

DOMINION VERSUS

DOMINATION

"God Created Men and Women to Dominate the Earth,
Not One Another."



AGAPE LOVE WPF MINISTRY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

CHAPTER 5 – Thursday - ZOOM -7:00 p.m.

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5

DOMINION VERSUS DOMINATION

GOD CREATED MEN AND WOMEN TO DOMINATE THE EARTH,
NOT ONE ANOTHER.

Both males and females were created in God's image. The basis of their equality before God is that man, the spirit, resides within both of them. As physical beings they were created of the same essence, but differently—because each has been designed with specific purposes to fulfill. The different ways in which their dominion assignment is carried out does not affect their equality; it only reflects their distinct purposes, designs, and needs.

We saw in the previous chapter that the male was created to exercise dominion over the earth through his priority, position, and assignment. The female was created to help the male fulfill God's dominion purposes for mankind in both the earthly and spiritual realms. It is God's intention that, together, their individual strengths would combine to produce exponential results—outcomes much greater than either could accomplish alone. The woman adds to the man's power in living and working, so that the sum is far greater than its parts.

**MEN AND WOMEN'S
INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS
PRODUCE EXPONENTIAL
RESULTS WHEN COMBINED.**

If males and females were created with perfectly complementary designs, why do men and women experience conflict and competition rather than cooperation? Why does the purpose of dominion over the earth seem more like a quest for domination of one sex over the other?

THE DOMINION PLAN ATTACKED

The third chapter of Genesis explains the source of the conflict. Sometime after God had instructed Adam that he could eat from any tree

in the Garden except the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and Adam had passed this information along to Eve, the devil, in the form of a serpent, tempted Eve to eat from the tree.

GOD'S WORD QUESTIONED

I don't think this was the first time this animal had approached Eve. First, she didn't seem surprised to see him or to hear him speaking. I imagine she said to the serpent, "Oh, there you are again. What do you want this time?" Second, I believe they had talked earlier about God's instructions because of the way the devil phrased his crafty question: "*Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'*" (Gen. 3:1, emphasis added). His first tactic was to try to cast doubt on Eve's memory and understanding of what God had said.

GOD'S INTEGRITY ASSAULTED

Eve replied, "*We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die'*" (vv. 2–3). She had most of her information correct, so the devil's next ploy was to try to undermine God's integrity in her eyes. "*'You will not surely die,' the serpent said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil'*" (vv. 4–5). Eve succumbed to the temptation, Adam joined her of his own free will, and they both ate of the fruit of the tree. (See verse 6.)

THE SPIRIT-MAN REJECTED GOD'S PURPOSES

This decision resulted in the spiritual deaths of the man and the woman and their banishment from the Garden by God. (See verses 7–24.) Realize that it was the spirit-man—the responsible spiritual being—within both the male and female that made the fateful choice to eat the fruit in disobedience to God's command. This is why mankind's dilemma is a spiritual one.

When Adam and Eve rebelled, they immediately died a spiritual death—just as God had warned—and eventually the physical houses God had given them to live in on the earth also died. However,

**OUR OWN IDEAS ABOUT OUR
PURPOSE ARE LIMITED.**

the spiritual death was the worse predicament of the two because it separated them from their former perfect fellowship with God. God still loved them, but they no longer had the same open channel to Him with which to receive His love. While they still retained elements of their creation in God's image, they no longer perfectly reflected the nature and character of their Creator.

The devil had presented Adam and Eve with a big lie, and they had fallen for it, to their own sorrow. However, there was an underlying reason that mankind fell. To understand it, we need to look to our foundational principles of purpose:

- ✦ To discover the purpose of something, never ask the creation; ask the creator.
- ✦ We find our purpose only in the mind of our Maker.

In his temptation, the devil suggested to Adam and Eve an alternate purpose for their lives than God had already given them—they would know good and evil and supposedly become equal with God. Their wrong choice was based on their own ideas about their purpose, which were limited. In actuality, they were already "like God" in nature; they had been created in His image and reflected His glory. As for knowing good and evil, there were certain things God knew it was best for them not to know—or else He would have told them. If they were eventually to know them, God wanted them to be ready to receive this information so that it wouldn't harm them. Like the training in dominion rule they were meant to receive in the Garden, it would be best for them to learn it when they were prepared for it, so that they could handle it.

