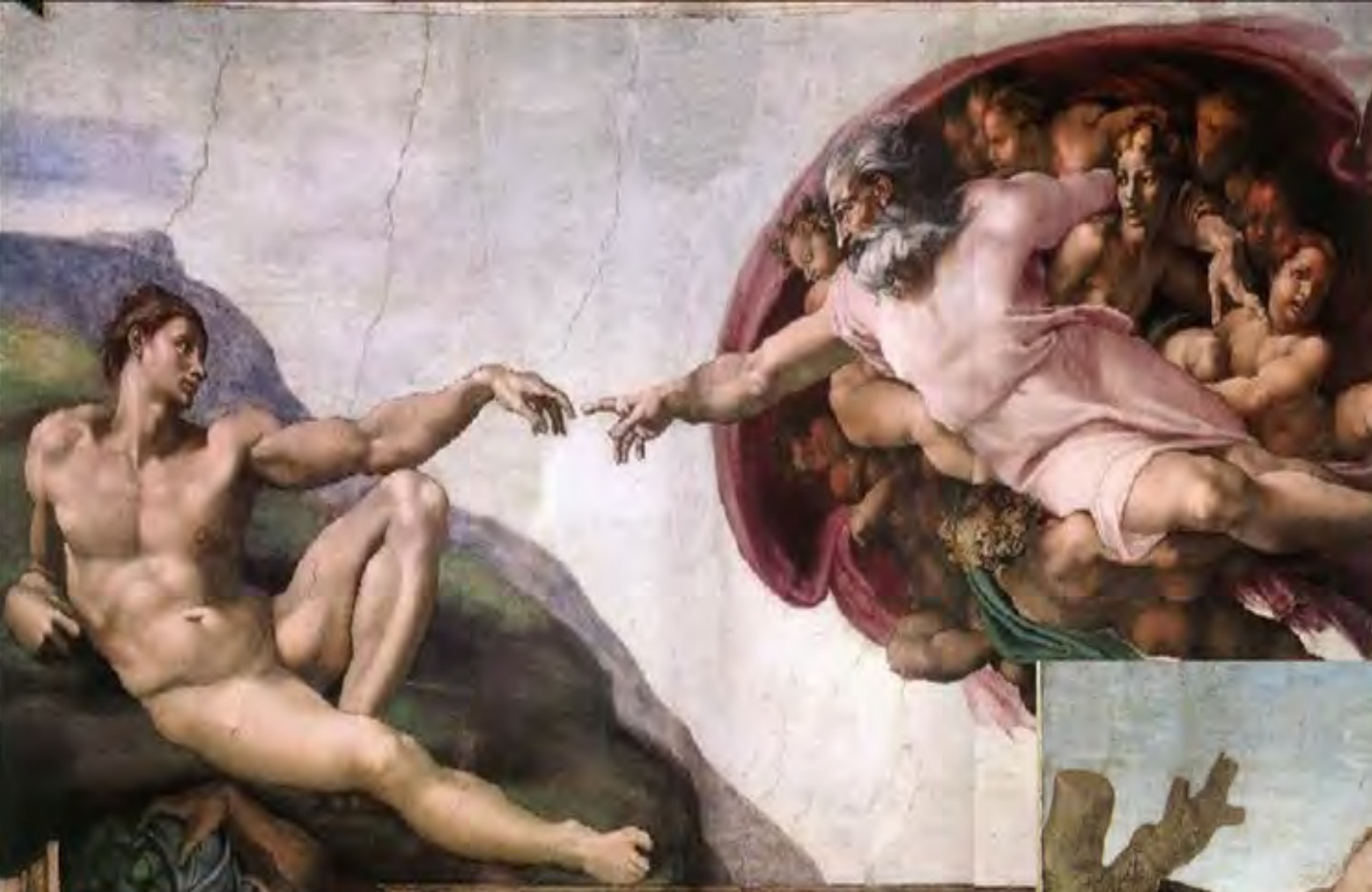


Proverbs 30:18-19

¹⁸“There are three things that are too amazing for me,
four that I do not understand:

¹⁹the way of an eagle in the sky,
the way of a snake on a rock,
the way of a ship on the high seas,
and the way of a man with a maiden.





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?"

What does it mean to be a guy?

Masculinity ----

Adam had:

A Relationship with God

Then, Responsibility in the context of Relationship

What does it mean to be a woman?

Femininity ----

Eve had:

A Relationship with God

Relationship in the context of Responsibility

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.



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.



A Complimentarian View of Men and Women



The Romance Trap

Three Disclaimers right away:

Disclaimer #1 – Marriage doesn't solve any of your problems, it just rearranges them.

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“You can marry the right person, and treat them wrong. And they will become the wrong person.

Or you can marry the wrong person and treat them right - and they will become the right person.

Then he said, “More important than marrying the right person is BEING the right person.”

The Romance Trap

Three Disclaimers right away:

Disclaimer #2 – Single people are not “incomplete”
Jesus and Paul actually said it was better to be single

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Matthew 19:10-12

¹⁰The disciples said to him, “If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.” ¹¹Jesus replied, “Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. ¹²For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.

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1 Corinthians 7:1, 2, 7

¹Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. ²But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband... ⁷I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

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“One of the assumptions many single adults make is that they experience more of a sense of loneliness than a married person does. In one sense that is very true. Every night I go home to my wife and I climb into the same bed with her. The single adult does not have that level of companionship.

But I think the single person ought to be aware of the fact that there is a sense of loneliness in living in a fallen world. That loneliness is shared by everyone who is honest.”

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Matthew 10:34-39

³⁴“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn “a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law — ³⁶a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ ³⁷“Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

The Joys and Dangers of Dating/Marriage



Is dating biblical?

Is dating biblical?

NO!

Is dating biblical?

NO!

1 Corinthians 9:5

⁵Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas?

When is a couple married?

When is a couple married?

Genesis 2:24, 25

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.

When is a couple married?

Genesis 2:24, 25

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1. Leave

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1. Leave
2. Cleave

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3. Become one Flesh

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1. Leave
2. Cleave
3. Become one Flesh
4. Extreme Vulnerability

What am I getting myself into?

Ephesians 5:15-33

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,
¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

What am I getting myself into?

Ephesians 5:15-33

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

What am I getting myself into?

Ephesians 5:15-33

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so 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. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body.

What am I getting myself into?

Ephesians 5:15-33

³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Practical Implications from Ephesians
Five for Dating and Marriage:



Practical Implications from Ephesians

Five for Dating and Marriage:

1. Do your own verse

Practical Implications from Ephesians

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2. BE THE RIGHT PERSON, get your life from Jesus

Practical Implications from Ephesians

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2. BE THE RIGHT PERSON, get your life from Jesus
3. In dating, don't get ahead of the God ordained order (L, C, U)

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In dating/marriage:

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In dating/marriage:

4. Men - lead like Jesus

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Practical Implications from Ephesians

Five for Dating and Marriage:

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2. BE THE RIGHT PERSON, get your life from Jesus
3. In dating, don't get ahead of the God ordained order (L, C, U)

In dating/marriage:

4. Men - lead like Jesus
5. Women - champion your fella
6. Don't make ANY relationship your idol