

Creation of Adam
1510
Fresco, 280 x 570 cm
Cappella Sistina, Vatican

XHOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
...vintage Christianity for the next generation...

NEW FALL MESSAGE SERIES!

Creation of Eve
1509-10
Fresco, 170 x 260 cm
Cappella Sistina, Vatican

"In the beginning, God created them male and female..." (Genesis 1:27)

WHY?

A six week look at what God was up to in creating us as we are

- September 16th, 2007 -- "The Battle of the sexes! How did we get here?"
- September 23rd, 2007 -- "What does it mean to be a real man?"
- September 30th, 2007 -- "Is there more to being a woman than being 'hot'?"
- October 7th, 2007 -- "Sex. God created it. God likes it. Why then do we have such issues?"
- October 14th, 2007 -- "Singleness, Dating and Marriage: Is there a way to live in harmony with the other sex?"
- October 21st, 2007 -- "OK! Enough beating around the bush!! What about men and women in church leadership?"



ROMANCE



Jan Rae, The Cape Gallery, 2 Lawson Street Byron Bay NSW 2481

MONEY & POSSESSIONS

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

PARTYING



MEASURING YOUR BEAUTY



THE RESULT OF NOT MEASURING UP...



What does it mean to be a woman the way God intends?

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1. Men and Women are ONTOLOGICALLY Equal

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Genesis 1:26, 27

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

What does it mean to be a woman the way God intends?

1. Men and Women are ONTOLOGICALLY Equal

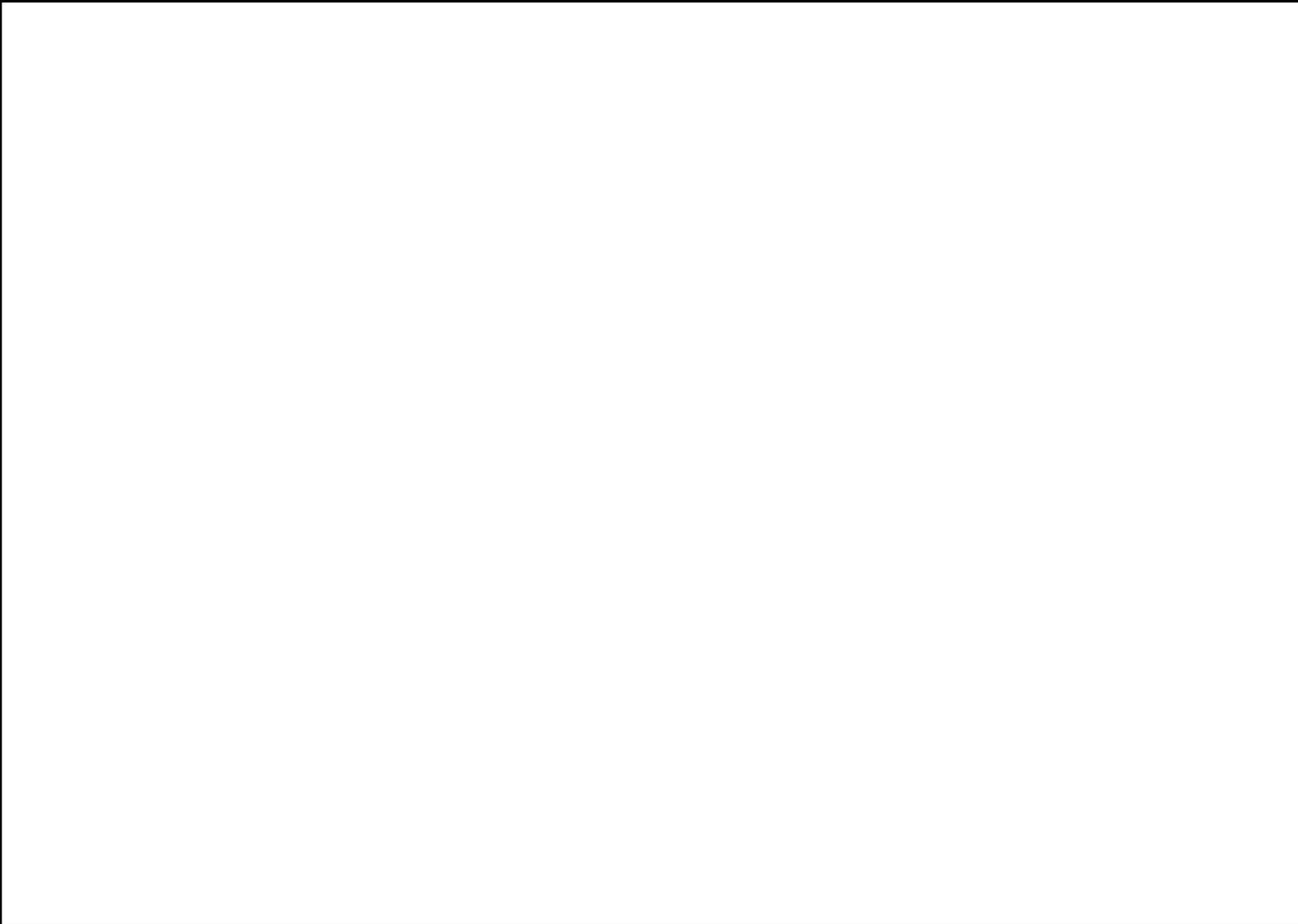
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Galatians 3:26-28