Adam and Eve fell because they became dissatisfied with their position and roles. They stopped looking to their Creator for their purpose and instead looked to themselves. They thought they knew their true purpose better than God did. Yet their rejection of God's plan brought them only heartache, because they were not meant to live independently from God and the purpose for which He had created them.

CONSEQUENCES OF LOST PURPOSE

Adam and Eve's tragic choice inevitably led to the fulfillment of another principle of purpose:

+ Where purpose is not known (or rejected), abuse is inevitable.

Mankind's predicament can be summed up by a statement from the book of Romans: "Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:22). Because the man and woman thought they knew what was best for themselves, they rejected their true reason for being and suffered the loss of many of the benefits and blessings God had given them. Inevitably, they also began to abuse each other's purposes. Men and women cannot function in true harmony and effectiveness outside God's plan.

BROKEN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MALES AND FEMALES

First, they lost their perfectly balanced relationship. Right away, we see conflict between them. When God asked Adam, "Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" Adam accused Eve, saying, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it" (Gen. 3:11–12). Feeling trapped, Eve tried to put the blame on the devil (v. 13). Yet God held each of them accountable because both were spiritual beings responsible to Him.

We see how Adam and Eve's decision to disobey God altered their relationship. God said that one of the consequences of their rejection of His purpose was that they would strive with one another. "Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you" (Gen. 3:16). This statement emphasizes the fact that the male and female were originally created to rule together. They were designed to function together equally. God had said to them, "Fill the earth and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28). Both of them were supposed to be rulers—and that is still His plan.

After the Fall, both the man and the woman still ruled, but their relationship was distorted. Instead of equality, there was imbalance. The woman now had a longing after her husband that became controlling because it never seemed to be fulfilled. God also said that the man would develop an attitude of rulership over the woman. This was not part of God's plan; however, because of sin, the man's twisted perception of life would cause him to want to dominate the woman, and because of sin, the woman would continually desire to do anything to keep him.

BROKEN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EARTH

Adam and Eve also lost their harmonious relationship with the earth. They forfeited their right to live in the controlled Garden environment in which they were to learn to have dominion over the earth, so that now they had to live under harsh conditions. God told Adam, "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field" (Gen. 3:17–18). In other words, He was saying, "It is the earth that is really going to feel the impact of your disobedience. Because of this, you will have to struggle to survive in it."

In these consequences of sin—the broken relationship between Adam and Eve and the cursed ground—we see Satan's scheme to try to undermine God's purposes of dominion. He was afraid of the power that would be released through a man and woman united in God's purposes. He also didn't want God's Garden spread over the world; he wanted his own fallen kingdom to prevail. Therefore, he sought to distort the relationship between males and females and limit the Garden by bringing an atmosphere of thorns and thistles to the rest of the earth. Jesus referred to the devil as the "prince of this world" (John 12:31) because, through the Fall, mankind became controlled by the "spirit of the world" (1 Cor. 2:12) rather than by God's Spirit.

Yet regardless of the Fall, God's purpose has never changed. His original design still stands. At the very hour of humanity's rejection of God's purpose, God promised a Redeemer who would save men and women from their fallen state and all its ramifications (Gen. 3:15). The Redeemer would restore the relationship and partnership of males and females. Jesus Christ is that Redeemer, and because of Him, men and women can return to God's original design for them. Christ came to redeem us from the spirit of the world so that we can fulfill God's purposes once again. We could call Him the legal representative of the Manufacturer. He came as an Authorized Dealer to restore the Manufacturer's specifications for His products. Purpose, peace, and

**SATAN IS AFRAID OF
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potential can return to humanity. We can again have true dominion over the earth—but only through Christ.

Let's take a look at the problems of dominion and relationships that occur when we try to function without God's plan and without Christ's redemption and restoration.

A LOST UNDERSTANDING OF DOMINION

God created men and women to dominate the earth, not to dominate one another. The Fall, however, has caused us to lose the concept of what shared responsibility and respect is all about. Although both males and females reflect a controlling tendency in their own ways, I want to focus here on how it affects men. Throughout history, this tendency has particularly undermined the male's true purpose and has resulted in the widespread devaluing of women—preventing both men and women from fulfilling their purposes in God.

