

AGAPE LOVE

WPF FAMILY MINISTRY



WOMEN BIBLE STUDY – CHAP. 5

“THE UNIQUENESS OF WOMEN”

FIVE

THE UNIQUENESS OF WOMAN

The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

—1 Corinthians 15:41

God did not create the woman as an afterthought, but as an integral part of His plan in creation. As such, He designed and built her in love and with particular care. Her uniqueness is a reflection of God's purposes and design for her.

The principles in this chapter are not a complete list of the woman's uniqueness. Other chapters will cover additional aspects of her distinct nature, such as her primary communication style and emotional needs. However, the following principles highlight important truths about the woman's nature that are essential for us to understand as we learn to know, value, and encourage the woman in what she was created to be.

The female is unique in five significant ways.

THE WOMAN IS GOD'S IDEA

First, a woman is unique because she is God's idea.

Women, you don't understand how special you are. Adam hadn't even imagined the woman, but God had her particularly in mind. In Genesis 2:18, God said, "*It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.*" Adam was fumbling around in the bush thinking up animals' names. God said, "This is not good. This man needs help." So it was God who said that the man needed the woman. She was God's idea.

A woman is a product of God; this makes her God's property. If you handle her, you are handling God's idea. If you curse at a woman, you are cursing at God's idea. If you slap a woman, you are slapping God's idea in the face. If you abandon a woman, you are abandoning God's idea.

Women, no matter what men might say about you, no matter what you might think about yourself, you are a good idea. God's mind thought of you, and God's Spirit brought you into being. You are the result of God's idea, and that makes you very valuable to Him.

THE WOMAN HAS A SPIRIT INSIDE

Second, a woman is unique because she has a spirit inside. This makes her a free and responsible spiritual being.

You can't imagine the power that you will

have when you understand the spirit that is inside of you. Spiritually, men and women are equal; they have the same spirit-man within. God called both male and female "man." I like the way the Word of God expresses it: "*There is neither...slave nor free, male nor female*" in the body of Christ (Galatians 3:28). God doesn't look down from heaven today and say, "There are many women and men down there." He says, "There is a lot of man down there."

First Peter 3:4 says that a woman's beauty "*should be that of [her] inner self, the un fading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*" It is this "inner self" that is a woman's spirit. What the woman is physically is different from what she is in her inner self. The spirit-man inside every woman is the being that relates to God. The next time you women run into somebody who is confused about this concept, just tell them, "Look, I have a female body, but I have a spirit-man inside. I'm female because of what I have to do physically and in God's kingdom on the planet; however, I deal directly with God as a spirit."

Jesus said, "*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24). A woman has her own spirit-being with which to worship God. She can bless the Lord and love the Lord and receive from the Lord herself. A woman can preach, not because she's female, but because she has a spirit-man within her.

Because a spirit-man lives within the woman, the treatment of the woman by the man has to be taken very seriously. God honors and respects the woman. He loves and identifies with the spirit-man inside the female, and so He takes special care in regard to her. When you have offended the

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spirit-man, you have offended God. You have to be careful what you do to the spirit within either the male or the female.

Some men forget that there is a spirit-man inside the woman. If a man impatiently tells a female, "I don't like your moods," he should check to whom he is speaking. There is a spirit inside that precious body. One reason why the Bible tells us not to go to sleep without resolving our anger (see Ephesians 4:26) is that it's very important to treat well those who have been created in the image of God. James reinforced this theme: "*With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness*" (James 3:9). You see, anger or resentment is a spiritual matter. It's not a physical concern; it's a spiritual one.

Thus, when a man walks around with anger at his wife because she didn't do something he wanted her to do, he should pray! Why? He's dealing with a spirit. Some men say, "I could never forgive my wife." Yet the Spirit of God within us can do anything. The ego might have a problem with it, but the spirit can forgive.

A husband should deal with his wife very delicately, for if he doesn't, God says that his prayers won't be answered. This is not a light matter. The Bible says that men are to treat women with sensitivity and consideration. If they don't, their prayers could be hindered.

