

Being The Reality Of Jesus To A Wicked World

Reality 13. God Created Humanity Male And Female



Pinpointing Key Facets Of The Hebraic Foundations

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Humanism and its erroneous offspring, the theory of evolution, have been taught as fact in public education institutions for a number of generations now. Even the majority of Christians are imbued with the unbiblical underlying premise that all of life is evolving. Technologically, the old has led to the new; but morally, humanity hasn't "improved" — in fact, we've grown ever more blatant in our sin! Ever-changing cultural standards have so infected much of Christianity in the US that even God's Word has been altered to accommodate a rebellious readership. For example, one group of self-deceived "Evolvers" had the audacity to produce a Bible translation which defines God as "Father-Mother God". Have any of the following Humanist-tainted theories crept into your own belief system?

- **"IF there's a God, then He needs to evolve with evolving mankind."** (Humanism 1:2).
- **"I can keep sinning [choosing my own way] without consequence because I'm already forgiven [if there's anything to forgive]."** (Humanism 1:3).
- **"No one has a right to mandate my morality for me. I'm the only one who's affected by my choices"** (Humanism 1:4).

We who belong to our Lord Jesus must return to the eternal reality that refutes any notion of an evolving God or an evolving creation. Be sure you've anchored this bedrock truth about our Lord Who created all that has been and is, including what we can see and what we can't.

"For by Him [Jesus] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:16; see also Hebrews 4:13).

Given the reality that our Lord Jesus created everything out of nothing, how arrogant it is from His omniscient perspective for humans—His creation who are swayed by their sin nature—to try to assess Him or the origins of what He has made by our minute ability to understand. We trust that *the entire Bible is God-breathed* (2 Timothy 3:16,17). In our own use of God's Word we ask the Holy Spirit Who inspired the writers of the Bible to guide us in understanding and applying its truths to our lives. Relying on the inerrancy of the Bible and on the willingness of the indwelling Spirit to guide you in putting it into practice is powerful spiritual weaponry to counter the influence of your sin nature, Humanism and evolution. Realize, though, that if you have even the slightest doubt about the accuracy and authenticity of God's Word, you may need a **change in reference**. Now would be a good time for you to ask the Holy Spirit for His view of the Scripture He inspired so that you can align your view with the only one that counts!

"God saw all that He had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

Our God was thoroughly satisfied with all that He had created. And even though sin had entered His creation through Adam and Eve's willful disobedience, everything that was created is *"through Him and for Him."* This means that humanity exists for our Lord's purposes. He doesn't exist for *our* purposes. For this reason, we who claim to

love and serve our Lord Jesus must live as **“obedience-based”**—abiding in the guidance and empowerment of His indwelling Holy Spirit as we do our Father’s will. We can never, never allow ourselves to be **“outcome-based”**—seeking our Lord’s blessing on our will and on what gratifies us. From this perspective we can now look at the genesis of humans as male and female:

“Let Us make mankind in Our image, in Our likeness... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:26,27).

“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him [Heb. ezer kenegdo—a comparable, handpicked life partner alongside him whose strengths fill in for his weaknesses so that together they are complete]’” (Genesis 2:18).

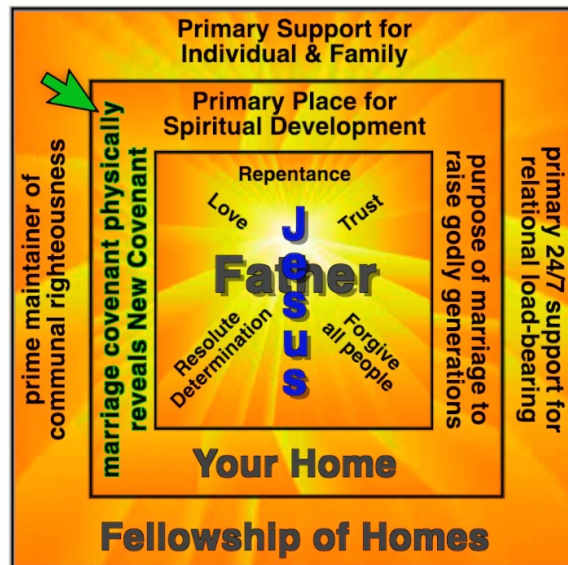
A female is a life partner whose strengths fill in the weaknesses of males, even as a male fills in for the female’s weaker areas (see 1Peter 3:7). Today, however, females are exhorted from all directions to pursue roles of dominance, a pursuit which is contrary to the pattern that Father has established in His Word. God intended an interdependency between males and females because He has created us to be so different in so many ways. We’ll discuss this God-created interdependency of males and females as well as the frustrations which come about in the genders trying to cooperate together. But at the outset we want to encourage you:

There’s nothing like the wonder of a marriage in which both spouses are indwelled by the Holy Spirit. What the two of them together can be and do by grace to our Father’s glory is limitless!

The true essence of a Christ-like marriage which overflows with the Holy Spirit can be summed up in an axiom which our Lord’s Hebraic first followers would have well understood:

“If you want to know the extent of my relationship with Jesus Christ, look for it in the love He has given me for my spouse.”

This statement becomes a reality in a marriage through •the Holy Spirit, •the Bible commands for a husband and a wife, •our Father’s **grace with purpose** being enacted between and through the couple. Remember that the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the outpouring of character traits which are developed by Him in each follower of Jesus, is first recognized by His love in action in their lives (Galatians 5:22). Our Lord’s first followers who were married committed themselves to this quality of love in action toward their spouse because they clearly understood that their marriage covenant physically reflected the spiritual New Covenant they entered through Jesus.



The marital love which stems from the indwelling Holy Spirit is a visible representation of a couple's love relationship with Jesus as their Lord. God has designed a husband to draw strength and completeness from his wife. As an *ezer kenegdo* (Genesis 2:18,20) she corresponds perfectly to him as his nurturing companion and suitable life partner. They are complements in their unique oneness as they are guided by the Spirit to fulfill Father's purposes and plans.

It's vital to recognize that because each partner has a **sin nature**, marriage requires a depth of sacrificial love which our Lord Jesus imparts through your spirit—the agape love that only the indwelling Holy Spirit can give you for another person (Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:33). Keep in mind that you aren't instantly imbued with this depth of love at your spiritual rebirth when you receive the Spirit of Jesus. You keep developing through your spirit a divine love for your spouse through prayer and through asking the Spirit to empower you to love as Jesus would through you. Then you follow through in ways which are often sacrificial which He makes clear will meet your spouse's need to be loved with the love of Jesus. Our Lord's love is the best **dignity enhancer** He offers humanity!

The Native American Wedding Vase

The couple is joined together by the Holy Spirit with each pouring out His love onto the other.



Make sure that you never use “**loving actions**” to make yourself more acceptable to your spouse by purchasing their favor. This widely accepted view was popularized in the book, *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus* (1992). Even Christian men were influenced to “purchase favor” from their wives by gifts and other prescribed “**loving actions**”. (Aren't they really just treating their wives like prostitutes?) A completely opposite and godly action is to ask the Holy Spirit for our Lord Jesus's love to flow through you to your spouse. The humility that's embodied in this selfless request is as far from the defiling motive of purchasing favor as heaven is from hell.

“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled: but God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers” (Hebrews 13:4).

For most married couples an intimate means of expressing love is sexual intercourse. Historically, however, many within Christianity regarded marital sex as unholy or “dirty”. We who follow Jesus can't let this misrepresentation of God's pure and honorable design continue!

The setting is 1978, the first day of a seminary marriage class which spouses attended together. The first thing the elderly professor did was hand out to each couple a detailed diagram of male and female genitalia. As couples received the sheet, shocked gasps filled the room. But that wise and godly gentleman at once chastised all of us, “Don't you ever consider unholy what God has made good and holy!” God's command in Hebrews 13:4 was made even clearer to us that day.

Beyond the sexual expression which God gave to men and women and limited this to within marriage only, many of the gender responsibilities He gave to husbands and

wives pour over into how we treat the opposite sex in our family, friendships, fellowships, neighborhoods, workplaces and schools. So let's dig into this.

