

The background of the entire image is a vibrant field of red poppies in full bloom, stretching towards a horizon under a brilliant, golden sunset. The sun is positioned at the top center, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene with a warm, golden light. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a lighter, hazy yellow at the top. The poppies are densely packed, with their bright red petals and green stems creating a rich, textured foreground. A large, semi-transparent watermark with the word 'SAMPLE' is oriented vertically across the center of the image, partially overlapping the title text.

WOMAN
and her
SERVICE
to
GOD

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Contents

| | |
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| Introduction | 5 |
| God's Love for Woman | 7 |
| The First Woman | 9 |
| The Woman Who Loves God..... | 43 |
| The Woman Formed in the Womb (Psalm 139) | 58 |
| Women Saints in the Old Testament | 68 |
| The Woman in Christ's Service..... | 94 |
| The Older Woman and the Younger | 134 |
| Woman as a Wife - Ephesians..... | 161 |
| Woman as a Wife - Peter | 180 |
| The Virtuous Woman | 196 |
| The Daughters of Philip..... | 211 |
| Recommended Materials | 214 |

*“The Scriptures blaze with light on the subject of
the woman’s sphere in kingdom activities and
teem with illustrations and inspiring examples.”*
(B.H. Carroll)

Introduction

Our objective with this course is to help educate women in their service for Christ in this present needy world, to encourage them in God's love, and to exhort them to be busy serving the Lord.

There are two errors among Christians in regard to the woman's ministry: Some teach that women can do *anything*, while others teach that women can do almost *nothing*.

Neither position is Scriptural, of course.

Godly women have a large and important role in the work of God. Though there are restrictions upon their work, they should not be despised by the churches. The Bible mentions women in a compassionate and honorable manner. Two of the books of the Bible are named for women. Women held an honorable place in the life of Christ as well as in the ministry of the apostle Paul, and those things are written for our example and instruction.

The feminist movement has been a two-edged sword. In its early days in the 19th century, it brought blessings to women by such things as seeking equal pay for equal work, fighting the liquor industry which has enslaved so many husbands and fathers and destroyed so many homes, and opposing abortion. But feminism has gone far beyond voting rights, inheritance rights, and equal pay, to pursuing the removal of every barrier that would restrict a woman from doing *whatever* she pleases, whether that barrier is an unwanted pregnancy, an inconvenient marriage, a clothing fashion, a military standard (e.g., 40 pull-ups and 100 push-ups), or a moral barrier (e.g., marriage restricted to one man and one woman).

Since the 20th century, feminism has actually been a curse to women. Being founded upon a wrong philosophy, it is yet another form of that bondage that women have experienced for 6,000 years; and the masses of angry, frustrated, dissatisfied feminists are the evidence.

God made woman and God loves women, and Calvary is the irrefutable evidence. Though living in a paradise and lacking nothing whatsoever, the first woman rebelled against her Creator and believed the lie of the devil. But God Himself paid Eve's sin debt by the sacrifice of His only begotten Son.

God's way is always best. To fight Him is the height of folly and is the way of misery and destruction. But for an individual to humbly repent of his or her sin against God, to receive God's wonderful salvation in Jesus Christ, and to walk in obedience to His Word brings ever-increasing blessings both in this life and the next.

“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble” (Proverbs 4:18-19).

God's Love for Woman

A major theme of this study is that God loves women, and that women should love God. The objective is to encourage women not to be enticed by the thinking of the world, but to be captivated by the God of Scripture. Throughout history, women have been slaves to men, to cruelty, to passion, to fashion, and to vanity. Far better to be the "slave" of Jesus Christ, the compassionate Creator and Redeemer.

A woman's intimate relationship with God in Christ is the solution to all of life's problems.

True liberty is in Christ and in His will. Those who are true disciples of Christ are made free by the truth (Joh. 8:31-32). Christ promises abundant life (Joh. 10:10). His yoke is easy and His burden is light (Mt. 11:28-30). At His right hand are pleasures for evermore (Ps. 16:11). He is the God of Eden who loves to give every good thing for His people to enjoy (1 Ti. 6:17).

God's love for women is seen everywhere in Scripture.

