

# Why Study Biblical Womanhood

The aim of this *Biblical Womanhood* course is to help Christian women to understand what the Bible says about being a woman. Since our own culture also has plenty to say about this subject, the course aims to help you identify the teaching of the world we live in and to defend, with confidence, the teaching of the Bible when the two stand in opposition. It is also designed to encourage women to rejoice in the truth as they apply it to their own lives and see that God's will is always for our best and His glory, whatever the world may say.

The course assumes an acceptance of the Bible's authority in all areas of life and doctrine. Some of the material is undoubtedly controversial, going against the grain of our western culture, and even against the grain of commonly accepted teaching within the church. However, this course does not set out to be politically correct but to be faithful to Scripture. That said, questioning, debate and disagreement is not necessarily something to be avoided, although it must be rooted in, and weighed by, what is clear in God's Word. The course will not answer every question for every person, and in fact, it is quite likely to raise more questions than it answers! Our natural tendency can be to want everything 'sewn up' and to have a neat list of tick boxes on how precisely to interpret and apply the Bible. We need to work hard at keeping grey areas grey (when we so often wish they were black and white) while also letting what is black and white in the Bible remain black and white in our own thinking and living.

The course can be used in a variety of ways:

- Individual use
- Group use (sessions would be about 1 – 1½ hours)
- Individual use but meeting up with one or two others also using the course to discuss and pray it through
- Group use but taking parts of each session as 'homework' for individual use (thus shortening the sessions)

I hope you find the following pages helpful in living for the Lord Jesus Christ as women after his own heart.



# 'Male and female he created them': **FOUNDATIONS**



## **talkabout**

1. What makes men and women fundamentally the same as each other? List some of the similarities you've noticed.

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2. Think of some of the ways men and women are different. Do you think we are born with these differences, or do we learn them from the world around us?

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## **investigate: the Maker's design**

### **Read Genesis 1 v 24-31**

Genesis 1 v 24-31 tells us what God made on the sixth day, including land, animals and humankind. Genesis 2 gives us more detail on how Man and Woman were created.

3. What job description did God give to the first humans (v 28-31)? Is there any difference between men and women?

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4. In what ways are humans different from the rest of creation (v 24-27)?

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5. What does it mean that we are 'created in God's image'? Remember to look at the surrounding verses to help you find an answer.

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▶ **Read Genesis 2 v 4-7 and 15-25**

6. What did the man (Adam) spend his time doing before Eve came along? How did he relate to the rest of creation?

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Verse 18 comes as a bit of a shock: in a perfect creation, God sees something that is *not good*. Adam is incomplete. He needs a 'helper' suitable to assist him in ruling God's creation.

7. a. Why do you think God parades the animals in front of Adam in search of a helper?

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- b. What makes Eve the perfect match? How does Adam's response in v 23 show this?

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Eve alone can complement Adam. We might think of 'helper' as a derogatory term (like 'Santa's little helper') but it is far from that! The word is used to describe God himself in Exodus 18 v 4 and Psalm 33 v 20, where it carries overtones of military strength. Eve is not a tea lady, therefore, but a wingman (or wingwoman!) fighting the battle alongside Adam.

8. a. In what ways is Eve shown to be different from Adam, in how, when and why she was created? What do you think is the significance of this?

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- b. What significance is there in the fact that Adam names her (v 23 and 3 v 20)?

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9. Summarise what you have learnt about the complementary relationship between Adam and Eve. How do v 24 and 25 show that God's design was good?

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## explore more

### Read 1 Corinthians 11 v 3 , 8-9 and 11-12

Here Paul is using Genesis 2 to teach the church that the differences between men and women are vital to the life of the church.

10. How does Paul help us to understand that Man and Woman are created equal? And that they are created different?

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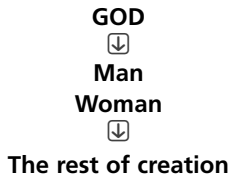


11. How does Paul describe the relationship between Christ and God (v 3)? How does this help us to understand equality & difference rightly in male-female relationships?

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The lines of responsibility God created can be summarised like this:



→ **apply**

12. Does the complementary design in Genesis 1 and 2 fit any of your observations about men and women at the beginning of this session?

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13. a. God designed us to be different from men. How does that affect the way we see ourselves? How does it encourage and challenge us?

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13. b. How does it affect the way we see the men we know? How can we encourage them to be responsible and take a godly lead?

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