Relational Bonding Requires Removing All Vestiges of Disloyalty **The sin nature and demonic strongholds promote disloyalty!**

Loyalty to another person is often defined along the lines of a strong feeling of support or allegiance. We'd say that the loyalty which our Lord Jesus seeks for us to experience starting in our marriage might be best described as this: ***"Loyalty is you being there with me during my most difficult and needy times."*** In previous writings we cited that we often asked retreaters and those who attended our seminars, *"Name three people in your congregation to whom you would turn in time of deep trouble in your life."* Most had a difficult time naming even one person. So before we go further we ask you, "Name three people to whom you would turn in time of deep trouble in your life." If you're married, is one of those people your spouse?

Disloyalty, by contrast, begins •when you fail to comprehend how wonderfully different God has made men and women, and •when you don't cooperate with the mutual compatibility He intended.

Let's discuss husbands first and their absolute need for humility so they can understand gender differences and how to live cooperatively with their wives. Historically, many Bible teachers have falsely presented a culturally entrapped view that men should rule and that women are subservient. But while this stance was held in many parts of Christianity for centuries, it is far from biblical truth! (In fact, the unbiblical position of male dominance has greatly contributed to the modern revolution of **women seeking rule over men.**) In stark contrast, God's mandate for husbands is based on humility:

Undemolished demonic strongholds and your sin nature resist the Holy Spirit imparting His love through you.



"Husbands, likewise, dwelling together with wives with understanding, giving honor to the wife as with a weaker vessel and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers not be hindered" (1Peter 3:7, literal).

Even with the absence of demonic strongholds, the human sin nature will repeatedly try to trip up a husband from rendering honor and consideration to his wife. Husbands, if you do stumble in these areas, ask forgiveness for the emotional hurt you caused by dishonoring her or by being inconsiderate. From a biblical perspective, it's a heart issue dealing not so much with what you did wrong as with the person you hurt. Humility supplies a man the ability to feel the hurt he's caused. Arrogance, on the other hand, may allow him only to acknowledge what he did wrong. But this incomplete response doesn't give his wife any hope that he'll change.

Many husbands refuse to humble themselves and ask the Spirit of our Lord Jesus to love his wife through them. Mike: Very few men I've counseled over the years possessed sufficient humility to fervently keep asking our Lord Jesus for His love for their wife. These men are complacently content to keep peddling along the way things are. As long as his wife remains with him asking for only a minimal effort of cooperation, the

husband figures she'll stay. 🙄 "Duh?" Today wives are far outpacing husbands in filing for divorce. So any husband who under-appreciates his wife is crazy! 🙄 "Duh?" **

** For more on loyalty and disloyalty, see Teaching E-mail 42: [Develop Loyalty—Giving Up Your Life For Someone](#)

Mike: I would nowhere give myself a positive mark in treating Sue the wonderful way she deserves. It wasn't until we were married 24 years and were on the verge of divorce that I learned in Israel that the highest gift God was going to give me was Sue. An old Hebrew adage which the earliest followers of Jesus would have been familiar with is that "the highest gift God ever gives a man is a wife." Proverbs 18:22 assures us that "*He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.*" Our Hebraic forefathers who trusted Jesus recognized that "*An excellent wife is the crown of her husband*" (Proverbs 12:4a) and that "*A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies*" (Proverbs 31:10).

These observations were compelling me to reexamine my appreciation level of Sue and my gratefulness to Father for giving her to me. Then I found in the Apocrypha these Jewish writings which extol the blessing of a wife: "*I take pleasure in three things, and they are beautiful in the sight of God and of men: the unity of brethren, the love of neighbors, and a husband and a wife who live in harmony*" (Sirach 25:1). Also Sirach 40:23: "*Friend or companion is always welcome, but above both is a wife with her husband*." And finally, "*He who acquires a wife gets his best possession, a helper fit for him and a pillar of rest*" (Sirach 36:29). My whole frame of reference was being changed about my wife!

