don't have any vision in the home, so she goes to church and helps this minister with his vision. She helps in children's church or in Sunday school because she has a need to contribute.

YOU'RE NOT A STRONG MAN UNTIL YOU CAN HANDLE THE WEIGHT OF A REAL WOMAN.

Some women even help men do wrong things if they can't find men doing right things. A man may tell a woman, "You wait in the car while I rip off this store," and she feels good about it, because she is doing something to help him. She feels worthy. She feels valuable to this man. Some women carry drugs and do deals for their kingpin boyfriends. Do you wonder how they can do that? In a warped way, they are seeking to be fulfilled, to have their needs met.

THE ABUSE OF PURPOSE

Remember one of our principles: where purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable? When men and women misunderstand their purposes, then these purposes will be abused in some way. It is a misunderstanding of purpose that has pulled men and women away from God's original design in creation. This has resulted in a false idea of dominion and of the relationship between males and females that is causing confusion and conflict between them. As long as we allow this to continue, we won't live fulfilled lives as men and women, and society will continue to decline.

It all started with the male and female thinking they knew their true purpose better than God did. Let's look next at the implications of this tragic misjudgment.

PRINCIPLES

1. The male's purpose was chosen by God.
2. The male was made to serve the needs of man (the spirit) on earth and to enable him to fulfill his purpose.
3. The purpose of the male may be summed up as *his priority, his position, and his assignment.*

4. The male's *priority* means that he was formed first in order to be the foundation of the human family.
5. The male's *position* means that he is to remain continually in God's presence. Without this, he cannot function in God's purposes.
6. God never intended for Adam to move from the Garden. He intended for the Garden of His presence to move over the earth.
7. God intended for the man to grow in dominion ability by first learning to rule the Garden.
8. The male's *assignment* includes six specific purposes he is meant to fulfill: visionary, leader, teacher, cultivator, provider, and protector.
9. God has designed and equipped the male to carry out every purpose and function he has been given.
10. God allowed Adam to name Eve because He wanted the male to be totally responsible for the female.
11. It is the male who is already living and working in his purposes about which God says, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Gen. 2:18).
12. The female was drawn from the male and is made of the same essence as the male.
13. The female is the male's perfect complement and equal partner in the purposes of God.
14. The female is the male's God-given companion. She is God's idea for the man.
15. The female is the male's "suitable helper." Everything about her is designed to help the man.

STUDY QUESTIONS

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

1. What do you think is God's purpose for the male?

EXPLORING GOD'S PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

2. God creates according to the _____ of His _____, (p. 77)
3. Why did God make the male? (pp. 77-78)
4. The purpose of the male may be summed up as his _____, his _____, and his _____. What do each of these terms refer to? (p. 78)

THE MALE'S PRIORITY:

5. Why did God make the male before He made the female? (p. 78)
6. The male was made from the soil of the earth because he was designed by God to be the _____ of the _____, as well as of society. (pp. 78-79)
7. The woman came out of the man rather than from the soil of the earth because she was designed to _____ on the man—to have the male as her _____. (p. 79)

THE MALE'S POSITION:

8. What is a central reason God placed the male in this environment? (p. 83)

9. What did it mean for Adam to have dominion over the earth? (p. 84)
10. What was the only way Adam could fulfill this purpose? (p. 84)
11. Many of us short-circuit God's plans for us by trying to grasp for everything at once. However, God always gives us _____
_____ to _____ us for the rest. (p. 86)
12. What do we need to develop in order to be able to handle more of God's purposes? (p. 86)

THE MALE'S ASSIGNMENT:

13. The male's assignment includes six specific purposes he is meant to fulfill. In the first two assignments, the male was given the charge of being the _____ and _____, the one who would guide those who came after him in the _____
_____. (pp. 87-88)
14. The third specific purpose the male is meant to fulfill is that of _____
_____. (p. 88)
15. What is the fourth specific purpose the male is meant to fulfill?
_____. (p. 89)
16. The fifth specific purpose the male is meant to fulfill is that of _____
_____. (p. 90)
17. God gave men the assignment of _____
_____. (p. 90)

18. What is the primary reason God gave the male work? (p. 91)
19. What is the sixth specific purpose the male is meant to fulfill?
_____. (p. 91)
20. How did God design the male to be a natural protector? (p. 92)
21. We need to focus on God's _____ rather than on
_____. (p. 94)
22. What is the primary purpose of the female? (p. 95)
23. What is the most significant way in which the female-man is the perfect complement to the male-man? (p. 96)
24. What is the reason for the complementary differences between males and females? (p. 97)
25. Why do the English words *helpmeet* and *helpmate* not fully capture the concept that the Bible conveys about the role of the woman? (p. 99)
26. It takes a _____ man to be a true support for a _____
woman. (p. 100)

CONCLUSION

God created the man first because of His purposes for the male as reflected in the male's priority, position, and assignment in life. He also designed the male and female to perfectly complement one another. In this way, they can fulfill one another's emotional and physical needs while they are spiritually nourished by God and His love. God's plan is that, together,

men and women can fulfill their mandate to have dominion over the world. Their complementary designs reflect their individual roles in the larger purposes for which they were created.

APPLYING GOD'S PRINCIPLES TO YOUR LIFE

THINKING IT OVER

- + If you are a married male, are you developing the qualities God wants you to fulfill within your family and society?
- + If you are a male who desires to be married, have you been focusing on "being lonely" or on becoming the man about whom God says, "*It is not good for [him] to be alone*" (Genesis 2:18)? (See pp. 97–99.)
- + If you are a man, have you been open to receive the help of women, or have you disregarded women's God-given gift of enabling you to fulfill your purpose?
- + If you are a woman, have you considered yourself at odds with men or as having God-given complementary purposes with them?

PRAYING ABOUT IT

- + If you are a man seeking to fulfill your true purpose, know that God will enable you to fulfill it as you look to Him for guidance and help. Commit your purpose to God, ask for His direction, and then rest in His promise to fulfill what He has given you to do.
- + If you are a woman, ask God to show you how you can use your insights, skills, and abilities to help your husband or other males in fulfilling God's purposes for the world.

ACTING ON GOD'S TRUTH

- + Dr. Munroe said that if every man could live out the six main reasons for which he was created, he would begin to realize his true purpose as a male. Focus on one of these purposes each month for the next six months. Pray about it, learn everything you can from God's Word about it, review the sections in this book that relate to it, and put into practice what you learn.