

Of Authority, Leadership, And The PC Police

A sermon series by Pr. David Johnson (Week 5)

We began our series on Roles, Authority, and godly leadership using primarily Genesis 1-3 as our foundation. This wasn't simply because we find it at the beginning of the Bible. We began our study there because it truly is the foundation of God's entire perspective on proper roles and authority in all human endeavors.

If you remember, we began with a brief look at the presence of, and the interaction of the Triune God as seen from the very beginning of chapter 1. God shows Himself as three distinct persons in a single deity, God. All three are present: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet no competition or challenge for leadership is present. Each is content in their own role and purpose.

Genesis 1:1-3 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

In Chapters 1-2 we see God's creative work and purpose in the Man and Woman. Both bear God's unique image and likeness, along with their unique role and purpose. But God did not create them identically, or at the same time. Man was created first using dust from the ground and becoming animated by the very breath of God. Woman was then designed as a companion to the Man using a rib from Man's side. So as the old song states, "Woman draws her life from man, and gives it back again."

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."

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.

Genesis 2:18, 21-22 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." ... 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.

In this we see the first marital union, given and designed by God himself. Two unique and special genders, man and woman, both carrying the image and likeness of God, but each designed to fulfill and serve a different purpose. They were to walk forward from this point, the man and his helpmate, laboring together for a common good, but each with a unique calling.

Genesis 2:23-25 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

"Not ashamed!" No shame in their nakedness, and no shame in their respective roles and identities. The setting was perfection, with provision and contentment being the foundation of their lives. They had all they needed, with clear hearts and minds before God and each other.

This didn't last long, however. Soon the serpent entered the scene, challenging the woman to usurp her husband, rebel against God, and pursue her own path of self-actualization. And though Satan's challenge was directed at God Himself, the woman played into his hand, leading the man in the same direction; disobeying God and pursuing independence. Adam had officially rebelled!

Sadly, the consequences of this fall from grace would leave a dark cloud of sin which permeates all mankind even to this day. In fact, this fall into sin, and sin's death, would forever taint the entirety of God's creation for all material time. And though a promised "Seed" would one day break the spiritual bondages of sin, the contamination of the fall would be visited from seed (*sperma*) to seed. You might say that both blessing and curse would travel side by side through the man.

Romans 5:12-19 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— ... ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many... ¹⁷ For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ... ¹⁹ For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

But though the fall compromised God's creation, it couldn't contaminate His ideal. The man was God's choice as head of each home, and the one responsible for the direction, protection, and provision of the family. The woman is man's counterpart, his partner, a special gift from the Creator. She is the one God gave to share the load, encourage her husband in his godly calling, and care for family and home with godly oversight. And you see this model applied through Scripture in many ways:

* All major genealogies show a progression from father to son (*see Genesis 5, Matthew 1, and Luke 3*). This is neither a cultural imposition (*something the Scriptural writers borrowed from society*), nor a statement of personal value. God's ideal always emphasized the equal value of men and women, but the unique roles of each.

* Covenants were always spoken to the man as the head of each lineage (*Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.*). This was never a diminishing of the wife or her contributions, but out of respect for the man's role as head of his home. It was also understood that he would then lead with godly oversight. Likewise, circumcision was required of each male and not the female.

* Census counts were always based on the father/husband's identity and family of origin

* Lists of laborers were generally listed by the man's name, though the family may have supported the work. (Neh. 3)

* In the Old Testament God is shown as "husband" and His people Israel as "wife."

Isaiah 54:5-7 "For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the Lord of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth. ⁶ "For the Lord has called you, Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one's youth when she is rejected," Says your God. ⁷ "For a brief moment I forsook you, But with great compassion I will gather you.

Hosea 2:19-20 "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In loving-kindness and in compassion, ²⁰ And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:31-32 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord.

* In the New Testament Christ is displayed as the "Bridegroom" and the Church His "Bride."

John 3:27-29 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' ²⁹ He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full.

Revelation 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

And this principle finds its culmination in the Apostle Paul's instruction to the church in Ephesus:

Ephesians 5:22-31 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸ So

husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body. ³¹ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. (*also 1 Peter 3*)

In this passage we see the Holy Spirit, through His vessel Paul, bring everything full circle. As each person, both men and women, stand equally and individually before God; remember:

1. Christ is head of the church
2. The man is head of the woman (role, not value)
3. As the church is subject to Christ, so wives are subject to their husbands.
4. Husbands love your wives (*even as himself*) to the point of sacrifice/death, as did Christ for the Church (*materially and spiritually*), doing everything to provide for her spiritual growth. And this is to be done out of pure love and a sincere understanding of the unique bond between them as one flesh (*husband and wife*).
5. In turn, the wife is to respect her husband

And all of this instruction is necessary because of Genesis 3:16b, "...Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you." Until Genesis 3, harmony, love, and mutual respect were the norm. But the fall changed everything.