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker [delicate] partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

God is saying to men, "Wait a minute. The woman isn't just a body of flesh. She has a spirit. The way you treat her will affect your prayer life." Therefore, if you don't treat a woman with consideration and respect, it could block your relationship with God. God won't hear your prayers until you go back and make things right with her, because you have interfered with the

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spirit-man in the woman. Some men think they can slap their wives around and then go to church as if

nothing had happened. God isn't buying it. Some men think they can do something to hurt their wives and then go ahead and become a deacon. God isn't listening to their prayers. Mistreating a woman is a serious thing because God deals with the woman's spirit in spirit and in truth. He has so much respect for her spirit that He defends her when she is misused.

Jesus said that if you go to worship God and, while you are offering your gift, you remember that there is a broken relationship in your life that needs to be mended, you must leave your offering right there at the altar and go and make things right. Then you can come back and offer your gift. You shouldn't try to offer it beforehand, because God won't accept it. (See Matthew 5:22-24.) Jesus also talked about the importance of forgiveness in our relationships. He said that if you do not forgive someone who has something against you, or whom you have something against, then the Father will not forgive you and will not hear you. (See Matthew 6:14-15.)

Jesus was saying that relationships with other people are even more important than worship, because you cannot worship except in the context of your relationships. It doesn't matter how serious and sincere you are about God. It doesn't matter how much of the Holy Spirit you possess or how much Scripture you've learned. It doesn't matter to God how many times you speak in tongues or whether you have memorized a tremendous amount of Scripture. God is not overly impressed by your ability to communicate with Him, by your ability to articulate your worship, prayer, or praise. His reception of your worship—whether it is through your giving, your praise, your administration of the kingdom of God, or your ministry of the gifts of the Spirit—is contingent upon your relationships with others, especially your spouse. So if you want to give God a thousand dollars, whether or not God receives it depends on whether or not you are in right relationship with others. God's acceptance of even your tithes is contingent upon your relationships with other people, not on how much you give Him.

This truth brings the matter of right relationships between men and women down to where it hurts, doesn't it? We need to clearly understand

GOD'S ACCEPTANCE OF EVEN YOUR TITHES IS CONTINGENT UPON YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

what God's Word says about the value of women, as well as His purpose for men and women, so that we have no excuse for not mending our broken relationships.

Can you imagine husbands stopping in the middle of Sunday morning worship and stepping outside with their wives to make things right with them? If that were to happen, we'd have a brand new society. Yet I find that people often try the easy route when they have been in conflict with others. They go to God and say, "God, please forgive Mary." Or they say, "God, tell Mary that I forgive her," or, "God, I ask You to change Mary." They don't want to go to the person directly. We love to hide behind God so that we don't have to accept the responsibility of face-to-face relationships. Our reluctance to deal honestly and directly with other people is the reason why there are so many problems in relationships, even in the body of Christ. We use God as a scapegoat.

I honor my wife and do right by her, not only because I love her and because of who she is, but also for the sake of my relationship with God. Jesus said that my relationship with God is even more important than my relationship with my wife—and yet God made my relationship with Him contingent on my relationship with her.

THE WOMAN WAS TAKEN OUT OF MAN

Third, the woman is unique because she was taken out of man.

THE WOMAN'S ORIGIN

First Corinthians 11:8 says, "*Man did not come from woman, but woman from man.*" According to our Manufacturer, man was taken out of the soil, but woman was taken out of man. The implications of this are striking and significant. Something that has been taken from something else has the same components as that from which it was derived. Adam wasn't ignorant of who the woman was. He said, "*This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh*" (Genesis 2:23). She was part of him; she was like him. He said, "*She shall be called 'woman'*" (v. 23). Why? "*For she was taken out of man*" (v. 23).

The female is what she is because she came out of what the male is. Remember that man is spirit because man came out of God, who is Spirit.

Therefore, humanity must stay connected to God in order to have spiritual life. In the same way, since woman came out of man, she needs to stay connected to man in order to live the life she was created to live. Any woman who decides that she is an island unto herself is going to become a volcano before too long.

