

# Sermon Notes

## What does God say about Men and Women?

*Genesis 1-4*

*Intro: a HOT topic! "You can't say..."*

### 1. God's original pattern for men & women was very good:

Genesis 1:26-31:

*Utter Equality*, seen in worth, commission, blessing



*Designed Difference* of sexes to "image God" better together



*Genuinely Good* is the verdict



Genesis 2:15-25:

*Utter equality* in nature ('fit for = like-opposite' ... 'bone of my bones...')



*Designed difference* of roles in families

- ➔ Adam given responsibility to lead ("head")
  - serving; guarding; teaching God's word (Gen 2:15-17)
  - the initiative-taking pattern for marriage (Gen 2:24)
  - so Adam is held responsible (Gen 3:9, Rom 5:12,19)
- ➔ Eve given responsibility to help ("helper")
  - Not a term about Eve's weakness...
  - ...but rather about Adam's inability to rule solo

*Genuine goodness* to celebrate

*But that's not the world we know....*

## **2. But now we know a fallen world's horrible, abusive distortions:**

- 3:1-6 Created order turned on its head
  
- 3:7-4:26 Consequences:
  - o "Cover up;" → blame & shame
  
  - o "Cursed" → conflict over control
  
  - o "Cast out" → to the violent, abusive world of Gen 4 onwards

*So should we give up on the original pattern?*

## **3. Yet God's good pattern is being restored through the gospel...**

### **...In the ministry of Jesus (& his apostles):**

- *Utter equality*: Radical valuing of women despite culture
  
- *Designated difference*: Still commissioned 12 male apostles to lead
  
- *Genuine goodness*

### **...In Christian household: marriage roles of man & woman (Eph 5:19-33)**

- *Utter equality*: in creation, sin, salvation, dignity
  
- *Designed difference* in role, shaped by and displaying the gospel
  
- *Genuine goodness*

**...In Church “household of God”:** teaching authority (1 Tim 2-3, Col 3:16)

- *Utter equality* in salvation, justification, spirit, every-member ministry mutuality, interdependence
- *Designated difference* of role: leadership, teaching, elders
- *Genuine goodness* to make the most of!

Application:

What does this look like for Chalmers?

What does this look like for us personally? Will we gladly play our part?

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**Any questions for Q&A on 18<sup>th</sup> June?**

Write it below and post in the box by the door at the back: