

Foundation of God's Design

Early Feminism and the Bible

“Over a century ago Elizabeth Cady Stanton” who believed that the Bible was “an obstacle to women’s rights, argued in her *Women’s Bible* that the “wily writer” of Genesis 2 was trying to put women in their place in order to subvert the presentation of men and women as equals in Genesis 1”

Foundation of God's Design Message

God created mankind in His image as male and female to rule earth together

- As head, man's role is to lead
- As helper, woman's role is to provide what the man lacks

Foundation of God's Design

The image of God is reflected in our maleness and femaleness (Gen 1:26a)

Man's name
(Adam) also name
for mankind
(*adam*)

God created
Adam first (1 Tim
2:13)

Adam responsible
for giving God's
instructions to
Eve

Headship
emphasizes
responsibility to
lead

Woman was made
"for" the man

Woman was made
"from" the man


The man named
the woman

Her name
("*ishah*") was
built from his
name ("*ish*")

Evidences of male headship in
Gen 1-2

Foundation of God's Design

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In God's image man and woman are to rule the earth as partners (Gen 1:26b-28)

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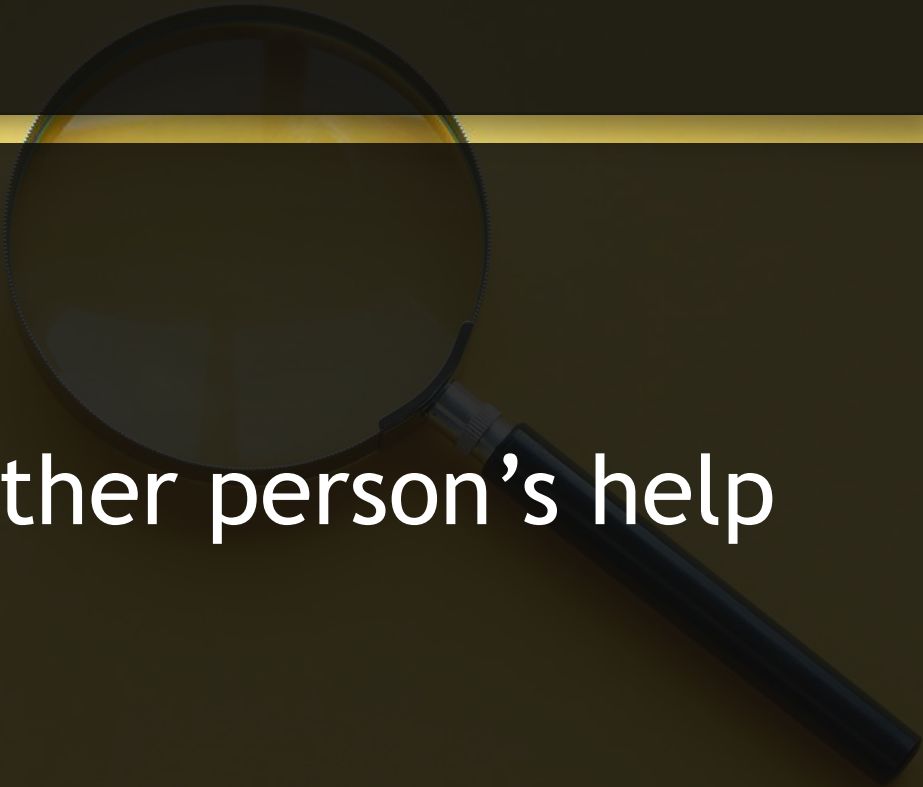