FEAR OF APPEARING WEAK

Much of a man's tendency to control comes from a false understanding of how his own nature is to function in dominion. Men have lost the knowledge of what God created them to be. They have mistaken power for strength. Let me explain what I mean.

Men have a deep desire to prove themselves strong. It is one of the underlying issues every male faces, whether he is a ten-year-old boy or a ninety-year-old man. Men's internal passion to prove their strength is inherent in their nature. Some call it "ego" or "manliness." Others call it "male pride" or "machismo." But all men have it in some form or another because of the purpose for which they were created. It is built in by God in order to give them the ability to fulfill their purpose of leading, protecting, and providing.

In its true form, the male ego is not negative, but positive. It is not evil, but godly. The problem is that the male's passion to prove his strength has been perverted and abused by Satan and the sinful nature.

Because of this tendency to want to prove their strength, there is nothing more frightening to most men than to be perceived as weak. Again, this fear is a result of the Fall. Now that his true relationship with the

female has been distorted, he feels vulnerable in this area of strength. He doesn't want to be perceived as being helpless or out of control by either males or females. This fear drives the man to feel as if he has to constantly prove himself. It is the source of his aggressive spirit. It is the source of his being overly competitive. It is also the source of some men's tendency toward violence.

A lot of men have muscle, but are weak in their minds, their hearts, their discipline, their responsibility, and their spirits. That is why they feel the need for excess muscle—to hide their weakness in these other areas. Many men don't understand why they have this desire for strength, so they compete with, fight, or even kill other men. They domineer their wives and cheat on them because they need to feel in control.

You can observe men in a barroom trying to build up each other's egos. "I showed my woman who's the boss in the family." "Yeah? Me, too. I tell her what she can and can't do." What they are really doing is lying to each other about their strength. They're fooling themselves. If you're wrong and I'm wrong, we'll feel better if we say we're right. Both of us are wrong, so we're comfortable together. We get together with all our foolishness and failures, and we encourage each other in order to give our failures dignity.

**MANY MEN HAVE MUSCLE,
BUT ARE WEAK IN THEIR
MINDS, HEARTS, DISCIPLINE,
RESPONSIBILITY, AND SPIRITS.**

Now, you may think that you are different from other males. You may not outwardly fight with other men or try to control women, but you still struggle with the issue of proving yourself strong—in relationships, in work, in sports, in various aspects of life. If you ask women, they will agree that all men are alike in wanting to prove themselves strong—whether in positive or negative ways. And it's true. We have different personalities. We have different visions. We have different sizes and skin colors. We have different jobs and vocations. But we are all the same in this tendency. I can affirm this fact because I travel all over the world, and I see a similar pattern everywhere.

When I was in South Africa, I found that the men there, whether they are black or white, have the same tendency. In Ghana or in Nigeria, men

are the same. The tendency can be found in Germany or in Italy. When I was in Canada, the women there had the same complaints about men that women do in the Bahamas. All over the world, women have the same complaints, no matter what language they speak or what nationality they are.

POWER VERSUS STRENGTH

What men need is a picture of what a truly strong man looks like. A strong man is a man who understands his God-given strength. A strong man is a fully maximized man. Strength is ability, authority, capacity, potential. To be a strong man is to maximize all your potential for the purpose for which you were created. Jesus was the strongest Man who ever lived, yet He is also described as meek. Someone has said that meekness is power under control. That is what true strength is. It is power that is ready to be channeled into good and constructive purposes rather than reckless or selfish ones.

Remember that the purpose of something is the reason for which it was made, and its design is determined by that purpose. Strength was given to men to enable them to lead effectively. If you as a man understood your purpose, you would realize that you were not put in a leadership position because you are big, strong, or overbearing. You are put in that position because of your purpose. Your strength is meant to support that purpose.

I once heard a man on the Oprah Winfrey television show say, "I'm the head of my home, and if my wife doesn't like it, she can put up or shut up." I was sitting there thinking, "He needs a good session with me." Oprah asked him, "What makes you the head of the home?" and he said, "I'm the head of the home because I say so. I wear the pants in the family." Listen, if you're the man just because you wear the pants, you have a problem, because women wear pants, too.

Males didn't choose their position. God gave it to them. However, the problem is that many males have taken another position that they weren't given. If we voted for a man to become the president or prime minister of the country, but instead he took over by force and became a dictator, he'd be taking a position he wasn't given. The first position was given to him by legal authority; the other was seized.

