

Growing Up and Growing Together for the Work of the Church of Jesus Christ. Dated 18/11/90. Unsure if or when shared with SCF* Not found any other documents linking specifically to the roles of ladies in the church.

This is the first of a number of meetings aimed at encouraging the ladies in the Church to know and to achieve their roles as women both in the home and in the Church. In the Old Testament and in the New also women have played and will always play an important part in the establishment of God's Kingdom on this earth. We shall be looking at what Jesus expects rather than dwelling on the traditional or modern view of women. This has nothing to do with slavery or women's liberation, excepting where God's Word may capture or release us for His own purpose. There has been a lot of debate through the years concerning the place of women in our society and even more debate in the Churches. The discussion in the Churches continues to be controversial and at times divisive. God did not intend this to be the way, He has a much better way laid out clearly in Scripture. We do not always take full notice of Scripture and often tend to live according to our own opinions, feelings or experiences. Mankind is made up of both male and female! Yes. I know that you know this already; lets take a look at Creation to see how it all started.

The scientific name given to the theory of mankind is anthropology. It sounds like a disease and sometimes can be effective as one.

Genesis 1 verse 26-27

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

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God made mankind in His image and all three of the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit were present at the time of creation. We were to be like God and when he spoke His Word it happened as He said it would. Notice that He created him and then them. First the male and from the male He was to create the female.

Genesis 2 verse 18-25

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

We read here that God decides that the male of His kingdom needs a helper. He says that He will make a helper suitable for Adam. That is why we can say that marriage was created in Heaven.

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God knows what both males and females need to be happy! We also need to see that it was prior to the creation of the woman that God set His seal on the male to have the delegated authority.

Genesis 2 verse 9

Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

We see in this passage that He grew trees to provide food and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil too.

Genesis 2 verse 15-17

Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." God gave him responsibility and strict instructions. The task was to cultivate and keep the earth, which is still valid today. Man is to rule over all things in his life and round about him. Adam was created and named by God and was to create and name things that God created in His name. The trees that were in the garden of Eden are still with us today. We are, in Christ able to eat from the tree of life. Jesus bids us to come to the tree of life to eat and be filled with Himself. Adam was told not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because if he did, he would die! He ate from it because his helper who was yet to be created was deceived by the devil.

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More about that in a moment. The helper or helpmate was given to man so that he would not be alone.

Genesis 1 verse 28

God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Chapter one tells of the completed creation and chapter two speaks of the creation of the male and the female. The man came from the dust and the woman came out of the man.

Genesis 2 verse 21-22

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

God administers the first anesthetic, then the first healing, then forms the woman who is called so by the man. She was created as one suitable to be the vessel to bring to birth all of the generations to come, Eve and Adam are the human father and mother of every subsequent human being.

We can see from the book of Genesis that all things were created in a divine order. God had no intention of changing that order, He made man first to display the order of authority and woman second to fulfill His instruction to fill and to rule over the whole earth and everything in it.

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Notice that although Eve was born out of the bones of Adam, God reversed the order so that man would be dependent on woman and woman would be dependent on man if God's purposes of filling the whole earth and subduing it, were to be carried out. The seed of the man is to be sown into the womb of the woman so that she could birth all future human life. Both male and female are of equal worth, but not equal in authority or in function.

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