

October 5 & 8, 2023



Confronting Christianity - Week #4 Does the Bible Devalue Women?

- ◇ Do I believe that God is Holy?
- ◇ Do I believe that God is good?
- ◇ Does the Bible devalue women?

- No, the Bible lifts up women!
- Not everything done in the name of Jesus is from Jesus.

Genesis 1:26-31 (NIV)

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and

subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

- God creates male and female to reflect Him and bear His image.

Genesis 2:18-25 (NIV)

The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”¹⁹ Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he 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,’ for she was taken out of man.”²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 3:16 (NIV)

To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

- We were called to complement each other, not compete.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the Hope that was promised in the Old Testament.
- Jesus consistently weaves women into his preaching and addresses them when teaching. He saw them!

- Jesus understood women’s struggles and lifted them up.
 - Jesus values women’s witness.
- 1. Paul values women as equal with men in worth, but with different roles.**
 - 2. Paul values women as “sons.”**
 - 3. Paul values women’s freedom and flourishing.**

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NIV)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

- Jesus submitted.
- A helper is not less than.
- Women and their purposes are redeemed through the person and work of Jesus Christ!
- God created male and female to reflect Him and bear His image.