



Genesis 1:26-28; 2:4-23

# SEXUALITY ACCORDING TO GOD

*Genesis 1:27 conveys an undeniable connection between “the image of God” and the ontological categories of male and female. This verse consists of three lines of poetry, with the second and third lines structured in parallel, communicating a correlation between God’s image and “male and female.” Being created in the image of God and being male or female are essential to being human. Sex (male and female) is not simply biological or genetic, just as being human is not simply biological or genetic. Sex is first and foremost a spiritual and ontological reality created by God. Being male or female cannot be changed by human hands; sex is a category of God’s handiwork — his original and everlasting design. As hard as anyone may try to alter this fact in his or her own body, the most that can be done is to artificially remove or augment body parts, or use pharmaceuticals to unnaturally suppress the biological and hormonal reality of one’s essence as male or female. In other words, psychology usurps biology; what I feel becomes who I am. When denying this physical and genetic reality, we allow experience to supersede essence, and more importantly, the image of God.* —Christopher Yuan

Genesis 1:27 is the first poem in Scripture. In three lines of four Hebrew words each, it lays the foundation for understanding the importance and design of male and female.

*So God created man in His image;  
In the image of God He created him;  
Male and female He created them.*

## MALE & FEMALE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ IN ESSENCE.

- Both are \_\_\_\_\_ in the image of God.
- Both are \_\_\_\_\_ by God to fill the earth and to exercise dominion over it (i.e., relationship & rulership).
- Both are \_\_\_\_\_ and empowered to accomplish God’s purpose for them.
- Both together \_\_\_\_\_ the image of God.

*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* —Galatians 3:26-28

*The image of God is displayed when a unity exists between the two sexes, a unity where both are recognized as equal before God and united with each other in a relationship of complementary characteristics.* —Henry Lazenby

*When we look at Gen 1:27 closely we see it is written in a way that draws out a certain progression... Humanity (clause 1) is to be conceived of firstly as singular (clause 2), then as a plurality of man and woman together (clause 3).* —Lionel Windsor

*Our maleness or our femaleness is not incidental to our humanness but constitutes its very essence... Every cell in our body is stamped as XX or XY. This means that I cannot understand myself if I try to ignore the way God has designed me.* —Timothy & Kathy Keller

**Sex** is an objective, binary classification of male or female. **Gender** is a subjective, self-perception of viewing oneself as male or female. **Norms** are characteristics culture associates with being masculine or feminine. —Christopher Yuan

## MALE & FEMALE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ IN DESIGN.

- Adam is fashioned by God \_\_\_\_\_ (2:7; cf. 1 Tim. 2:13).
- Adam is given the primary responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the garden of Eden (2:15).
- Adam specifically receives God’s command to obey (2:16-17).
- Adam \_\_\_\_\_ is not good (2:18).
- Eve is designed as an \_\_\_\_\_ helper to Adam—a needed complement and companion (2:18).
- Adam is given the responsibility of naming the animals (2:19-20).
- Eve is built from the \_\_\_\_\_ of Adam (2:21-22).
- Eve is given the unique ability to bear \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. 3:20).
- Adam praises both the sameness and the differentness of Eve!



## HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?

- I am to see the inherent value, worth, and equality of male and female as both being made in the image of God.
- I am to receive my sexual identity as male or female as a good gift from God and as a vital part of who I am.
- I am to affirm God’s distinct design of male and female and also recognize the struggle that some may have in their own body.

*Genesis 2 is unique among the creation stories of all of the Ancient Near East in its appreciation of the meaning of woman, i.e., that human existence is a partnership of man and woman.*

—Claus Westermann

*Some modern scholars note that the codes found in the OT were addressed only to men... Instead of establishing male superiority, these provisions addressed the stewardship and responsibility of a man to his family. When viewed in this light, men were addressed by God as the heads of their families with a divine mandate to provide for their temporal and spiritual well-being and conduct.*

—Carol P. Bradley

**Helper.** Heb., *ezer*, “one who aids, undergirds, supports,” used most frequently of God in the OT.

**Made.** Heb., *banah*, “to build.”

**Rib.** Heb., *tsela*, “side, rib, beam.”

*Gender runs deep, near to the core of human identity... in part because it is biologically primed and connected to differences in brain structure and function.*

—Dartmouth Medical School

*At least 100 sex differences in male and female brains have been described so far. They keep cropping up in animal and human studies.*

—Dr. Nancy G. Forger

*The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.*

—Matthew Henry