²⁶You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



MICHELANGELO Buonarroti Creation of Eve 1509-10
Fresco, 170 x 260 cm Cappella Sistina, Vatican

What does it mean to be a woman the way God intends?

2. Men and Women are FUNCTIONALLY Different

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2. Men and Women are FUNCTIONALLY Different

Genesis 2:7, 15, 18, 21-25

⁷the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him..."

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Genesis 2:7, 15, 18, 21-25

²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman', for she was taken out of man." ²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. ²⁵The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

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Masculinity ----

Adam had:

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Masculinity ----

Adam had:

A Relationship with God

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Masculinity ----

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Then, Responsibility in the context of Relationship

What does it mean to be a woman the way God intends?

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Femininity ----

Eve had:

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Femininity ----

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A Relationship with God

Relationship in the context of Responsibility

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Masculinity, I suggest, might therefore be thought of as the satisfying awareness of the substance God has placed within a man's being that can make an enduring contribution to God's purposes in his world, and will be deeply valued by others, especially his wife, as a reliable source of wise, sensitive, compassionate, and decisive involvement.

~ Larry Crabb, *Men and Woman, Enjoying the Difference* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991), page 160.



What does it mean to be a woman the way God intends?

2. Men and Women are FUNCTIONALLY Different

Femininity, at its core, might therefore be thought of as the secure awareness of the substance God has placed within a woman's being that enables her to confidently and warmly invite others into relationship with God and with herself, knowing that there is something in each relationship to be wonderfully enjoyed.

~ Larry Crabb, *Men and Woman, Enjoying the Difference* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991), page 163.



What does it mean to be a woman the way God intends?

2. Men and Women are FUNCTIONALLY Different

Boys tend to play outside, in large groups that are hierarchically structured. Their groups have a leader who tells others what to do and how to do it and resists doing what other boys propose. It is by giving orders and making them stick that high status is negotiated. Boys' games have winners and losers and elaborate systems of rules that are frequently the subjects of arguments.



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Girls, on the other hand, play in small groups or in pairs; the center of a girl's social life is a best friend. Within the group, intimacy is key. . . . In their most frequent games, such as jump rope and hopscotch, everyone gets a turn. Many of their activities (such as playing house) do not have winners or losers. Girls don't usually give orders; they express their preferences as suggestions, and suggestions are likely to be accepted.

~Deborah Tannen, *You Just Don't Understand: Men and Women in Conversation* (1990)



What does it mean to be a woman the way God intends?

3. The FALL messed up everything!

Genesis 3:11, 12

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

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3. The FALL messed up everything!

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

What does it mean to be a woman the way God intends?

3. The FALL messed up everything!

“Physical and sexual abuse by men is shockingly prevalent in our culture. Domestic violence perpetrated by males accounts for more adult female emergency room visits than traffic accidents, muggings, and rapes combined. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, it is the greatest single cause of injury to American women. Abusive men often cite male headship/female submissiveness to justify their abuse. Ultimately, this is based on a perverted assumption of male superiority. Based on John's description of the Father and the Son, human male headship, defined as harsh authoritarian domination of an inferior, is destructive heresy.”

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4. This FUNCTIONAL Difference DOES NOT mean inferiority

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Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What does it mean to be a woman the way God intends?

4. This FUNCTIONAL Difference DOES NOT mean inferiority

John 16:13, 14

¹³But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

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John 17:4, 5

⁴I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

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5. This FUNCTIONAL Difference is something to be celebrated in the New Testament, though cultural issues cloud the issue.

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1 Corinthians 11:1-5

¹Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. ²I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings, just as I passed them on to you. ³Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. ⁴Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head.

⁵And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head — it is just as though her head were shaved.

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1 Corinthians 11:8-12

⁸For man did not come from woman, but woman from man;
⁹neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. ¹⁰For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head. ¹¹In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.
¹²For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman.
But everything comes from God.

