

Crucial Questions – Why Did God Create Male and Female?

STUDY:

- Read Gen. 1:27 and Gen. 2:22-24. What is the difference in the language of “male and female” and “man and woman”?
- How do the two descriptions together show us the congruency of biological sex with gender as God’s design?

Four W’s:

Worth: According to the Bible, the ultimate worth of a human being is the unique quality of being created in the image of God. Why does every life: the life of an enemy, the life of a criminal, the life of an immigrant, the life of the unborn, inherently worth the same? Why can we not determine the worth of a life?

Work: Read Gen. 1:26, 1:28, 2:15, 2:18. Read also the following quotes.

Emerson Eggerichs quote: “men communicate to report (consistent with agency) while woman communicate to build rapport (consistent with communion)”.

Stan Grenz quote: “There are important distinctions between the sexes. Humans can exist only as male and female. And this primary distinction is deeper than mere physical features related to reproduction. The assertion that certain basic distinctions between the sexes do exist has gained support through recent anthropological research. One widely held conclusion sees men as being more linear and rational, whereas women are oriented to a network of relationships

embedded with the social context...the core properties of femininity can be conceptualized as a “sense of communion” and those of masculinity as a “sense of agency”.

- What are your thoughts on the sense of communion and sense of agency as seen in the creation calling: man to work the ground and woman to be a companion, a helper, to provide for the loneliness of man, one who brings relational communion?

Witness: Read Gen. 2:23-24. How do you see God’s plan of humanity being complete with both male and female as image bearers of God?

Worship: Ultimately God creates us for his glory, for us to enjoy his glory and for us to enjoy glorifying him. How do we choose to trust God in worship based on his creation of male and female?

- How did Jesus’ interaction with women show his value he placed on women? (Woman with bleeding issue, Sinful woman washing Jesus’ feet, Samaritan woman at the well, others)?
- Read Gen. 2:18. Then read Psalm 33:20 and 70:5. If God uses the same word for helper (‘ēzer) in those verses, how does that help your understanding of the word?
- Read Psalm 139:13-14. Being made in God’s image means we are made up of material and immaterial parts. How is it that the soul can’t be understood scientifically? Can you think of some examples of the human soul/spirit that can’t be explained with science?
- Do you see tendencies or stereotypes in men/women that give

them an advantage in how they relate to God spiritually?

- If God is spirit, and not biologically male, why does he use both masculine and feminine language (metaphors, personification) in the way he reveals himself in Scripture? Here are some examples: “a hen gathers her brood under her wings” (Luke 13:34); God describes himself as an eagle stirring up its nest and fluttering over its young (Deut. 32:11-12); God comforts like a mother (Isa. 66:13); a nursing mother (Isa. 49:15); or a mother bear robbed of her cubs (Hosea 13:8). How do these references help you to understand the need for both males and females as image bearers of God?
- If humans are made *in* the image of God, or *bear* the image of God (imago dei) what is *the* image of God? Read 2 Cor. 4:4 and Col. 1:15.

RESPONSE:

- Read 1 Cor. 6:20. Why is it so important to view each other (men and women) as image bearers of God?
- Read Jeremiah 29:11. Is this a familiar verse? Read Jeremiah 29:12-13? How do these verses give more meaning to verse 11?

PRAY:

Ask God to help you view your brothers or sisters in Christ the way he views them. Ask God to help you see value in them the way he does.