

BACK TO BASICS

Genesis 2:15-24

POSITIVE ASPECT

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

PROHIBITIVE ASPECT

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."

- *to cultivate...or...to serve (abad)...is also used to describe worship and service of the Lord.*
- *to keep...shamar...is also used for *keeping* the commandments and thus to obey God's Words.*

The responsibility given to the man can ultimately be summarized in two activities:

WORSHIP and OBEDIENCE

His God-given role = to be a SPIRITUAL LEADER.

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

Literally – I will make him for him a helper as in front of him (or according to what is in front of him).

helper – ezer - one who provides what is lacking.

Exo 18:4; Deut 33:7; 1 Sam 7:12; Psa 20:2; 46:1

suitable for him – kenegdo – corresponding to 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...

call them - means to speak from a position of authority and sovereignty

20...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...

fashioned literally means *build* - 'to make' or 'to create.'

22...God 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.”

Prov 31:30 - Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife...

leave - used to describe Israel's rejection of her covenant relationship with Yahweh (Jer 1:16; 2:13, 17, 19).

cling - often designates the maintenance of the covenant relationship (Deut 4:4; 10:20; 11:22; 13:5).

Marriage is a covenant relationship.

24...they shall become one flesh.

one flesh - expresses the spiritual unity of one man and one woman. -

man – created to provide leadership

woman – created to support him as his loving helper

This still applies today – the man is the HEAD...the woman is the HELPER.

man – created to provide leadership

- he was created first
- he was given the authority to name the animals...as well as the authority to name the woman
- in *Gen 3*, God quizzed man first as the responsible party for the activity of the garden.
- when God explains the punishment, in *3:17*, He attributes it to Adam's following the woman in sin...not merely listening to the woman...but his following her in sin.

woman – created to provide ‘fellowship’

- the woman was created as a ‘helper’...and this affirms her subordination in ‘role’ only
- she is created AFTER man
- she is created FROM man...I.e...he is her source.

Piper/Grudem – if you miss the biblical teaching on roles:

1. A marriage pattern that doesn't portray the relationship of Christ and the church.
2. Parenting practices that don't train boys to be masculine and girls to be feminine.
3. Homosexual tendencies and increased attempts to justify it.
4. Confusion over true meaning of biblical manhood and womanhood.