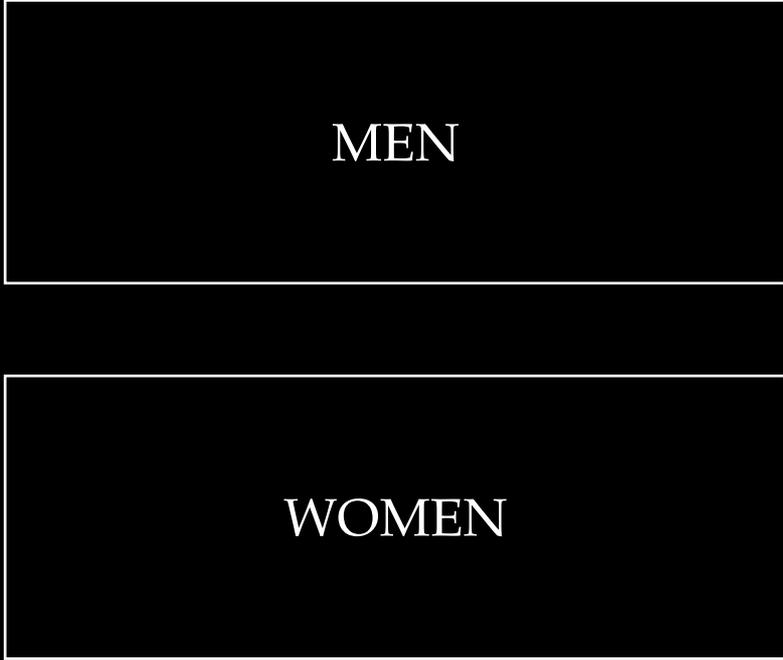
Three Views of Men and Women

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1. Male Dominance (Patriarchy or Traditional View)

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MEN

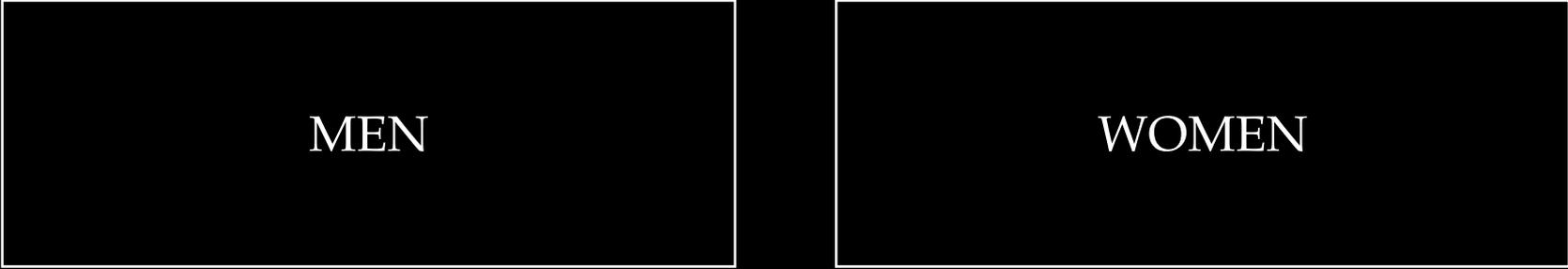
WOMEN

Three Views of Men and Women

2. Completely identical - Egalitarian View

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MEN

WOMEN

Three Views of Men and Women

3. Equal, yet different (Complementarian View)

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7. Jesus Christ values, honors and loves women!

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“Jesus himself gives us one of the clearest examples of male headship reflected in honoring women. He risked the wrath of the Jewish religious community by lovingly allowing a sinful woman to touch him (Luke 7:36-50), engaging in respectful, public dialogue with the Samaritan woman (John 4:7-27), providentially choosing women to be the first witnesses of his resurrection (Matt. 28:1-8), including women among his traveling disciples (Luke 8:1-3), and allowing women to sit at his feet and be taught (Luke 10:38-42). Jesus did these things in a Palestinian Jewish culture in which women were not to go out into

public, men were not to speak to women in public, women could not give testimony in court, women could not inherit their husband's property, the birth of a daughter was considered a loss, and girls could not be formally educated.”

~ Steven Tracy - *Headship with a Heart*, Christianity Today, February 2003, Vol. 47, No. 2, Page 50

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4. Appreciate the opposite sex, don't necessarily try to figure them out, but enjoy the mystery, learn and appreciate them and minister to them.

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4. Appreciate the opposite sex, don't necessarily try to figure them out, but enjoy the mystery, learn and appreciate them and minister to them.
5. Honor the opposite sex. Men, don't use your God-given strength of being so task oriented you railroad people or that you forget to move toward women and men with real, honest relationships. Women, don't use your God-given strength of relationships to manipulate or influence negatively people, especially men.