

GENDER & SEXUALITY 2

(Thinking through our Christian understanding of sexuality and gender)

Questions from last time:

What does it mean to be female?

What does it mean to be male?

Why did God create human sexual relationships?

Going back to the beginning: Genesis 1-4

- Beware our own personal framework
- Be aware of centuries of male dominance, decades of feminism and years of gender fluidity?
- Beware a tendency to flatten Genesis or a tendency to overlay Genesis.

Why Genesis 1-4?

Genesis 1:26-31

Mankind was created with DIFFERENCE: male and female

But male and female together had the SAME likeness: the Triune God

And male and female together had the SAME purpose: to Rule the earth
(being fruitful and subduing)

From just these verses, why is it important that we hold onto there being 2 genders?

What do we learn about males and females in Genesis 1-4?

Male	Female
Created first from the ground (2:7)	Created second from the man (2:21-22)
Given the law first (2:17)	
Needed a suitable helper (2:18)	Made as a suitable helper (2:18)
Can be one flesh with a female (2:24)	Can be one flesh with a male (2:24)
Held accountable first (3:11)	Held accountable after Adam (3:13)
The curse means he will rule over his wife (3:16)	The curse means that she will desire to control her husband (3:16)
Curse linked to his work of the ground (3:17-19)	Curse linked to her work in childbearing (3:16)
A promise of death and decay (3:19)	Given a promise about her offspring (3:15)
Names Eve (3:20)	Named "life-giver" (3:20)
Cain & Abel bring offerings from their work to the Lord (4:2-4)	Eve—births (4:1,2 and 25)
Sin in chapter 4: murder (Cain), pride & polygamy (Lamech)	Faith in Chapter 4: names of children (Cain in 4:1 and Seth in 4:25)

So, what might we expect?

- Differences in Anatomy?
- Differences in Personality?
- Differences in role?
- Differences in sin?



Virgin Mary and Eve (by Sister Grace Remington)

What else must we notice?

- The gospel
- The importance yet frustrations of child bearing
- The importance and place of sexual relationships (Genesis 2:24, Matt 19:4-6)

*"Love and marriage, love and marriage,
Go together like a horse and carriage."*

(Frank Sinatra)

“male and female he created them”

Questions to ponder:

How can we honour and welcome differences between male and female

How do we ensure that those differences mean enrichment, synergy, and imaging God?

How do we ensure that those differences don't lead to conflict ,or eradication, or separation, or dishonouring God?

Resources:

Graham Beynon's two talks on the “The Complementarian Jigsaw”

<https://www.oakhill.ac.uk/news-and-blog/the-complementarian-jigsaw>

Andrew Wilsons talks:

https://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/a_theology_of_maleness

https://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/a_theology_of_femaleness

