

Gender: God's Beautiful Design and Modern Confusion

Week 3: March 23, 2021

Finish exegesis of Genesis 3. Complementarian and Egalitarian views of gender.

Gen 3:4-5 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- serpent's 3 counter claims (not die, eyes opened, you will get what's God's)
 - God is holding you back! You can be free of him!**
- blatant contradiction of God "you will not" (**God lied to about the consequences**)
- "For God knows"** casting doubt on God's motives (**you can't trust him**)
 - you can disregard his command, you'll actually be wiser if you do
 - won't need authority outside of yourself to determine right and wrong, you can know for yourself

How Satan works...

True and false...

- didn't end up dying physically immediately (but worse! spiritually then physically)
 - 3 falls (from God [innocence, intimacy], creation[work], each other [harmony])
- eyes were opened...but blind to sin and consequences
- did get what was God's (moral independence) but they were already like him!
 - "a half-truth masquerading as the whole truth is a lie. Satan always presents the bait and hides the hook."
(DeYoung)

2 Cor 2:11 ...so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

- serpent attacks God's generosity, integrity, motives, authority
 - Is God good?** ("good" 5X VERY GOOD)
 - but he's keeping me from what I want...
 - Can you trust his word?** (power and truth of his word)
 - is that really what he says about money, sex, suffering, endurance, mission
 - Are their consequences for disobeying?**
 - not that big a deal...

Isn't this why we sin? Aren't we failing to believe these things when we sin?

How do we see this in our struggles with sin?

Infuriating what the evil one doesn't tell the image bearers...

- sin enslaves, robs joy, diseases fruitful living, kills, hurts, guilt, shame...Paradise!**
 - makes sin look desirable and God stingy...think of all the things the Adversary doesn't tell Adam/Eve, us, everyone

Gen 3:6a So 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 to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate...

- taste, aesthetic beauty, deeper wisdom (physical, emotional, spiritual)

Gen 2:9 And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- two truths and lie?** (Satan said it would make her wise like God)

parallel to

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world—the **desires of the flesh** and the **desires of the eyes** and **pride of life**—is not from the Father but is from the world.

-flesh=food, eyes=eyes, pride=wisdom apart f/God (autonomy, independence)

-Jesus faced the same and conquered!

-flesh: stones to bread

-eyes: "showed him all the kingdoms"

-pride: if you're God...the angels will save you

-conquers them all with the word...God is good, you can trust his word, the consequences are eternal

Matt 4:3-10

And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

" 'Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

" 'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and

" 'On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.' " ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

" 'You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.' "

Gen 3:6b and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

- "husband" (Not Adam/Eve-general creation pattern) silent, no lament, no resistance, no leadership, no obedience, Eve doesn't even appear to tempt him

- doesn't say how much of the conversation he heard???

-reversal of authority

Order of authority/responsibility at creation

God-->man-->woman-->serpent

Order at the Fall

Serpent-->woman-->man-->God

Re-establishment of God's design (demonstrated in 3:8-13)

God-->man-->woman-->serpent

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

- first realization is nakedness (shame) and an attempt to cover it themselves (concealment)

- play on words..."delight" in 3:6 Hebrew "taawah" and fig is "teenah."

rest of the chapter is about what happened after Adam and Eve sinned, and by extension what often happens after we sin.

Gen 3:8 And they heard the sound of YHWH God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of YHWH God among the trees of the garden.

- shame, concealment now hiding
- God initiates...now they hide...but there is no hiding

Gen 3:9 But YHWH God **called to the man** and said to him, “**Where are you?**”

- "You" is now singular
- the man is held responsible

Gen 3:10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was **afraid**, because I was **naked**, and I **hid** myself.”

- supposed to be wiser but all he knows is shame, fear
- hiding ...separation from the source of life

Gen 3:11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

- no one told Adam...he's experienced evil on his own...

Gen 3:12 The man said, “The **woman** whom **you gave** to be with me, **she gave** me fruit of the tree, and **I ate.**”

- helpmate you made wasn't so suitable!

Gen 3:13 Then YHWH God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “**The serpent deceived me**, and I ate.

- what was I supposed to do!
- interesting God doesn't respond to either of their excuses and failure to accept responsibility
- sin not only separates them from God, but also from each other

Gen 3:14-15

YHWH God said to the **serpent**,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put **enmity between you** and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;

he shall bruise your head,
and **you shall bruise his heel.**”

- only the serpent and the ground are cursed, not mankind...grace/blessing/mercy for us
- serpent is the Satan

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Rom 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

- "dust you shall eat" picture of defeat...he's cursed

Isaiah 65:25

The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
and dust shall be the serpent's food.

They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain,”
says YHWH.

Gen 3:16 To the woman he said,

"I will surely **multiply** your pain in **childbearing**;
in pain you shall bring forth **children**.
Your desire shall be **contrary to your husband**,
but he **shall rule over you**."

-no reason given perhaps b/c it's obvious she violated the command

-directly effects her primary roles as helper (wife and mother)

mother

- "multiply" cf 1:28 "fruitful and multiply" -less likely to have them?

- "bring forth" also the raising

- "...after the fall, childbirth becomes the means by which the snake is defeated and the blessing restored. The pain of every birth is a reminder of the hope that lies in God's promise" (Sailhamer)

Rom. 8:22-24 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the **pains of childbirth** until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matt 24:4-8 "See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are but the beginning of the **birth pains**."

Wife

- "desire shall be contrary" as in overcome or gain upper hand, reverse the order

Gen 4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

- "and he *shall* rule over you"

- descriptive: that's what will happen but it shouldn't (negative connotation of "rule")

- prescriptive: that's what will happen b/c God set it up that way (positive or neutral connotation of "rule").

- **passivity or dominance**

- the harmony before the fall is now replaced by struggle...**marriage takes work**

Gen 3:17-19 And to Adam he said,

"Because you have **listened to the voice of your wife**
and have eaten of the tree
of which **I commanded you**,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

- "listened to your wife" abdication of responsibility and leadership, followed wife not God

- "you" v17 singular (**I commanded Adam...Adam failed in his responsibility**)

- In mercy, the curse is on man's realm, not man himself

- wife's pain in her primary role (filling), man's pain in his (forming)

- thorns and thistles (nature not under dominion)
- plants of the field vs trees of the garden
- return to the ground: will die physically

Gen 3:20-21 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And YHWH God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

- her first name, *ishah* (Gen. 2:23), designated her origin or source (taken from *ish*, the man); second name indicates her design/destiny ("mother of all the living")
 - ?evidence of Adam's faith? Life will go on and come from Eve
- God "made" garments of skin
 - the Creator will also be the Savior
 - The coats of skins are forerunners of the many measures of welfare, both moral and physical, which man's sin makes necessary.
 - life was taken for theirs...blood...Lamb of God

Gen 3:22 Then YHWH God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—"

"eat": 14X! 2:16-17(3), 3:1-5 (4), 3:11, 14, 17(2), 18, 19, Here in v22

Matt 26:26-28 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "**Take, eat**; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "**Drink** of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Gen 3:23-24 therefore YHWH God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

- "ground f/which he was taken"

Gen 2:7 then YHWH God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

-the breath of life or the dust from the ground...chose the ground

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Gen 3:24 He drove out the man, and at the **east** of the garden of Eden he placed the **cherubim** and a flaming sword that turned every way to **guard** the way to the tree of life.

- "east": cherubim guarded the east side of the garden...Levites guarded the east entrance into the tent of meeting
-more temple imagery...cherubim (angelic beings)

-carry God's throne chariot in Ezekiel 1 and 10

-symbolically guard the Holy Place in the tabernacle (Ex 36:35) and the temple (2 Chron 3:14) being embroidered into the veils of both

-guard the mercy seat, which is the lid of the ark of the covenant (Ex 25:17-22)

-represented in many ways in the tabernacle and temple

[Exodus 25:17-22](#); [26:1, 31](#); [36:8](#); [1 Kings 6:23-35](#); [7:29-36](#); [8:6-7](#); [1 Chronicles 28:18](#); [2 Chronicles 3:7-14](#); [2 Chronicles 3:10-13](#); [5:7-8](#); [Hebrews 9:5](#)

-garden a kind of Holy of Holies can't be entered in state of sin

-cherubim, flaming sword, turned every way, guard the way...[the image bearers cannot return on their own, cannot save themselves from the fallout of sin](#)

-the man who was to "keep" the garden is now "kept/guard" (same Hebrew)

"It's almost as if God is saying through this symbolism, "I do not remove My paradise, I do not destroy My goodness, I do not uproot My garden, I uproot you. Because of your rebellion, you are punished and banished from My paradise." (DeYoung)

-"Times in the Bible where the punishment for sin is some sort of expulsion. Angels banished from heaven after their rebellion, Cain will be banished from the land, the nations are banished and scattered after their sin at the tower of Babel, unclean persons will have to go outside the camp. In the church, excommunication is putting the unrepentant sinner outside the church. The Israelites, after generations of sin and rebellion, were kicked out of the Promised Land, banished, expelled to Babylon. Final judgment is where the wicked are banished to outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth." (DeYoung)

Evidence of man's responsibility to lead in Genesis 1-3

Developed from Kostenbergers' Table 1.4

Passage in Genesis	Significance
1:26-27; 4:1, 5:2	The name for humanity is the same as for the male (<i>ādām</i>) ie. man and mankind or man and humanity
2:7	God created the man first.
2:15–17 3:2	The man is the recipient of the divine command prior to the creation of the woman. But the serpent approaches the woman.
2:15, 19–20	The man is put in the garden to work and name the animals.
2:18, 21–22	God created the woman for the man and from the man.
2:18, 20	The woman is called the man's suitable helper.
2:23, 3:20	The man names the woman two times.
3:8-9	Adam and Eve hide together but God calls to the man and asks him singularly "where are <i>you</i> ?"
3:8-13	God holds Adam responsible for the Fall first
3:16	As a result of the fall, the woman's desire is to elevate herself above her husband in a struggle for control.
3:17	God rebukes Adam for listening to his wife instead of obeying his command
3:17-19	God's final and longest corrective speech is directed to Adam

What is Complementarianism?

"Complementarianism is the belief that God has created men and women with equal worth, dignity, value, and personhood but that He has given them distinct and complementary roles in both the home and the church. Further, Scripture affirms that God has given the role of headship in the home and elder in the church to men and the role of helper in the home and non-elder roles in the church to women in the church." (Chapel White Paper)

Equality in Personhood (already covered)

Creation

Gen 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

Redemption

Gal 3:25-28

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

-v. 28 baptism is the outward demonstration of the inward reality of faith in Christ and it makes clear that salvation was open to all.

"...we conclude that Paul's actual purpose in Galatians 3:28 is to teach racial, socioeconomic, and gender unity in Christ. The various groups in the church—Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female—while remaining distinct (i.e., not equal or literally the same), are unified (i.e., figuratively one) in Christ." (Kostenbergers)

Acts 2:17-28

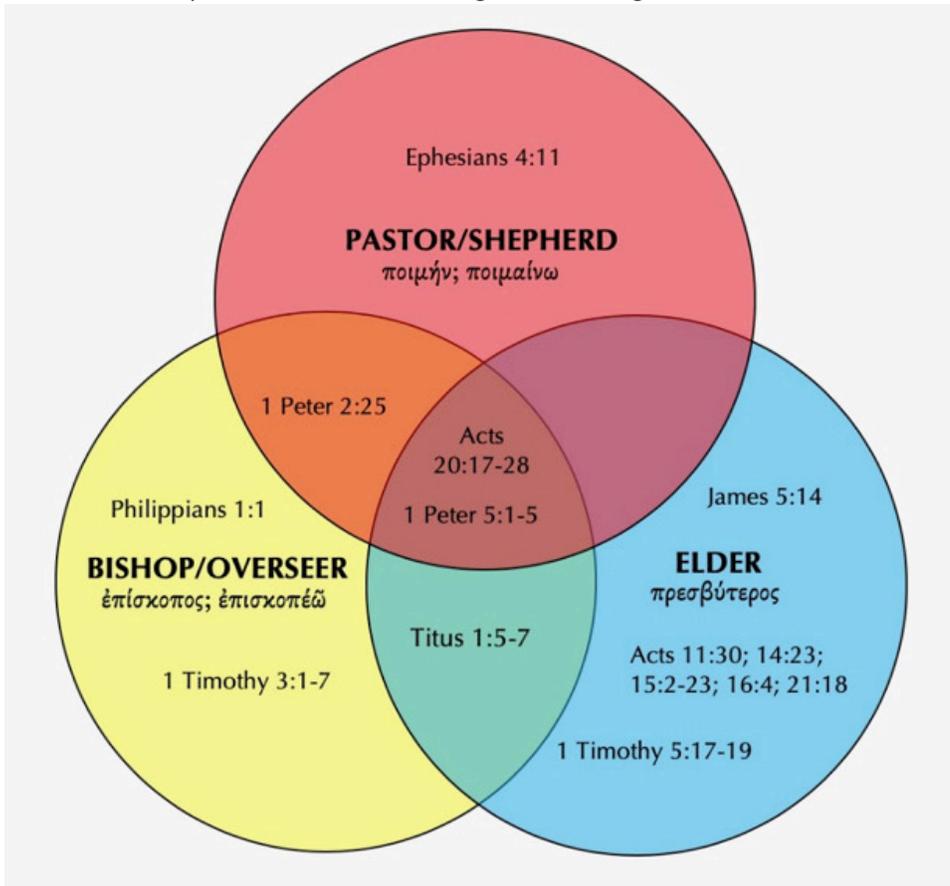
" 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy."

-Joel's (Joel 2) prophecy fulfilled at Pentecost

Same spiritual gifts given to women and men.

Elder/overseer/pastor is an office not a gift. Venn diagram from Colin Smothers.



Assigned Distinct Roles

Family

"Much like we see the equality of men and women in both creation and redemption, we also see their distinct created roles for the family in both creation and redemption. We believe that God has designed the family in such a way that men are to be the sacrificial leader and head of their wives and children and women are to be helpers who submit to the headship of the man." (Chapel White Paper)

[Gen 2:18](#) Then YHWH God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

[1 Corinthians 11:3](#) But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

"Man is the head who has been given authority by God to lead his wife and family and who is called to sacrificially love and serve them for their flourishing*. In this way man images Christ's love for and headship of the Church." (Chapel White Paper)

*Some argue that the term "head" as found in these passages does not mean "authority over", but merely "source" or "origin." For a defense of the Biblical meaning as "authority over" see Wayne Grudem, "Does Κεφαλή ("Head") Mean "Source" Or "Authority Over" in Greek Literature? A Survey of 2,336 Examples," Trinity Journal ns 6.1 (Spring 1985): 38-59.

[1 Peter 3:1-2, 7](#) Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

[Colossians 3:18-19](#) Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

[Ephesians 5:22-27](#) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

"In this way man images Christ's love for and headship of the Church. Likewise, women are called to the role of corresponding helper (ezer k^enegdo, Gen 2:18) who submit to and respect their husbands as their head. In this way they image the Church's submission to and love for Christ. While husbands and wives remain completely equal in essence and personhood, it is through these complementary roles that they bear witness to the greater spiritual realities of Christ and His church." (Chapel White Paper)

[Ephesians 5 transitional from Home to Church](#)

Church

We believe that God has given qualified men the authority to lead and authoritatively teach the church through serving as Elders and has called men and women to serve the church through a variety of gifts, roles and the office of deacon.

"Blomberg notes that the New Testament is full of women who fulfill a variety of roles within the church, but there is not a single text within the New Testament that ascribes ultimate authority or eldership to women. This is in line with the rest of the Scripture where we see women hold valuable and incredible roles within various communities of faith (Israel, Jesus' disciples, etc.) but who are not given ultimate spiritual authority over the community. Women function as prophets (and in Deborah's case a judge as well) in the Old Testament (Ex. 15:20; Jdg 4; 2 Chr 34:22 –26), strategic disciples to Jesus (Lk 8:1 – 2, 10:38 – 42; Jn 4) and deaconesses, patrons, co-workers, etc. (Romans 16:1 – 3, 1 Tim 3:11 – 13). But women are never appointed as Priests or Kings in the Old Testament who were highest spiritual authorities in Israel, and likewise Jesus chose twelve men as his Apostles who were given his authority to establish the church (Mt 16). So it seems throughout the whole of Scripture that God appoints men to positions of highest spiritual authority." (Chapel White Paper)

[1 Timothy 3:1-5](#) The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

[Titus 1:5-6](#) This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— ⁶ if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.

[Titus: 2:1-5](#) But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

[1 Corinthians 14:33b-35](#) As in all the churches of the saints, ³⁴ the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. ³⁵ If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

"Paul has just been requiring that the church in Corinth carefully weigh the prophecies presented to it. Women, of course, may participate in such prophesying; that was established in chapter 11. Paul's point here, however, is that they may *not* participate in the oral weighing of such prophecies. That is not permitted in any of the churches. In that connection, they are not allowed to speak— 'as the law says.'" (Carson, *Manhood*, p.151-2)

1 Timothy 2:8-15 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹ likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

DA Carson

-syntactically 2 limitations, teach OR exercise authority

-the authority of the church is exercised through the word; church recognized, word based authority...a teaching authority

-transcultural and lasting principal...1) grounded in order of creation 2) grounded in order of the Fall

-“Thus, the two important responsibilities that set apart the elder, or overseer, from the rest of the church are their teaching and their exercising of authority—precisely the concepts involved in 2:12. It appears probable, therefore, that the only thing Paul is prohibiting women from doing in that verse is occupying the office of overseer or elder. This fits what we saw in our survey of Acts and the non-prescriptive material in the Epistles—women filling every major role in church life and leadership except that of elder.” (Blomberg, *Two Views*, Kindle loc. 3067)

Rooted in God Himself

Equality in Personhood

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 10:29-30 "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

YHWH as "helper"

Psalms 121:1-2

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my **help** come?

² My **help** comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

Distinct Roles

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

Mark 14:36 And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Luke 3:21–22 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

John 14:28 You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

A Call to a Robust Complementarian Theology

(1) A Biblically informed complementarian theology will recognize the value and worth of women and will seek to orient the practices of the family and church in such a way as to see their flourishing and not their diminishing. We reject any teaching of complementarian theology that does not fully embrace or seek the prospering of women. Although, we acknowledge that Scripture will not align with the beliefs and practices of the world in this regard. We also clarify that Scripture in no way calls a woman to submit to men in general, or to their husbands or elder who are acting in a sinful manner. A woman is never to be subjected to any form of abuse (verbal, emotional, spiritual, physical, etc.) under the guise of submission or because of complementarian theology.

(2) Likewise, the role of headship, given to husbands, and elder, given to qualified men, is for their flourishing and their exercising of this role must be done in humility and submission to Christ and Holy Scripture. Complementarian theology does not give authority to men unconditionally.

(3) The Bible clearly allows for women to fulfill almost any role of the church except that of Elder. Therefore, any practice that inhibits women from exercising their God-given gifts in non-elder roles within the church falls outside of the Biblical teaching and should be rejected.

(4) Gifting in Scripture does not directly equate to authority. While we recognize the incredible diversity of gifting that God has given to women we believe those gifts are meant for the edification of the body in non-elder roles.

Helpful Resource to consider detailed arguments and rebuttals for both the complementarian and egalitarian positions.

Beck, James R. Editor, *Two Views on Women in Ministry*, Zondervan Academic, 2005.