

Entrust Biblical Masculinity Lesson 2 : Masculinity & Genesis 1-3 10/13/22

1. Masculinity & Genesis 1-2 (Pre-Fall)

a. **God's assigned identity & task for man (1:26-28)**

- Genesis 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
 - God has outfitted his creation abundantly with all sorts of trees, plants, animals, the sky, and the seas, among other things.
 - Man stands out in it all. Like everything else, he is created by God. Unlike everything else, he is given a distinct IDENTITY & a distinct task.
- i. **Man's identity:** an image-bearer of God, in relationship with God, morally accountable to God, under the sovereignty of God, blessed with abundant provision from God.

a) Genesis 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

b) So, man is a created being by God; with a soul from God; possessing the image of God.

c) Among other things, this means that man is:

Not created for detachment from God, but in relationship with God

d) Alan Ross (BKC):

“Being in God’s image means that humans share, though imperfectly and finitely, in God’s nature, that is, in His communicable attributes (life, personality, truth, wisdom, love, holiness, justice), and so have the capacity for spiritual fellowship with Him.”

e) Derek Kidner:

“‘Image’ is man’s indelible constitution as a rational and morally responsible being, and the ‘likeness’ is that spiritual accord with the will of God which was lost at the Fall...After the Fall, man is still said to be in God’s image (Gen 9:6) and likeness; nonetheless he requires to be ‘renewed...after the same image of him that created him’ (Col 3:10).”

“Manward, it requires us to take all human beings infinitely seriously. And our Lord implies, further, that God’s stamp on us constitutes a declaration of ownership.”

ii. **Man’s role / task** (Gen 1:26, 28; 2:7-8, 15)

a) Our identity is purely derived from God. Further, we are given a role; we have a role to play which is created and designated by God.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over** the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

b) There are a few commands here to notice:

V. 26 - “Let them rule over” - the Hebrew word has the idea of dominate, direct, lead, control, subdue, i.e., manage or govern an entity, people or government with considerable or forceful authority (DBL).

This role and task of man is also declared by David in Psalm 8:6-8: “You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have

put all things under his feet, ⁷ All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, ⁸ The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.”

Man is created by God for the task of serving God as a ruler under God’s rule; ruling God’s creation UNDER the sovereignty and care and blessing of God.

This rule is not a curse; not rigid; not wrong, it is a blessing.

- c) Notwithstanding the recoil and hatred for the idea of male rule; male headship today, this idea was created before the Fall.
- d) Alan Ross: “God’s purpose in creating human life in His image was functional: man is to **rule** or have dominion (1:26, 28). God’s dominion was presented by a “representative.” (Egyptian kings later, in idolatry, did a similar kind of thing: they represented their rule or dominion by making representative statues of themselves.) However, because of sin all things are not under man’s dominion (Heb. 2:8). But Jesus Christ will establish dominion over all the earth (Heb. 2:5–8) at His second coming” (BKC, 1:29).
- e) John Calvin: “Here .. commemorates that part of dignity with which [God] decreed to honor man, namely, that he should have authority over all living creatures. He appointed man...lord of the world” (Calvin’s Comment.).
- f) The plural command: “let them” – the command to rule over is not only for Adam, but Adam’s posterity; all other men.
- g) Also, man is commanded to: “be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.” Insofar as God grants, man is to reproduce and multiply.
- h) Since marriage is God’s design and context for having children (Gen 2:24), it follows that being fruitful presupposes finding a wife, becoming marry-able by God’s grace, and having children.
- i) That is the God-commanded way to fulfill that instruction.

j) Gen 1:28, “subdue it.”

“subdue” is a command from God

The word “subdue” has the idea of: overcome, enslave, i.e., conquer and control an environment or people (DBL).

This is not a command to enslave and abuse people. That would violate the central command of the Torah, “love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev 19:18).

God has richly outfitted the Earth to exist at man’s disposal for subduing; controlling; ruling, for human flourishing.

k) *Wild at Heart*, by John Eldridge.

We can appreciate Eldridge’s desire to help men reject the feminization of culture and embrace masculinity.

One premise of the book is that the core of man’s heart is undomesticated. Man is wild at heart, and so we belong in the wilderness, not in the cultivated garden.

Certainly there is an appeal there and some truth: most men do enjoy time in the wilderness; the outdoors and there is nothing wrong with that.

However, the book proposes that premise because, it says, while Eve was created inside the lush beauty of the Garden of Eden, Adam was created outside of the garden, in the wilderness. Therefore, the reasoning goes, man is wild at heart. And, man finds his true identity outside of the Garden as he expresses his wild heart in wilderness adventures.

It’s true, again, that man does find enjoyment in wilderness adventures.

However, there are serious problems with that. Gen 2:7-8, & 15 teach that God placed man into the Garden of Eden. This means man was intended to realize his identity and purpose IN the Garden, in subjection to God; with duties and relationship; and also getting dirty and exerting physical effort, no doubt.

God put the man there to “cultivate and keep” the Garden (Gen 2:15).

Rick Philips: “The problem is that the basic approach to masculinity presented in *Wild at Heart* is almost precisely opposite from what is really taught in the Bible. For this reason, this book has...sown much confusion among men seeking a truly biblical sense of masculinity.” (*The Masculine Mandate*, Chapter 1).

- l) Man is to rule and subdue God’s creation; and in doing so, serve as a ruler under God, the sovereign ruler.

Gen 2:15 - “cultivate” - it’s the word that is often used to speak of serving; servanthood; working usefully to serve; labor exerted to serve a good and upright purpose for human flourishing.

That is why Adam was put in the Garden; and, by extension, that speaks significantly to what we as men are to do: not only in our jobs, but in our families, biological and spiritual: to exert labor to serve a good and upright purpose for human flourishing.

“Cultivate” - it carries the idea of effort; labor; hard work; servanthood; and useful industriousness.

- m) Adam was to “keep” the Garden (Gen 2:15).

The idea of keep: “to protect and to sustain progress already achieved; guarding, keeping safe, watching over, caring for, maintaining” (Philippis, *The Masculine Mandate*, Chapter 1).

One writer: “The reason that God creates man on the earth according to Genesis is for productive, representative rulership.

This is what it means to exercise dominion: to fruitfully order the world in God's stead" (IGTBAM, 19).

- n) As it concerns man's task, his dignity is not rooted in how popular he is, how much wealth he can accumulate, how much praise he gets, but if he's fulfilling God's command to rule and exercise dominion.
- o) Part of being a man, simply, is existing as a creature made in God's image charged with headship over creation and fruitfully multiplying under the blessing and sovereignty of God.
- p) This is all a blessing by the way: Gen 1:28, "God **blessed** them and said..."

b. **God's ultimate companionship for man & masculinity** (Gen 2:18-24)

- i. Genesis 2:18–22 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²² The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

God does a work of great glory.

Problem: it's not good for man to be alone.

It has the idea of: a complementing partner for companionship who corresponds to him.

Solution: v. 20b - "... but for Adam there was NOT found a helper suitable"

- a) God brings forth all the animals, and notice, not a single one of them will suffice to complement man.

NOT non-image-bearing creatures. The animals are not God's solution to man being alone. Neither dogs, nor cats (especially not cats), nor tigers, nor monkeys are God's solution to man being alone.

- b) Neither does God make another man to solve the issue of it not being good for man to be alone.

A man is not made from Adam's rib.

- ii. We can see how Satan attacks masculinity:

- a) **Homosexuality**

- The attempt to solve the issue of it not being good for man to be alone by bringing another man into the picture for the ultimate relational and sexual union.

- b) **Transgenderism**

- c) **Unnecessary prolonged singleness**

- iii. Man is made complete by a woman. Specifically, when he enters into lifelong monogamous covenantal relationship with a woman before God (Gen 2:24).

Gen 2:18 - "helper suitable"

Woman is equal in value, worth, and dignity to man. She is an image-bearer of great glory. Man is to treat her as such.

Like with man, God has designated her a distinct role. This is no way denigrates her worth; on the contrary.

In fact, Scripture holds women in highest value above all other ideologies, religions, spiritualities, etc.¹

Alan Ross on the woman as "helper suitable": The idea of the word is "a helper corresponding to him," or "a corresponding helper") **for** the man

¹ <https://thecripplegate.com/10-reasons-why-the-bible-regards-women-higher-than-all-other-systems/>

(v. 18). “Helper” is not a demeaning term; it is often used in Scripture to describe God Almighty (e.g., Pss. 33:20; 70:5; 115:9, where it is trans. “help” in the NIV). The description of her as “corresponding to him” means basically that what was said about him in Genesis 2:7 was also true of her. They both had the same nature. But what man lacked (his aloneness was not good) she supplied, and what she lacked he supplied. The culmination was **one flesh** (v. 24) – the complete unity of man and woman in marriage. Since Adam and Eve were a spiritual unity, living in integrity without sin, there was no need for instruction here on headship (BKC, 1:31).