A man really can't get upset about what a woman is. He can't forget the material of which she is made—the same material of which he is made. Because of this, she should be valued and loved by the man.

Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body.

(Ephesians 5:28–30)

Paul said that if you take proper care of your body, it shows that you love yourself. A husband is to love his wife as he loves himself, as his own body. However, too often we fail to apply this principle in marriage, and in the general relationships of men and woman. Males and females are of the same essence and therefore should respect and love one another. Jesus reinforced this principle when He said that one of the greatest commandments is, "*Love your neighbor as yourself*" (Matthew 19:19). If we really understood this truth, there would be more patience, understanding, and forgiveness among men and women.

THE WOMAN'S POSITION

"*Man did not come from woman, but woman from man*" (1 Corinthians 11:8). The entire eleventh chapter of 1 Corinthians is talking about the position of men and women and about the male-female relationship. It's talking about authority.

Some people feel that Paul was being a chauvinist when he made the above statement. Rather, he was referring to the creation of male and female. He made an important distinction between the spiritual position of men and women and the male-female relationship. In doing so, he used a spiritual example because he did not want his statements to be misinterpreted.

SOME PEOPLE FEEL THAT
PAUL WAS A CHAUVINIST.

Paul was saying, in effect, "Look, some of you women think that I am trying to put you down or say that you are inferior. Therefore, in order to make myself clear, let me explain to both men and women the true nature of authority." In verse three, he said, "*Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ.*" So first we see that the man has a head to whom he is responsible. He is under the headship of Christ. Verse three continues, "*And the head of the woman is man.*" The woman also has a head. She is responsible to the man. The verse concludes, "*And the head of Christ is God.*" Paul was expressing this idea: "If you think you don't like being under somebody else's authority, you will have to tell Jesus to move out from under the Father's authority. Until you become better than Jesus, the best thing to do is to stay under your authority."

A woman may be smarter, have more education, work a more prestigious job, or make more money than a man. Yet for the man to fulfill his role, she needs to submit to him. Submission is an act of the will, a choice. A woman should submit to a man, not because the man says so, and not because society says so, but because of her purpose. In this way, she enables her husband to be a leader.

There is an evil spirit abroad in the world today in which nobody wants to be under anybody else. This satanic spirit has taken over our society. Yet Jesus Himself gave us our model of authority and submission when He submitted to His Father. Philippians 2:6-8 says,

[Jesus] being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Even though Jesus is equal to God, He submitted Himself to the Father and to the Father's plan. The prophet Isaiah talked about both the deity and humility of God the Son. He said, in essence, "You aren't going to believe this report. A Son will be born, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God." (See Isaiah 9:6.)

We might well ask, "But Isaiah, you just said, '*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given*' (v. 6 NKJV). What do you mean that this

Child, this Son, will be called Mighty God? How can He be God and Son?"

Isaiah's answer would be, "He is God, but He took on the position of Man and Servant for the sake of your redemption."

Purpose necessitated the position. The purpose of God was redemption. The Godhead said, "Somebody has to go down and submit to us in order to bring about the salvation of man." So the Word of God, who is God Himself, said, "I'll go. I know I am an equal in the Godhead, but for the purpose of redemption, I will be made in the likeness of man and will submit."

Jesus is not inferior to Jehovah; They are equal. But for the purpose of salvation, He submitted Himself to a position in which He could fulfill the requirements of salvation. Similarly, a woman isn't any less than her husband; however, for God's purposes, it is her position to submit.

Do you know why marriages and relationships and society aren't working? It is because people are refusing to accept their positions. What if the tires on your car decided they wanted to take on the role of the steering wheel? The whole car wouldn't be able to move. This is the stalemate that our society is in. Everybody wants the same position. Nobody wants to trust anybody.

Many of you women have had your hearts broken in the past by unsympathetic and domineering men. God has compassion on you. He has made provision for your hurt through the grace and blood of Jesus Christ and the healing power of His Holy Spirit. Yet your hurt can't change God's original design for males and females. He can't alter His design based on your ideas of what a relationship should be, even though you have had painful experiences.

