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

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Genuinely Good is the verdict

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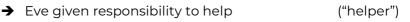
<u>Genesis 2:15-25:</u>

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

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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)
 - o so Adam is held responsible (Gen 3:9, Rom 5:12,19)



- Not a term about Eve's weakness...
- o ...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:
 - "Cover up;" \rightarrow blame & shame
 - "Cursed" → conflict over control
 - \circ "Cast out" \rightarrow 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?

Any questions for Q&A on 18th June?

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