Later, the NT affirms God’s good design of male headship:

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:8–9 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; ⁹ for indeed man was not created for the woman’s sake, but woman for the man’s sake.

Rick Philipps:

“This is the calling of mankind as a whole—men and women together—but of males especially. God placed Adam in a leadership role toward Eve, referring to her as Adam’s “helper” (Gen. 2:18, 20). God made the woman for Adam, and it was Adam who named the woman, as he had named all the other creatures, for Adam was the lord of the garden, serving and representing the Lord his God, who is over all. Adam was not to devote himself, therefore, to endless quests for his masculine identity, but he was to be lord and keeper of God’s created realm, bringing glory to the Creator as he sought to bear the image of God in servant faithfulness” (Masculine Mandate, Chapter 1).

2. The Attack on Masculinity & Genesis 3 (Post-Fall)

- Genesis 3:1–7 (NASB95) Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” ⁴ The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! ⁵ “For God knows that in the

day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

- This is why there are abortions and miscarriages; it’s why there are accidents and homicides; it’s why there are heart-wrenching cancer deaths in 8 years olds and drug-overdoses in 18 year olds; it’s why husband and wife lock horns; it’s why mom and teenager, at times, would rather be anywhere than each other’s presence; it’s why there is homosexuality and rape; it’s why men put on skirts and insist they are a gender other than what they see every time they use the restroom. It’s why the uncreated Alpha & Omega; the 2nd Person of the Tri-une God; why he surrendered himself under the decree of his Father to join human nature to his own; to live under the Law; and to die as a wrath-bearing, propitiatory atoning sacrifice in the place of a defiled & corrupted people upon whom God set his love before the made the universe. Jesus came and died b/c of Genesis 3.

- a. Satan is always attacking God’s good created order.

NOTICE what Satan does & what he does NOT do:

- What Satan does NOT do:

- What Satan does do:

Recall: God's design for those animated, non-image-bearing creatures; the animals

Genesis 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and **let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.**" ²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and **subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**"

But what does Satan do?

- The serpent exercises dominion over the woman: he counsels her; instructs her; and leads and guides her spiritually and morally.

This is backwards. When you invert God's authority structure, you will inevitably experience some sort of destruction.

It's a small way, but the worship of animals causes problems:

People in India starve while cows enjoy sacred status.

Hindu mobs have reportedly killed people for eating beef or slaughtering their cattle.

Michael Shelenberger's excellent book, *Apocalypse Never*

Grizzly bears are worshiped and therefore not allowed to be hunted. It's a rebellion of God's command to exercise dominion over these violent creatures. And we experience the consequences.

Once can abort an unborn child.

However, there are over 1000 birds on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. You can be fined up to \$15,000 for killing one of them (P.L. 105-312).

What response might there be if a biologist approached an eagle's nest, grabbed an egg, and crushed it with her foot? Or, tranquilized a seven-month-pregnant grizzly and tore its unborn baby bear in pieces from the womb? Or suctioned a baby sparrow out of its egg? You can kill an unborn

baby, but not one of 34 different kinds of sparrows. *"You are more valuable than many sparrows"* (Matt. 10:31).

We are not free to do is attack God and his unchangeable design for masculinity by putting animals close to equal in value or worth, much less above, mankind, God's image bearers.

- We saw that the woman was designed to be a suitable helper (Gen 2:18) to complement man in his call to rule, subdue, multiply, and exercise dominion.

Notice Gen 3:6

Eve comes alongside Adam, but not to help him, but to encourage him in rebellion. This is an overthrow of God's design.

- Adam is to be a ruler under the Supreme, Uncreated, Heavenly ruler, God. Adam is to rule in submission to God and his commands.

However, instead of ruling by shepherding his wife and leading her in glad subjection to God, he is coming under Eve, and her suggestion to rebel against God.

He forsakes God's call for him as a man to lead in a way that sets the tone for subjection to God, by going along with Eve's sin.

It wasn't sin for Adam to listen to his wife, but it WAS to not already be taking action in obedience to God.

In doing so, he has abandoned his masculinity.

- Satan goes after the headship order: The designed order is: God → man → woman → animals / creatures.
- Satan flips it: Creature / animal → woman → man → God