Some of our problems are the result of our own ignorance. The reason things haven't worked out for some of us is that we made the wrong decision in the beginning. Many women have prayed, "Lord, if I had known what I know now, I wouldn't have married this fellow." The Word of God says, "When you got married, you didn't sin. Whatever circumstances you find yourself in, stay there. Submit yourself to the position you're supposed to be in." (See 1 Corinthians 7:17, 28, 36.)

You have to understand your position.

First Corinthians 11:5–6 says,

Every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is just as though her head were shaved. If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head.

Paul was using an illustration to explain the concept of position. A woman should have her head covered, just like a man should have his head covered, just like Christ should have His head covered. Head covering doesn't ultimately refer to hats or veils. Wearing a hat is good, but it doesn't make you any more righteous. Paul was talking about the nature of authority. He was saying, "Look, the man is under Jesus, and Jesus is under the Father. The woman is under the man, and the children are under both of them." Woman was taken out of man, which means that man is her covering by virtue of the way she was created. There is no way to change this. No psychologist can change this. Every time we try to change God's purposes, we cause ourselves problems.

Our positions have nothing to do with how we feel about them; they have to do with our purpose. What is your purpose? That determines where you are placed. "For man did not come from woman, but woman from

man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man" (1 Corinthians 11:8–9). God created man and placed him within the male and the female. Then He subjected the male to Christ Jesus, and the female to the male. If we do not understand our positions, we will function in ignorance, and the results will be pain and destruction. People perish because of a lack of knowledge. (See Proverbs 29:18.)

I suggest to you men that you have no right to have your wife submit to you if you yourself don't submit to anybody else. You are exercising illegal authority if you are demanding submission without being submitted. As a matter of fact, you can't really discipline your children if you're not disciplined yourself.

The male-man needs to be under authority before he is able to exercise it properly. It's impossible for you to say you are the head of a home when you aren't submitted to anybody else. The head of Christ is God, and the head of man is Christ, and the head of woman is man. Any man who is out from under Christ is not really a qualified authority. The most dangerous man to marry is a man who isn't submitted to anyone else, who believes he is the ultimate boss and won't answer to anyone. If a man has to answer to someone, then his wife has someone to whom to appeal.

A woman might not be able to get through to her husband. Some of you women are married to such males. They are so stubborn, their heads are as hard as rocks. But if a man is submitted to God, you can deal with him from the top down.

Remember what Esther did? She wanted to effect a change in her country, but she was afraid to go in to her husband, the king. So she went to God, and God gave her wisdom about what to do. He gave her a plan, and the plan worked. (See Esther 1–10.) You can appeal to the one whose authority the man is under. That is why it is good to have a husband who is responsible to spiritual authority, who is responsible to God.

"A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man" (1 Corinthians 11:7). Paul was saying that once the man is covered with Christ, his marriage is under authority. However, the woman then needs the man to cover her. First Corinthians 11:9–10 says, "Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head."

What do angels have to do with this? You could substitute the term "spirit-world" or "spiritual realm" for the word "angels." Paul is saying to the female, "When you start functioning in the kingdom of God, you must be careful, because even the angels will look to see if you are under authority before they will submit to your request. Because of the angels, because

**SUBMISSION
ACTIVATES HEAVEN.**

of the spirits, you must submit to your authority. Why? If you don't, the spirits will not submit to you. They won't do what you asks, and you will lose your spiritual authority."

If you are a female, and you want to do a work for God, all of heaven is ready to work for you. God says, "All right, we'll do spiritual work, but how are your relationships in the natural realm?" Any woman who goes on a missionary journey saying, "I don't need the church; I can do this by myself," isn't going to find any angels supporting her. She can pray in tongues, wear a hat, and carry a big Bible. It won't mean anything to the angels. The angels are looking for your authority. They will ask, "Who are you under? How can you tell us what to do when you yourself aren't under anybody?" Submission activates heaven.

Consider the example of Christ again. How did He submit Himself as a man? When He went to John the Baptist to be baptized, John was in charge. Jesus told him, in effect, "John, you have to do this. You're the one on the scene right now. I understand authority, so you need to baptize Me." John said, "You should baptize me!" Jesus answered, "No, because if you don't baptize Me, the angels aren't going to cooperate with Me, and I'm the Son of God. Baptize Me, so that I can fulfill what God has ordained." (See Matthew 3:14-17.)

Now, if Christ submitted because of heaven, who do we think we are? You may be independent, famous, a fantastic businessperson, and doing very well. However, if you aren't going to submit to anyone, I have problems with you, because heaven doesn't trust you. Don't ever believe that you can run off and do God's work without being in submission. Don't ever run away from a ministry and do your own work because somebody there made you upset. The angels are watching. You can actually remove God's protective covering from yourself when you move out from under your authority. This principle applies to both males and females.

Everyone should be connected with a local church or ministry because of the need for submission. I know people who say, "My pastor is a TV preacher." But a person can't have a relationship of spiritual submission with a TV preacher. At five o'clock on a Tuesday

THE SOURCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRODUCT.

afternoon, when you need the pastor, the TV program isn't on. Who is your pastor then? Covering is a key to God's resources. If you're covered, He'll bless you.

THE WOMAN'S PROVISION

Let's look now at some additional implications of the man's headship over the woman. The statement, "*Man did not come from woman, but woman from man*" (1 Corinthians 11:8), means that the source is responsible for the product. If Ford produces a car, Ford has to take responsibility for the car. Similarly, the man is responsible for the woman, because she came from man. This is God's original plan. Now, if a man starts thinking that this is *his* plan, rather than God's, his responsibility for the woman will turn into domination over the woman. We have to understand that this is God's design, or we will misuse and abuse it.

The man is responsible for providing for the woman because of his position in the relationship of things. The woman is always supposed to be able to go to her source to receive whatever she needs. There is a parallel to this in the spiritual realm. Spiritually, we are to go to God for what we need. Jesus has told us, "I am the Vine; you are the branches, which receive nourishment from the Vine. Remain in Me." (See John 15:4-5.) So it is with the female and the male.

God says that the woman should remain connected to her source. She should be able to go to the man and get answers. If you are a married woman, and you have a question, ask your husband. If he doesn't have the answer, then go to the next man who is in godly authority. This also applies to a woman who is not married. The man could be your father, your pastor, or your big brother in the Lord, as long as it is someone who represents God as source and provider. That person should be able to give you guidance. Of course, a woman's ultimate Source and Provider is God, and she can always turn to Him. But God has designed things so that the female can receive earthly provision through the male.

"*Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man*" (1 Corinthians 11:9). Have you noticed the mystery in this statement? The man was not made for the woman, but the woman for the man. This means that the woman was made for whatever the man has. All of his money—she was made for it. All of his vision—she was made for it. All of his dreams—she was made to help bring them to pass. All of his hopes—she was made to help see that they become reality. She was made for everything about the man. This means that when a man buys a car, she drives it. When he

receives a bonus, she shares it. It's like when a man takes his wife out for dinner and says, "What do you want? I'll buy you anything on the menu." After they order and their meals come, she looks over at his dinner and says, "Hmmm. That looks really good." So she ends up eating his dinner instead of the one she ordered. Does that sound familiar? Whatever the man has, she was made for it.

My wife was made for everything that I have. Her mental faculties were made for me. Her physical body was made for me. Everything in the female was made for the man, including her intellectual ability. How many men believe this? A woman's mind is an awesome machine. God gave the woman a way of thinking that will amaze you. If you take a little thought, a little idea, and drop it into a woman's mind, you'll never get a simple idea back—you'll get a fully developed plan. Do you know why many men turn the running of the home over to their wives? A woman can take a mortgage that's overdue or a business that's falling apart, and say, "You sit down; let me handle this." She knows how to get you through these things. She can dig you out of a hole. The sad thing is that when some men get out of the hole, they proceed to walk over their wives. The unique qualities and contributions of the woman must be valued by the man.

