

The Question of Authority

It would be of great value to us if we could simply forget all that that we know or have experienced in order to have a fresh and child - like understanding. It is often helpful to retrace our steps even right back to the beginning. This is in fact what I have tried to do. I believe in the authority of God's word, it releases captives and enables us to serve God freely and without prejudice.

2 Timothy 3 verse 16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 So that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 4 verse 1-4

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom 2: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

We all come under the authority of His Word; God has never changed, he remains the same yesterday, today and forever. His Word never changes, not even to suit our cultures and traditions. History, wars, strikes, divorces, good times or bad times do not cause God to reconsider His Word. We can rely and trust it implicitly. Praise God!

His word requires that we respond to it, we either say yes to Him and obey Him or we say no to Him and disobey Him, its always one or the other. But we cannot change His Word, that is unchangeable.

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Psalm 119 verse 89

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

However, He has given **us** the grace to change. That grace comes freely through His son Jesus.

Deuteronomy 28 verse 1-15

"Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God: 3 "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. 4 "Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. 5 "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. 6 Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. 7 "The LORD shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways. 8 The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you. 9 The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. 10 So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will be afraid of you. 11 The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. 12 The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

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13 The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully, 14 And do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

1 Corinthians 11 verse 3

But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11 verse 7-9

For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. 8 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; 9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.

1 Corinthians 11 verse 11-12

However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.

The Beginning of Mankind.

Question: *is mankind in the image of God?*

Genesis 1 verse 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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Mankind - God's kind of man is both male and female!

Galatians 3 verse 28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Is this a contradiction? Of course not!

Galatians 5 verse 1-5

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. 2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. 4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

Genesis 2 verse 7

Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Adam was made first, notice he was made from **dust**.

Genesis 2 verse 8 and 15

2 The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

God gave Adam a job of work to do.

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Genesis 2 verse 16-17

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 Adam instructions and a **warning**.

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.

God gave Adam a **helper**, suitable **for** Adam, not suitable **to** Adam. **God's choice** is **not** to Adam's taste. Eve, made from Adam's rib (out of his side), not out of the dust like Adam.

The first woman was *born* out of a man but, from that time forth woman was to bear the children, with the seed of Adam even to this day.

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The Woman's Role in Relationship with Man. No indication of if or when shared with SCF* Undated.

Man was made to be head of his woman **because** God **decided** to do it **His way**; we cannot change that work of God.

1 Corinthians 15 verse 45-49

So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

Note the contrast. The first Adam became a living soul, born from dust. The last Adam became a life giving Spirit. Jesus was the last Adam, born without the male (natural) seed, but with an incorruptible seed.

1 Peter 1 verse 22-23

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

Let us see God's heart in the matter of a woman's place.

The Making of the Woman

1. She is to be a helpmate for Adam.
2. Adam was first formed, then Eve.

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1 Timothy 2 verse 13

For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.

If man is the **head**, then Eve is the **crown**, a **crown** to **her husband**, the crown of visible creation. The man was dust refined but the woman was dust double - refined. One removed further from the earth.

3. That the woman was made out of the rib from the side of Adam, not made from his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him; under his arm, which is displaying both his authority and his protectiveness and close to his heart to be loved by him.

4. She is the weaker vessel but a fellow heir.

1 Peter 3 verse 7

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Let us look at the example that Jesus gives us.

Philippians 2 verse 1-11

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

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5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The relationship between Jesus and His Father is the equivalent to our human example for us to follow.

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