Woman was created in God's image (Ge. 1:27). Eve, Adam's bride and the queen of creation, was a most amazing creature, and she was conceived of in the mind of God and created by His hands. God spoke the stars into existence, but He fashioned the man and the woman by His own hands.

Woman is the object, together with the man, of God's redemption. She was clothed with the robes God provided in Eden (Ge. 3:21). The robes signified salvation through the sacrifice of Christ. They signified being clothed in the perfect righteousness purchased by and obtained in Christ. Both the man and the woman put away their fig leaf aprons, signifying works religion and self-righteousness, and received the robes

that God freely made and offered. Eve was saved through the grace of God! Christ gave Himself for the woman as well as for the man. He gave Himself a ransom *for all* (1 Ti. 2:6).

Woman is given an honored place throughout Scripture. Two books of the Bible (Ruth and Esther) are named for women and focus upon the lives of those women.

Israel is likened to a woman. She is likened to a wife. God's great love for Israel is likened to that of a man for a wife. And Israel is likened to a woman in Revelation 12.

Many of the great saints of faith in Israel were women (e.g., Sarah, Miriam, Rahab, Deborah, Ruth, Hannah, Anna).

Many of the disciples who loved Jesus the most in His earthly life were women (Mary, Jesus' mother, Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha).

Many of the prominent saints in the early churches were women (Lydia, Priscilla, Phebe).

Women have a prominent, essential, and honored role in the home (1 Ti. 2:15; Tit. 2:4-5; 1 Pe. 3:1-8).

Women have an important and far-reaching ministry in the churches (e.g., 1 Ti. 2:9-15; Tit. 2:3-5).

Women are part of the holy priesthood of the church (1 Pe. 2:5, 9).

Women are ambassadors for Christ (2 Co. 5:20).

The husband is taught to love his wife (Eph. 5:28), which is a reflection of and a lesson on God's great love for women.

The church is likened to a woman, a bride (Eph. 5:25-27).

The First Woman

It is impossible for a woman to understand herself and her purpose apart from a knowledge of the first woman, Eve. In a few majestic words in the earliest pages of Scripture, God tells us everything we need to know about her for this present time.

Eve was made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27)

The first thing we learn about the woman is that she is equal with the male in that both are made in God's image.

The woman is not a different kind of, or lesser kind of, creation than the man. Both male and female are made in God's image. The image of God is reflected in the male and in the female. God is not female, but there are "female-like" characteristics in God. The woman exhibits in her character an emphasis on certain aspects of God's marvelous character such as tenderness and pity. These are characteristics acclaimed in womanhood since creation. Man has these characteristics, but not like the woman has them.

Consider some lessons about man (referring to male and female) being made in God's image (Ge. 1:26-27).

1. Man is not part of the animal kingdom. Both the man and the woman are made in God's image, whereas this is never said of the animals. The animals were made for man, but man was made for God.
2. God made man in His image that man might be able to know Him and associate with Him intimately forever. This is true for the woman as well as the man. This is ultimately fulfilled in the Last Adam, Jesus Christ, and in all of those who are saved in Christ.

3. God's image means the following:

The image of God refers to man's intelligence. The difference between the intelligence of man and that of animals is vast. Man was given great intelligence so that he can know God and accomplish God's will. The ability to understand physics and study the human cell and travel to the moon are God-like things.

The image of God refers to man's creativity. Unlike God, man's creativity is limited, but like God, he can create, design, and invent. All of man's clever inventions, from the wheel to the Space Shuttle, are evidence of the truth of the Bible, that he was made in God's image.

The image of God refers to man's speech. God made man to communicate with him, and Adam and Eve could understand God's words the moment they were created. No animal has this ability. Animals can communicate to some degree; even insects communicate by smell and other ways; but the power of speech, both vocal and written, belongs to man alone. Any normal baby boy or girl has the divinely-given equipment to learn any language.