THE WOMAN'S INTERDEPENDENCE

"In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God" (1 Corinthians 11:11–12). Everything comes full cycle. After all that Paul had said up to this point, he then placed both male and female in the same spiritual position. He said, "In the Lord, both man and woman are the same. Woman came from man, but no man comes into this world unless he is born of a woman. God has ordained both the spiritual and the physical realms, and each has its purpose."

Again, spiritually, women and men are equal. My wife and I are equal before the Lord. She can go before the Lord and get the same spiritual help that I get. She doesn't need to go through her husband. That is why, if you are a single mother, your spirit can go to God and do business with Him. You don't need to get permission from man to go to God; you have a spirit-man within.

The essence of the matter is this: in the spiritual realm, there is no difference between men and women, but in the physical realm, there has to be the proper relationship of submission. I was speaking to a precious lady who has a management job at an insurance company. She told me, "You know, at work, I'm the boss. Yet when I walk through the door into my home, I'm a wife." That's a smart woman. Of course, you can be the boss at work. But when you get home, you're a wife. That means you can't treat your husband like your employees at the office. An altogether different authority takes over. You can preach all you want, prophecy, rebuke the devil, and cast out twenty thousand demons; however, when you go home, your husband is in authority. Yet he has to understand that he's still supposed to be in the Lord when he's in the home. A woman should not be subjected to pride and foolishness from her husband when she is in the home.

THE WOMAN IS PHYSICALLY DIFFERENT

Fourth, a woman is unique because she is physically different from a man. She is a spirit-man with a female body.

THE WOMAN IS DELICATE

First Peter 3:7 says, "*Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life.*"

The woman is unique because she is a physical being who is "weaker." The word "weaker" here isn't referring just to physical strength, because many women are stronger than many men. Women can put up with much adversity and still survive. Many men couldn't handle what women handle. I like to translate the word "weaker" as "more delicate." Peter was saying, "Husband, treat your wife with consideration and respect, because God designed her in such a way that she is delicate. She is very, very fine."

Remember that God took a scoop of dirt with which to fashion the male, but He built the woman. God built the female a little more elegantly. Her shape is a little more refined than a man's. He designed her delicately. I believe this also refers to the delicacy of her soul. The expression of a woman's soul is very refined because of her purpose; she is more sensitive.

I believe that the definition of “weaker” should go even deeper to indicate that the woman is more “absorbent.” She can absorb things more easily than a man, because she was created to absorb. That is why God told the husband to be careful what he stimulated her with, to be careful how he treated her. Why? She is so delicate that she absorbs everything around her.

THE WOMAN IS A “WOMBED-MAN”

Some women want to be the same as a man both spiritually and physically. However, God didn't make the female to be the same as the male. He made her physically different to fulfill a purpose. Purpose determines design, and design determines needs. A man's physical purpose and a woman's physical purpose are different. If men and women don't understand this, and they try to become the same, there are going to be problems.

God designed the female to be physically different from the male so that she could bear the offspring of the race. She is the “wombbed-man.” She was meant to receive the seed of the man, conceive, and carry the child until it is born. In this way, God entrusted the woman with a major role in the furtherance and survival of the human race. The purpose of something determines its design, and God designed everything to fulfill its purpose. If you know the purpose of something, you can appreciate why the design is different. The female's purpose is distinct from the male's purpose—she is designed to bear children—and therefore God made each of them unique.

THE WOMAN'S NATURE IS INBORN

What has been happening in our society, however, is that people have been trying to change their designs. There are women who want to be like men, and there are men who want to be like women. God is saying to them, “You don't have the circuits for it.” To pursue these desires is the equivalent of short-circuiting. People are living static lives in which they don't know their purpose. They can't appreciate why people are different.

Imagine a car battery saying, “I want to be a carburetor,” and trying to function as a carburetor. The car won't work. Batteries and carburetors are different because they have different functions. Although their differences make them valuable, a carburetor isn't anything without a battery. No

matter how they might feel about one another, they still need each other, because they are both integral parts of something larger—the car. We must understand that males and females are all part of something larger, called man. Yet they are different, because they have different purposes.