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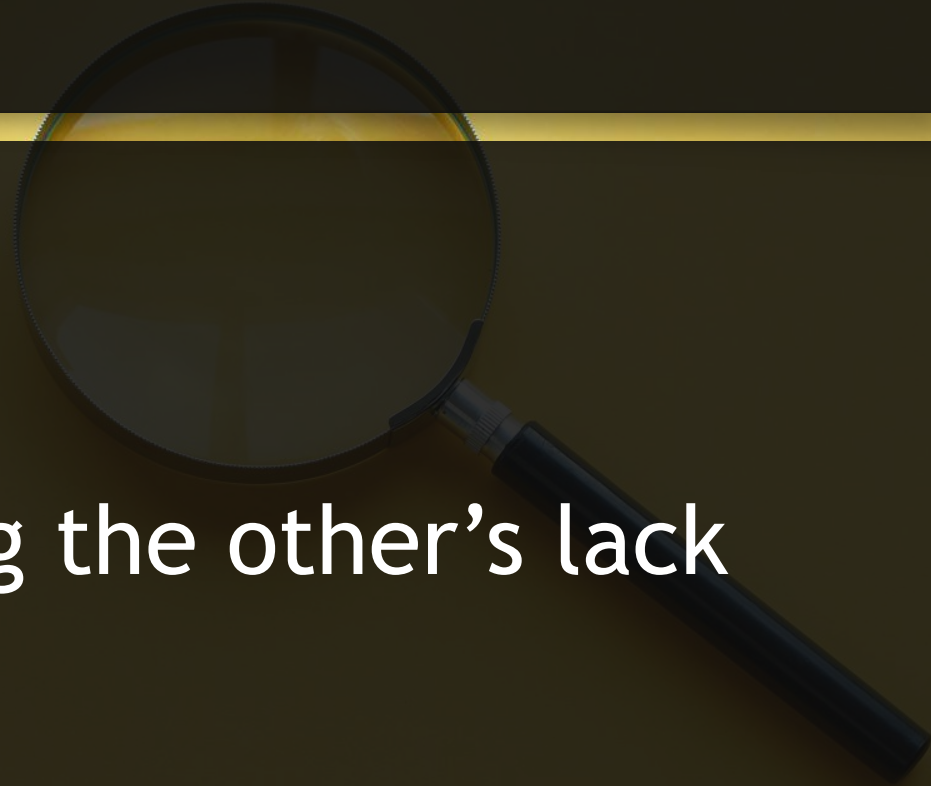
In this partnership, man takes the lead and the woman helps him (Gen 2:18-25)

“Alone”

- 1) Lonely - Lev 13:46
 - 2) Inability without another person's help
(Ex 18:18)
- 

“Suitable”

- Lit., corresponding to
- Complementary - filling the other's lack



“Suitable” Helper

“The words of this verse emphasize man’s need for a companion, a helper, and an equal. He was incomplete without someone to complement him in fulfilling the task of filling, multiplying, and taking dominion over the earth”

(John MacArthur, *MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 19)

“Only as a complementarian pair could Adam and Eve fill the earth and subdue it”

(Kevin DeYoung, “Death to the Patriarchy?”,
www.desiringgod.org)

“Helper”

“The modern reader tends to think of a helper as someone of a lower status, an assistant to the one who is important. But the fact that this psalm [Ps 46] describes the LORD as the helper signifies it means much more. Basically, the word refers to providing what someone lacks, or doing for someone what that person cannot do for himself”

Allen Ross, *Psalms*, vol. 2, p. 94, note on Ps 46:1

“Helper”

Ray Ortlund assures us that since the Bible portrays God as our Helper, it proves “that the helper role is a glorious one, worthy even of the Almighty

(Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood, p. 104)

“Since God is clearly not inferior to anyone, whatever the term helper entails, it’s certainly not inferiority”

(Andreas and Margaret Kostenberger, God’s Design For Man and Woman, p. 26)

One flesh

“God intended husband and wife to be a spiritual, functional unity, walking in integrity, serving God, and keeping His commandments together”

(Allen Ross, *in The Bible Knowledge Comt: OT*, p. 31)

“It is the profound fusion of two lives into one, shared life together, by the mutual consent and covenant of marriage. It is the complete and permanent giving over of oneself into a new circle of shared existence with one’s partner”

(Ray Ortlund, *Recovering Biblical Manhood & Womanhood*, p. 101)

Role of man and woman

In this partnership, husbands must cling to their wife in deep affection and steadfast loyalty

God's Design: One flesh partnership

Not This



Or This



But This