Through the humility it takes to sacrificially love Sue as our Lord commands, I recognized that my character was able to be increasingly conformed to that of Jesus. Now, some 28 years later, we can affirm that a marriage is a mutually interdependent relationship requiring a lifetime of choosing the grace of humility and personal sacrifice. Men, every man who marries goes to his ego's death in order to have more of Jesus's love, first for his wife and then for all who know him. If you're a husband reading this, I hope you'll learn this truth earlier than I did. For too many years I under-appreciated Sue and was nowhere close to what our heavenly Father envisioned for our marriage. Now there's not a morning that I don't first start with asking the Holy Spirit for our Lord Jesus's love for her.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (Philippians 2:3,4).

Earlier we stated that the gender responsibilities that God gave to husbands and wives pour over into how we treat the opposite sex in our family, friendships, fellowships, neighborhoods, workplaces and schools. Mike: I'd like to share a wonderful example of this reality as an extension of 1Peter 3:7 to some women at my workplace.

From 1979-1981 I worked as the Comptroller in the finance office of a Christian college. In my early 30s, I was the only male with 16 women working for me. After several months I noticed there were times when some of the women would be unpleasant or an-

tagonistic around me. I didn't understand why, because I treated them all with the utmost consideration and respect. I prayed a lot for the Holy Spirit's understanding. My worst fear was that I'd begin to resent these ladies for how they were treating me.

About that time I was asked to hire an older woman who'd been the head administrative nurse for a large hospital. After entering menopause and suffering severely for several years, she had lost all confidence in herself. Hormonal treatment for menopause was unheard of back then. "Mary" came on staff as a cashier, which we hoped would help her regain some personal dignity.

At the end of her first day, then her second day, and then her third day, Mary found that the cash drawer was off by several cents. Each day she'd break into tears and tell me she wouldn't be back. Each day I'd hug her, pray for her, look her in the eye and tell her I'd see her in the morning. And each morning for over a year she worked there with increasing confidence.

Then came the answer to my prayer about the recurrent antagonism of other women in the office. One Sunday night Sue and I attended a congregation showing of a Focus on the Family video series. The topic that evening was the menstrual cycle of women. Right in front of me the Holy Spirit was showing me the source to my apprehension due the treatment I was getting by some of the women on staff. The next morning I arrived early at the office and Mary was there. I told her about the video I'd seen and the realization I'd been given by the Holy Spirit. Mary looked at me with compassion and told me I needed to get the office together and talk with them.

When everyone had arrived I asked them to each pull a chair into my office. I started the conversation with, "Ladies, I'd like to talk to you about your periods." After the giggling subsided, Mary told them what I had been enduring. Filled with consideration for me, the next day they put a calendar on my office wall with a dot on the date each lady expected her period. I was grateful that they saw the difficult situation I was in and responded with sisterly love!

A side note to this: The auditors had been citing our accounting for excessive errors. Because of this I couldn't sleep, so often I had to go back to my office at 1 AM to correct the errors. After a few weeks I noticed that each woman who had created the errors I found did so within three days prior to her period (which she'd marked on my calendar). The next morning I again asked the women into my office. When I showed the specific women their errors and when they had occurred, they were initially downhearted. So I encouraged an open discussion about what our God would have us do about this situation. What was so heartening for me is that they all felt bad for me and that the time the errors were taking for me to correct was taking me away from Sue and our son.

I proposed an initial trial. Beginning three days before her period, a woman would not do any data entry. She could do others things, even knitting or reading, as long as she didn't touch her keyboard. In the months that followed the first ladies who were knitting taught some of the other ladies how to knit. And our accounting errors dropped to almost zero.

I'm not commending myself here. It's just an example of how crucial is the consideration by one gender for what

✱✱ We wrote a series of Lifebytes [61 thru 65](#), to help you married couples incorporate biblical facets within your marriage so that together you can grow into the character of Jesus. Damaging attitudes and behaviors even if you're within Christianity may be hindering you from growing in Christ's likeness in your love and your Kingdom purpose as a couple.

the other gender faces in life. In our next Reality we'll delve into the disloyalty which women are capable of, and their need for the humility that allows the Holy Spirit to rule their lives.

Mike & Sue