

“Man in the Image of God”

Sermon Notes

- **Men and women are created by God - equal in value and dignity, yet different in role and responsibility**

**The creation of Adam makes clear that...*

1. Man is designed by God as a provider and a protector (v.15)

2. Man reflects the image of God as a provider and a protector (vv. 16-17)

Next Week: Genesis 2:18-23 - “Woman in the Image of God”

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the week of August 24th-30th

Getting Started

1. What are your convictions concerning the scriptural teaching on the value, dignity, roles, and responsibilities of men and women? How important is this area of biblical doctrine for you personally? Share with the group a bit about your own growth and development as it relates to the level of clarity and confidence with which you hold your views.

Digging Deeper

2. If first-rank biblical doctrines are essential for gospel *proclamation*, second-rank biblical doctrines are essential for gospel *partnership*, and third-rank doctrines are more a matter of personal *preference*...where would you rank the scriptural teaching concerning biblical manhood and womanhood?¹ In other words, can a person be a Christian and get this doctrine wrong (first-rank)? Another way to ask this is should churches expect unity on this doctrine in the local congregation (second-rank)? Or is it simply a matter of personal preference where we can happily agree to disagree all the way to heaven without it affecting the fundamental nature of our fellowship with one another in the local church? How come?

¹ Notice that we're not here addressing the question of the historicity of Adam and Eve. In our sermon and [study guide from August 10, 2025](#), it is abundantly clear that the historicity of Adam and Eve is a first-rank doctrine (essential for the proclamation of the gospel itself). Furthermore, let's assume that we're not talking about the matter of transgender identity either. We are taking for granted in this discussion that one's biological sex is determined at conception and that one's gender identity ought to consistently correspond to that same biological sex throughout one's life.

Open Your Bible to Genesis 1:26-27...

3. Do you believe that men and women are created by God with equal value and dignity? How does the very first reference to human beings in the Bible (Genesis 1:26-27) begin to answer this question for us?

4. Does the equality of men and women signal their interchangeability - that they are basically synonymous with one another? Why or why not? Why does the culture in which we live tend to assume that equality means interchangeability? How can we as Christians offer constructive, hopeful, and helpful engagement with those around us who see this matter differently than we do?

5. Genesis 2:15 first tells us that: “The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to *work* it...”. This is a word that can mean “cultivate”, “tend”, “dress”, “till”, or “serve”. Sometimes we slip into the mistaken notion that work is part of the curse in Holy Scripture. However, upon further reflection, it’s plain from the early movements of the biblical storyline that work is given *before* the fall (2:15) and that it is rather something that is dramatically affected *by* the fall (see Genesis 3:17-19). Why does it matter to us today that work (vocation, calling) was a part of God’s original design for mankind prior to the entrance of sin into the world? What practical difference ought this to make in our lives?

6. Genesis 2:15 goes on to tell us that: “The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it *and to keep it*.” The word for keep means to “guard”, “secure”, or “defend”. Take a look at Genesis 3:24. The word in 2:15 for “keep” is also found there in 3:24. Do you see it? What’s the picture that’s painted there? Given how this word is used in Scripture (see another example in Psalm 125:5-8), what did God originally call Adam to do? Based on what’s to come in Genesis 3:1-6, how well did Adam perform his task?

7. Point one in Sunday’s sermon (drawn from Genesis 2:15) says that: *Man is designed by God as a provider and a protector*. In what practical ways are men called to fulfill this dual role throughout their lives? Taking into account both the physical and spiritual dimensions of providing and protecting, how many different applications can you make as you reflect on these things as a group?

8. Point two in Sunday’s sermon (drawn from Genesis 2:16-17) says that: *Man reflects the image of God as a provider and a protector*. How do these two verses demonstrate God’s heart as a provider and a protector? Furthermore, how does Jesus demonstrate himself to be [the true and better Adam](#) as our provider² and protector³?

² Matthew 14:13-21; 9:35; John 6:35; Mark 2:5-12; John 3:16; 10:10; Matthew 11:28-30; John 14:27, 16-17.

³ John 10:28-30; Luke 22:31-32; 1 John 3:8; John 10:11; John 14:27; Philippians 4:7; Romans 5:9; Hebrews 7:25; Mark 4:39; Matthew 28:20.