Whenever you take your position by force, you've moved out of your legal standing. The difference between an elected head of state and a dictator is very simple. The first has authority and the second merely has power. To have authority means to have a right to govern. Therefore, if a man slaps his wife, kicks his children, and then says, "I'm the man of the house; I do what I want," that's an abuse of authority; it's merely wielding power over others. Whenever you abuse your power, you no longer have legitimate authority.

That is why, any time a man starts to dominate another human being, he is out of God's will. This principle applies to preachers, as well. Any minister who says to you, "You cannot go and visit anybody else's church," is someone to be wary of. He's beginning to dominate. And God says men were created to dominate the earth, not one another. When this occurs, and power is abused, then authority is forfeited.

A DISTORTED VIEW OF SUBMISSION

Many men's distorted understanding of strength can be seen in the way they view the concept of submission. Yet the passage in which this concept is found, Ephesians 5:22-23, contains something many people miss. It says, "*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.*"

Let's first talk about the word *submission*. The definition of *submit* means to "willfully give your will to another." Submission has nothing to do with force or pressure. It's an act of the will. To submit is the *choice* of the person who is submitting, not the command of one who wants to be submitted to. Put another way, you cannot submit unless you want to, and no one can make you submit if you don't want to.

Any man who has to force a woman to submit does not deserve to be submitted to. He is no longer worthy of submission; he has become a slave driver. Do you know what makes a slave a slave? Force and fear. Those are the elements that are dominating too many homes. The Bible says, "*Perfect love drives out fear*" (1 John 4:18). This means that if a man has to make a

WHENEVER YOU TAKE YOUR POSITION BY FORCE, YOU'VE MOVED OUT OF YOUR LEGAL STANDING.

woman afraid of him in order to force her to do something he wants done, then he doesn't know what love is.

The Scripture says, "*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord*" (Eph. 5:22, emphasis added). As long as a man is acting like the Lord, a woman should be in submission to him. I've never seen Jesus slap one of His children. I've never seen Jesus scream or swear at His people. No

SUBMISSION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FORCE. IT'S AN ACT OF THE WILL.

matter what we do to Jesus, He is ready to forgive us. This is how husbands need to treat their wives.

However, probably half of us men do not deserve our wives' submission. Jesus said to His church—His bride—"*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you*" (Heb. 13:5). And yet, some men stay out all night, then come home and want their wives to cook for them. They forsake their wives and their children spiritually and emotionally, even financially, and they still want submission. That's a sin, men. You don't deserve submission. Submission is not dependent on what you say. It is dependent on how you live.

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? All right, then. Before you were saved, did Jesus ever come to you and hold you up against the wall by your collar and say, "If you don't believe in Me, I'll send you straight to Hades?" He didn't do that. As a matter of fact, He probably waited a long time for you. When you were involved in all your foolish living, He didn't force you to accept Him. He didn't break down your door. He is very polite. He very quietly convicts people. He doesn't pressure us. He just shows us His love.

So, one day, you realized, "This love is overwhelming," and you accepted His love. You desired to follow Jesus. One of the things I love about Jesus is that He calls us to follow Him. He doesn't tie a rope around our necks and drag us. He leads, and we follow. If we are willingly following somebody, we are not being forced against our wills.

Have you ever been on a guided tour of a cavern? The guide takes you down through these tunnels, and all you do is follow him. You submit to his authority because He knows the way through the dark tunnels. Of course, you can turn around anytime and go back, although you would

probably walk into some walls and stub your toes and scrape your knees because you're not familiar with the cavern. However, the point is that you can turn around if you want to. And that is what God is trying to tell us.

Jesus doesn't force us to submit to Him. All He ever says to His disciples is, "Follow Me." This is exactly what husbands are supposed to say to their wives: "Honey, follow me." That's what submission is really about. Now, a woman may say, "I don't want to go where you're headed, buddy." You may be going toward making money and acquiring prestige while you ignore God and your family. You may be headed toward destroying your health with drugs and alcohol. You may be killing yourself with carousing and fooling around. Your wife doesn't want to follow you under those conditions, and you can't expect her to.

JESUS DOESN'T TIE A ROPE AROUND OUR NECKS AND DRAG US. HE LEADS, AND WE FOLLOW.