The image of God refers to man's moral nature (Eph. 4:24). Man was created after the moral character of God: righteousness and holiness and love. When man fell into sin, his moral nature was corrupted and he became unrighteous and selfish (Romans 3:9-18). God's moral character is seen in its perfection in the Last Adam, Jesus Christ, and the righteous nature of fallen man is restored through Christ. God gives the believer the righteousness of Christ *positionally* (Col. 3:10) and instructs the believer to put on this righteousness in a *practical* sense in his daily life in this present world (Eph. 4:22-24). Perfect righteousness will be stored in a practical sense at the resurrection. "Man is made after the image of God, in righteousness and true holiness. He

was made with a benevolent disposition, with a happy and prayerful spirit, and with a longing desire to promote the general good of the universe; in these respects he was like God, who is infinitely pure, Divinely happy in His life, and in deep sympathy with all who are within the circle of His Being” (*Biblical Illustrator*).

The image of God refers to man’s spirit. God is a spirit (Joh. 4:24), and man has a spirit that continues to live when his body dies (1 Th. 5:23; Jam. 2:26).

The image of God refers to man’s authority (Ge. 1:26). Man was given dominion over the creation, and this refers to man as male and female. God said, “let THEM have dominion over...” The man and woman’s God-given dominion over the earth gives them the authority to use the earth’s resources, to explore, to invent, to shape and fashion, but not to ruin and destroy. The latter came with the fall.

4. That man is made in God’s image explains why there is still good in the world even after the fall.

In the fall, the image of God in man has been defiled but not destroyed (Ge. 9:6; Jas. 3:9). Man’s righteousness is unacceptable to God for salvation because of its imperfection (Isa. 64:6), but man does have righteousness. “The splendid ruins are proof that once they were a magnificent edifice. What achievements are made by the intellect of man--what loving sympathies are given out from his heart--what prayers arise from his soul--of what noble activities is he capable; these are tokens of fallen greatness, for the being of the most splendid manhood is but the rubbish of an Adam. Man must have been made in the image of God, or the grandeur of his moral ruin is inexplicable” (*Biblical Illustrator*).

5. It is also important to understand that man is not God and will never be God.

Though man is made in God's image in certain ways, Jesus Christ is the only man that is said to be the "EXPRESS IMAGE" of God (Heb. 1:3). Believers are children of God, but we must also walk in the fear of God (Heb. 12:28). That man is not God is evident by the fact that he is forbidden to accept worship (Ex. 34:14; Isa. 42:8; Mt. 4:10; Ac. 14:11-15), and when man worships himself he is condemned as an idolater (Ro. 1). (Christ, being both man and God, does accept worship, Mt. 2:11; 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25; 20:20; 28:9, 17). Man never will be God and will always be subject to God (Re. 21:3; 22:3).

Eve was made by God's hands (Genesis 2:21-23)

God spoke the animals into existence, but the man and the woman were both fashioned by God's own hands.

Someone might ask, "Does God have hands, or is this description in Genesis poetic?" There is no reason to believe that Genesis is describing anything other than literal events. God is a spirit and is omnipresent, but He can take a form whenever He wants. Theologians use the Greek word "theophany" to describe this, which refers to "a manifestation or appearance of God." God appeared to man many times in Old Testament times.

God formed Eve from one of Adam's ribs. Matthew Henry said, "Eve was not taken out of Adam's head to top him, neither out of his feet to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected by him, and near his heart to be loved by him."

Adam and Eve were the perfect man and woman. They were the king and queen of creation, the apex of God's creative power in the first creation.

Adam was the perfect specimen of male humanity. He was perfect in heart, soul, and might. He was perfect in physique. He was the most handsome man who has ever existed. David's son Absalom was much praised for his beauty: "from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him" (2 Sa. 14:25), but Absalom was not as handsome and physically perfect as the first man. Adam was perfect in manly strength and in courage. David had many mighty men of valour (1 Ch. 12:21), but none were as mighty as Adam. He was perfect in manly kindness and pity (Ps. 103:13). Adam was a genius intellectually. His memory was perfect. There have been many geniuses among men, but none have equalled Adam. He was able to master any skill. David could invent musical instruments because he was a son of Adam, but he didn't equal the first man in skillfulness. Adam was as strong as an ox and fleet as a hart. Asahel was "light of foot as a wild roe" (2 Sa. 2:18), but he wasn't as fast as Adam!