If you are not sure that you are a female, God has provided you with physical evidence so that you may know. If you were born with a female reproductive system, you are a female. If you were not, you are a male. How you feel and whom you prefer to sleep with are not relevant. These things don't make you a woman or a man. Your feelings do not bring dignity to that which is unnatural. The fact that many people are doing something does not mean that it is right. We shouldn't confuse numbers with normalcy. If enough of us are abnormal, we'll believe that we are normal. Don't let anybody fool you into believing that you're something that you're not. You should look to your design.

The male is designed to provide seed for the purpose of procreation. Therefore, if you are not sure that you are a female, check to see if you were meant to provide sperm. If you were not, then you are a woman. Whether or not you can provide a climax is not the issue. If you are not a male, you should live as the woman you were designed to be, so that you can fulfill your true purpose.

Forget all the psychological, emotional, and sociological explanations. The only qualification for being a specific gender is to be born with the organs that enable you to fulfill the purpose of that gender. Having an operation and changing your sex organs does not change your nature. If you change your sex organs, it is just like having a kidney transplant. You are still who you were born to be. If a male receives a female's kidney in a kidney transplant, he's still a man.

So spiritually, we deal with the spirit-man within us, but physically, we deal with male and female. God is so wonderful. He set things up so that the relationship between God and man is intended to be expressed through the relationship between male and female. In this way, what is unseen can be understood through what is seen. The Bible refers to Jesus as the Bridegroom and the church as His bride. God is giving us an earthly

and physical illustration to communicate the spiritual truth of our relationship and unity with Him. Therefore, we need to appreciate our creation as males and females, designed specifically for God's love and His purposes in this world. *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10).

THE WOMAN WAS PLACED IN THE GARDEN

Fifth, a woman is unique because God specifically placed her in the Garden of Eden along with the man. In Genesis 3:8, we read that God walked in the Garden in the cool of the day in order to meet with Adam and Eve. The Garden represents man's relationship with God, the place of fellowship. A woman cannot fulfill her purpose unless she is in relationship with God. You cannot be the kind of woman you are supposed to be outside of God; any more than a man can be anything outside of God. Any woman who is outside a relationship with the Lord is a dangerous woman, just as a man who is outside a relationship with the Lord is dangerous. You can be who you were created to be, and you can fulfill the purpose you were meant to fulfill, only as long as you remain in the garden of fellowship with God.

A female cannot become what God intended unless she is filled with the Holy Spirit, submits to the Word, and begins to follow the leading of the Spirit. Many of the women of today are not living godly lives. They are not in the garden; they are in the wilderness. Many men are in the same situation.

Do you remember what happened when Adam and Eve rebelled against God? What did God do? He put them out of the Garden. A garden is a specifically manicured, prepared place. Outside the garden is wilderness. Wilderness people are wild; they devour one another. God wants us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds and to get out of the wilderness. (See Romans 12:2.)

You need an ongoing, intimate relationship with God in order to become the woman you were created to be. You can't just read popular

women's magazines or watch talk shows and expect to get revelation from God. These sources are usually headed deeper and deeper into the wilderness. They're leading you into perversion and depravity. The wilderness mentality of women is, "I don't need anybody else. I'm going to make it on my own. I don't care what anyone says; I don't need any man." God says that's wilderness talk. I believe you know that's wilderness talk because, deep inside, you have a garden desire. You need to be in relationship with God, and you need to be in relationship with men—with a husband or with your brothers in the Lord—in order to be what you were created to be.

This is the ideal, and God wants you to work back to it. He wants you to have the spirit of the Garden so that you will be in continual fellowship with Him. Then you will be able to experience fulfillment both as a spiritual being created in God's image, and as a female, created for good God's purposes.

You are God's good idea, and His unique creation.