Do you know why we keep following Jesus? It is because He knows where He's going, He knows how to get there, He's the only Way there, and we like where He's going. Even more than that, His love draws us to Him. We love Jesus so much, we'll do anything He asks. Why do we love Him? It is not because He threatens us with a big hammer, saying, "If you sin, I'll kill you." He doesn't say that. He says, "If you sin, I am faithful and just to forgive you." (See 1 John 1:9.) Isn't it wonderful to follow Someone like that? Every time you slip, He picks you up and brushes you off. He doesn't talk about your past at all. We submit to Him because we love Him.

So the Scripture says, in essence, "*Wives, submit to your husbands when they act like the Lord.*" Many wives, as well as husbands, don't understand this truth. For instance, suppose a husband comes home very drunk, and he goes up to his wife and says, "I want another drink! Go buy me another drink." Now, she's a precious Christian lady, so she says, "I don't think you should be dr—" He interrupts her, saying, "Shut up, woman! I'm the head of this home. The Bible says...." And he'll quote it, too! "The Bible says you're supposed to submit. Now, go and buy me a drink." She doesn't understand the true nature of submission, so she becomes afraid, takes some money, buys a bottle of something, and gives it to her husband—which he uses to abuse his health.

What she should do is look him in the face and say, "Honey, the Bible says that I should submit to you—when you act like the Lord. The Lord has never asked me to buy Him something that will destroy Him. And because I love you so much, honey, I won't go. I want you to live." Then, of course, she takes off running after she finishes saying that! But that is what the man needs to hear.

Situations in which people have unbelieving husbands or wives can be difficult, but the Bible tells us what to do under these circumstances. First Corinthians 7 says that if a woman holds to the standards of the Word of God, and her unbelieving husband agrees to stay with her, "let her not leave him" (v. 13 κγν). However, if he cannot live with her convictions, the Bible says, "Let him depart" (v. 15 κγν). In other words, if he can't live with her commitment to the Lord, the Bible tells her, "Let him go." You don't compromise your faith even for your spouse.

Some women allow their husbands to beat them half to death because they think that is being submissive. I have counseled many women who think this way. They come to my office badly battered, and ask, "What am I supposed to do?" I say, "Remove yourself from the premises." "But the Bible says to submit." "Yes, but not to a beating. You are to submit to the Lord. Until you see the Lord in the house, leave. You are not to be foolish enough just to sit there and let your life be put in jeopardy."

"Well, the Bible did say we have to suffer for Jesus." "My dear woman, your husband comes home totally drunk and beats you, and you're talking about suffering for Jesus? There is nothing in the Bible that says you should just stand there and suffer abuse. First Peter 2:19–20 says that if you suffer for the sake of the Gospel, that is true suffering. But if you suffer for the sake of your own sin and folly, that is not to your credit. It's foolish for you to let somebody beat you black and blue, then turn around and say, 'It's all for Jesus.' That is not submission."

The point I'm trying to make to men is this: don't quote Scripture to a woman unless you are behaving like Jesus does. When you start acting like Jesus, you won't have to demand that your wife submit. When you start loving her like

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Jesus loves her, when you start forgiving her like Jesus forgives her, when you start blessing her like Jesus blesses her, when you start caring for her and listening to her like Jesus does, she will do anything for you—because she wants a man like Jesus in the house.

God is saying to men, "Don't you dare demand respect. Don't you dare order submission. Earn it." Remember that Jesus never once commanded anybody to follow Him. Never. He always asked, because He knew who He was and where He was going. He didn't need to demand allegiance to give Himself a sense of importance. And Jesus said, "If you love Me, you'll keep My commandments." Our keeping of His commandments is based on our loving Him. That's the pattern we're to follow in the marriage relationship and really in all relationships between males and females. If a male wants to be a true leader, he must learn who he is in God and become someone who earns respect—someone who loves, guides, and inspires rather than who forces others to do what he wants.

EQUAL AND DIFFERENT

Once men understand the true nature of their strength, what they need to keep in mind is that men and women were created both equal and different. They both have dominion, so that their assignment is the same. However, because men and women have different purposes, designs, and physical bodies, their authority is manifested and carried out in distinct ways.

The male was made first because he was to be responsible for everything and everyone who came after him. God hasn't changed His program. He isn't going to relinquish that responsibility from the male at all. The female that God created needs to understand her purpose as helper.

