

## **Identity: Made in His Image - Gender**

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### **I - Foundation of Gender - Genesis 1:27,31; 2:21-25**

In Genesis we learn that we have been created by a Creator:

- A. To Reflect the character and nature of God; Imago Dei
- B. To live out of our embodied soul: distinctly as Male or Female
- C. To mutually rule over and subdue the earth
- D. To be fruitful, multiply, create families

### **II - Essentialist vs. Constructionist view of Gender**

- A. Essentialist: Divine Creator, intrinsic essence and purpose
- B. Constructionist: Created by culture/society, purpose is self-created

### **III - Isn't the Body Bad?**

- A. Sin originates in our "heart" (motivations)
- B. Our bodies are a vessel, an instrument - I Corinthians 6:19-20
- C. Our bodies reveal clues about our Gender identity

### **IV - Our Sexed Bodies Reveal the Essence of our Gender**

<b>Genesis 1:27</b>	<b>Genesis 2:7,18, 21-25; 4:1</b>	<b>Genesis 3 - Cursed against their distinct differences</b>	<b>Matthew 19:4 Mark 10:6</b>
<b>Zakar = Male</b> to make a mark, impact	<b>Ish = Man</b> Physically recognized in the body	<b>He will rule over Eve</b> - distorted desire that dominates instead of lead, protect with mutual authority. <b>Cursed is the ground</b> - your work (impact) will be difficult, painful.	<b>Arsen = Male</b> strength, to lift, to carry
<b>Neqebah = Female</b> opened up, punctured	<b>Ish(sh)ah = Woman</b> Physically recognized in the body	<b>Pain in childbearing</b> - opening up will be painful; <b>Desire will be contrary to husband</b> - distorted desire to oppose and control.	<b>Thelus = Female</b> capacity to nourish/ nurture

- A. **Masculinity:** the many ways men impact and show up strongly by reflecting the character and image of God.
- B. **Femininity:** the many ways women open up to receive and nourish life by reflecting the character and image of God.

### **V - Cultural Implications**

- A. Increase belonging: widen expressions of masculinity and femininity
- B. Challenges from body detachment
- C. Reflecting Christ through compassion