PRINCIPLES

1. A woman is God's idea.
2. A woman's uniqueness is a reflection of God's purposes and design for her.
3. The woman has a spirit within her, making her a free and responsible spiritual being.
4. When you don't treat a woman right, you have interfered with the spirit-man in the female.
5. The female was taken out of the male.
6. The woman needs to stay connected to her source.
7. A husband should love his wife as he loves himself.
8. The head of the man is Christ, the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God.
9. Christ is our model of submission.
10. A woman isn't less than her husband, but for God's purposes, it is her position to submit.
11. Submission activates heaven.
12. The man is the woman's covering.
13. The source is responsible for the product.
14. The woman was made for everything the man has.
15. In the spiritual realm, there is no difference between men and women; but in the physical realm, there has to be the proper relationship of submission.
16. The woman is "weaker" than the man: delicate, sensitive, and absorbent.
17. The woman was made physically different from the man so that she can bear the offspring of the race.
18. If you are not sure whether you are a female or a male, the evidence is in your physical design.

19. The relationship between God and man is intended to be expressed through the relationship between male and female.
20. The woman was placed in the Garden along with the male.
21. A woman cannot fulfill her purpose unless she is in relationship with God.

CHAPTER FIVE STUDY QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. If you are a woman, what do you like best about being a female? If you are a man, what qualities do you like best about women?

EXPLORING GOD'S PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

2. There are five significant ways in which the woman is a unique creation by God. What is the first way? (p. 92)
3. What reason did God give for creating the woman? (p. 92)
4. Ultimately, the woman belongs to whom? Why? (p. 92)
5. Galatians 3:28 says that, in Christ, “*there is neither slave nor free, male nor female.*” Because the spirit-man is within the woman, how should the man treat her? (pp. 93–96)
6. What is the connection between our worship of God and our relationships with others—including our spouses and other members of the opposite sex? (pp. 94–96)
7. The woman needs to stay _____ to the man in order to live the life she was created to live. (p. 97)
8. Paul made an important distinction between the _____ of _____ and _____ relationship. (p. 97)
9. According to 1 Corinthians 11:3, both males and females are under authority, as is Christ. The head of Christ is _____, the head of the man is _____, and the head of the woman is the _____, (p. 98)
10. What is the basis on which a wife should submit to the authority of her husband? (p. 98)
11. What must a man do before he can exercise authority and headship over a woman? (pp. 100–101)
12. What happens when a woman tries to exercise authority in the spiritual realm when she is not submitted to her authority in the earthly realm? (pp. 101–102)
13. Why did God design the female to be physically different from the male? (pp. 105–107)

14. A woman cannot fulfill her purpose unless she is in _____ with God. (p. 108)

CONCLUSION

The woman is God's good idea and His unique creation. The spirit-man lives within her and she is a responsible spiritual being before God. In order to fulfill what she was created to be, the woman needs to be in proper relationship and position with God and man in both the spiritual and physical realms.

APPLYING GOD'S PRINCIPLES TO YOUR LIFE

THINKING IT OVER

- * Because the woman was thought of and made by God, she belongs to Him. Therefore, in whatever way you treat her, you are treating God's idea. If you are a woman, have you really recognized the fact that you are valuable and loved by God as His unique creation? In light of this truth, do you treat yourself with respect? If you are a man, do you value your wife, mother, sister, and other women as belonging to God in a special way?
- * Have you allowed your level of education, job prestige, or salary to affect the amount of love and respect you give to your spouse, who may or may not be "equal" to you in these areas?

PRAYING ABOUT IT

- * Ask God to show you whether you are under authority in both the spiritual and earthly realms. Then read Philippians 2:6-8 and meditate on Christ's equality with and submission to God the Father. Ask God to give you the heart and mind of Christ in relation to submission, whether you are a woman or a man.
- * If you are trying to worship and serve God while not forgiving others or living in right relationship with them, ask God to forgive you, and reconcile with others, so you can worship Him "*in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24).

ACTING ON GOD'S TRUTH

- * The relationship between God and man is meant to be reflected through the relationship between male and female. Below, write down several ways you can better demonstrate this purpose in your

relationship with your spouse or other members of the opposite sex. How will you put these ways into practice in your life?

- * No one can fulfill his or her purpose while neglecting to maintain a relationship with God. Are you connected to your Source? Commit to daily fellowship with God and seek Him while making important decisions in your life.

The woman is the result of God's idea, and that makes her very valuable to Him.