**GOD ISN'T GOING TO ABANDON
THE MALE'S LEADERSHIP
RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE SAKE OF CHANGING
CULTURAL ATTITUDES.**

We aren't to walk around saying, "Well, the culture has changed now. A woman doesn't need to respect a man as the leader in the family." It doesn't matter if the husband is less educated or is making less money than his wife. That does not change God's purpose. The only way to fix our

confused society is to get back to God's plan. Purpose, not social change, determines position.

A woman can say to her husband, "Let me tell you something. I have a college degree, and you just have your GED. I make more money than you do. I could pay for this house by myself. I don't need you." What kind of spirit is that? I know that some women had that attitude before they were saved and knew God's ways. However, that isn't the perspective we're to have any longer.

I can hear some people saying, "You Christians are always going back to the old days, to the time when men used to walk on women and treat them like doormats." You don't understand what I'm talking about. This is a matter of purpose and position.

Most of us have problems with this concept because we believe that being "different" implies being inferior or superior to others—especially inferior. Don't confuse being different with being lesser. Different does not imply inferiority or superiority; different simply means different. A woman is not less than a man because she is a woman, and a man is not more than a woman because he is a man. Their differences are necessary because of their purposes.

DIFFERENT DOESN'T IMPLY INFERIORITY OR SUPERIORITY.

I like the way Paul said it in 1 Corinthians 11:7–8: "A man...is the image and the glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. For man did not come from woman, but woman from man." Is

that true? Sure. God caused the man to go into a deep sleep and drew the woman out of him. "Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man" (v. 9). Is that true? Yes. God said, "I will make a helper suitable for him" (Gen. 2:18). "For this reason [purpose], and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head" (1 Cor. 11:10). The Scripture says, "For this reason." In other words, this is God's order in creation, and so men and women should live in that order.

Yet here's what most people forget: "In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman" (v. 11). God is saying, in effect, "Men and women need one another. They need each other's

position." "For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman" (1 Cor. 11:12). I like that. The example Paul used is that men need women to give them birth, but women need men to enable them to conceive. This is definitely not an inferiority-superiority situation. It has to do with purpose. Ephesians 5, which talks about wives submitting to their husbands, also says, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (v. 21, emphasis added). There has to be a mutual submitting to one another if God's purposes are to be carried out.

THE RESTORATION OF GOD'S PURPOSE

If men would realize that...

- ✦ dominion is not the same thing as domination,
- ✦ dominion is to be exercised over the world and not over other people,
- ✦ submission is something earned rather than demanded,
- ✦ men and women are equal but different,
- ✦ men and women need one another,

...we would go a long way to restoring both harmonious relationships between males and females and God's plan for humanity.

I am convinced that there can be no true dominion over the earth unless God's original design is intact. It is crucial for us to understand the principle that the way we are designed is because of our purpose for existence. The way a male is and the way a female is are directly related to why they exist. They each have been called to special and specific responsibilities in God's kingdom purposes.

In the next three chapters, we'll take a closer look at God's dominion assignments for the male.

PRINCIPLES

1. God created men and women to dominate the earth, not to dominate one another.
2. God's plan is for the individual strengths of men and women to combine to produce exponential results—outcomes much greater than either could accomplish alone.

3. Adam and Eve fell because they stopped looking to their Creator for their purpose and instead looked to themselves. They thought they knew their true purpose better than God did.
4. The results of the Fall were mankind's broken relationship with God and spiritual death, the loss of the balanced relationship between men and women, and the loss of humanity's true dominion over the world.
5. Despite the Fall, God's purposes have never changed. Through the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, these lost and broken relationships and God's dominion purposes can be restored.
6. Men have an innate desire to prove themselves strong, but this has become distorted through sin so that they end up misusing their power and authority.
7. Whenever you abuse your power, you no longer have legitimate authority.
8. Submission is an act of the will of the person submitting. It cannot be forced.
9. A man needs to be a leader by following Jesus' example—by loving, guiding, and inspiring those under his authority, not by demanding that they do what he says.
10. Men and women were created both equal and different.
11. Both men and women have dominion. However, because they have different purposes and designs, their authority is manifested and carried out in distinct ways.
12. A woman is not less than a man because she is a woman, and a man is not more than a woman because he is a man. Their differences are necessary because of their purposes.

STUDY QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. In what ways have you seen men and women dominate one another?
2. In what ways have you tried to dominate someone of the opposite sex? What was your motivation for doing so?

EXPLORING GOD'S PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

3. What were the immediate results of mankind's decision to reject God's instructions? (p. 109)
4. Although mankind experiences physical death because of sin, why is humanity's dilemma ultimately a spiritual one? (p. 109)
5. Disobedience to God caused the fall of mankind, but what was the underlying reason that mankind fell? (p. 109)
6. Mankind's rejection of God's command eventually led to the fulfillment of what principle of purpose? (p. 110)
7. Mankind suffered two major consequences as a result of its loss of purpose. What is the first one? (p. 110)
8. What is the second major consequence mankind experienced as a result of its loss of purpose? (p. 111)
9. Why did the devil seek to undermine God's purpose of dominion for mankind? (p. 111)

10. What is the reason that men and women can return to God's original design for them? (pp. 111–112)
11. God created men and women to _____ the earth, not _____ . (p. 112)
12. In their own ways, both males and females reflect a _____ . (p. 112)
13. All males have a God-given, inherent desire to prove their _____ . (p. 112)
14. Why did God build this desire into men? (p. 112)
15. In their misunderstanding of dominion, males have mistaken _____ for _____ . (p. 112)
16. What is often the result of men's fear of being vulnerable in the area of strength? (pp. 112–113)
17. What does it mean to be a truly strong man? (p. 114)
18. Any time a man starts to dominate another human being, he is out of _____ . (p. 115)
19. To submit is the _____ of the person who is submitting, not the _____ of one who wants to be submitted to. (p. 115)

20. What kind of husband doesn't deserve to be submitted to? (p. 115)
21. If a man has to make a woman afraid of him in order to force her to do something, then he doesn't know what _____ is. (pp. 115–116)
22. List specific ways a man should treat his wife as Jesus treats those who belong to Him. (pp. 118–119)
23. What should a man do if he wants to be a true leader? (p. 119)
24. Men and women were created both _____ and _____ . (p. 119)
25. The differences between men and women are necessary because of their _____ . (p. 120)
26. There has to be a _____ to one another if God's purposes are to be carried out. (p. 121)

CONCLUSION

If men would realize that...

- ✦ dominion is not the same thing as domination,
- ✦ dominion is to be exercised over the world and not over other people,
- ✦ submission is something earned rather than demanded,
- ✦ men and women are equal but different, and
- ✦ men and women need one another,

...we would go a long way toward restoring both harmonious relationships between males and females and God's plan for humanity. There can be no true dominion over the earth unless God's original design is intact.

APPLYING GOD'S PRINCIPLES TO YOUR LIFE

THINKING IT OVER

- ✦ In what ways do you have a tendency to control other people? Whom do you find yourself wanting to control the most? Why do you think that is the case? What have you learned from this chapter about the *source* of this tendency?
- ✦ If you are a man, how do you react when you feel vulnerable in the area of strength? Recall one or two specific examples in which you reacted with brute power rather than God-given strength, and think of how you could have reacted differently based on what you have learned in this chapter.

PRAYING ABOUT IT

- ✦ Is your life controlled more by the "*spirit of the world*" (1 Cor. 2:12) or God's Spirit? Ask God to help you yield to the Spirit of Christ within you so you can live in His purposes. When David asked God to forgive him for his sin, he also said, "*Grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me*" (Ps. 51:12). Make it your prayer to ask God to give you a willing spirit toward Him and His purposes.
- ✦ Ask God to change your heart so that you will not desire to control others but to work with them to fulfill God's purposes.

ACTING ON GOD'S TRUTH

- ✦ Men and women are not independent of one another. They are different, but equal. Think about what you have learned in this chapter about submission and practicing mutual submission in male-female relationships. How can you begin to put these truths into practice in your life today? How can your relationships better reflect shared responsibility and respect?
- ✦ Dr. Munroe said that many men have muscle, but are weak in their minds, their hearts, their discipline, their responsibility, and their spirits. Write down concrete ways you can strengthen your heart, your discipline, your responsibility, and your spirit in the ways of God. He also said that true strength is power that is ready to be channeled into good and constructive purposes rather than reckless or selfish ones. How can you better channel your strength into positive purposes in your life and in the lives of your loved ones?