Eve was the perfect specimen of female humanity. She was perfect in heart, soul, and might. She was perfect in physique and beauty. The Bible speaks of many beautiful women. Sarah was "very fair" (Ge. 12:14-15); Rebekah was "very fair to look upon" (Ge. 24:16); and Esther won the great Persian beauty contest (Es. 2:2-4). But none of the renowned beauties of history have equalled Eve. She was also perfect in intellect, matching Adam's intellect, but different, womanly. She was perfect in womanly cheer and affection and tenderness. She was perfect in every proper feature and character trait that is desired in and acclaimed in a woman.

Eve was made to be man's helper (Genesis 2:18-25)

The woman is different from the man in that she was made to be man's helper.

The man and woman are equal before God, but they are different in their roles in this world. They are equal in that both are made in God's image, but they have different purposes.

The woman's particular role in creation is to be the man's partner, companion, complement, soulmate, and most intimate friend. The term "help meet" doesn't refer to a servant. It refers to a very special helper. The Hebrew word "ezer" is not the normal word for help. It means "literally, a helper, as over against him, *i.e.* corresponding to him." It is often used of God being a help to His people (Ps. 33:20; 70:5; 115:9-11; 121:1, 2, 8; 146:5). Moses named his son "Eliezer" (*El-ezer*), meaning "God is my help" (Ex. 18:4). Samuel called the place of victory over the Philistines "Ebenezer" (1 Sa. 7:11-12).

The woman was designed in every way to be the man's partner.

Consider some descriptions of her role:

- She is "one who may not only reciprocate his feelings, but take an intelligent and appropriate part in his active pursuits" (Barnes).
- She was created to "aid man in all the exigencies of life" (*Biblical Illustrator*).
- She was made to be "one with whom he might delightfully converse, and be in all respects agreeable to him, and entirely answerable to his case and circumstances, his wants and wishes" (John Gill).
- She was made to be "correspondent to him, suitable both to his nature and necessity, one altogether like to him in shape and constitution, disposition and affection; a second self; or one to be at hand and near to him" (Poole).

- She was “to be a perfect resemblance of the man, possessing neither inferiority nor superiority, but being in all things like and equal to himself” (Clarke).
- She was “to be of similar nature to the man himself, corresponding by way of supplement to the incompleteness of his lonely being, and in every way adapted to be his copartner and companion. All that Adam’s nature demanded for its completion, physically, intellectually, socially, was to be included in this *altera ego* who was soon to stand by his side. Thus in man’s need, and woman’s power to satisfy that need, is laid the foundation for the Divine institution of marriage, which was afterwards prescribed not for the first pair alone, but for all their posterity” (*Pulpit Commentary*).
- “A woman or wife cannot be regarded as a mere tool or worker, but as an equal partner in God’s grace and an equal human being” (David Guzik).

The woman was divinely prepared to be the man’s helper. Adam was not given to Eve; Eve was given to Adam to assist him in the business that God had for him in this world. The man is the head, and it is not the woman’s place to rule the man. Eve erred greatly when she made a decision that was not hers to make, as we see in Genesis 3.

Any time a woman usurps authority over the man, she is in error. Eve was terribly wrong when she usurped Adam’s authority and made an independent decision that was not her decision to make, and every daughter of Eve is wrong when she follows in Eve’s footsteps.

The woman was not made to have an independent existence apart from the man. The idea of an “independent woman” is humanism, not Bible.

The woman joins the man. The wife is to enter into, and surrenders to, her husband’s work and vision rather than have an independent work and vision.

(At least this is the biblical pattern and ideal. We know that sin has resulted in a great many situations that are anything but ideal. A woman of zeal and vision who has mistakenly married a man of no zeal and vision would be hard-pressed to surrender to his vision! We can't give an answer to every such situation that could be mentioned, but the Lord has promised wisdom to those who seek it, Proverbs 3:5-6; James 1:5.)

“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God. ... For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on *her* head because of the angels” (1 Co. 11:3, 7-10).

My wife is an example of this. God called her to be a missionary to Nepal while she was still single. It was a strong and clear call on her life, and she prepared for it by taking nurses training so that she could get into the country. When we met, she was within a few weeks of leaving for Nepal. When I wrote a year later and asked her to marry me, she surrendered herself to me and my call, whatever that would be. She suspected that God would call us back to Nepal, but she didn't know that for sure and she was willing to die to her vision. She has never put pressure on me or tried to manipulate me into going to Nepal. I'm sure she prayed much about it during the early period of our marriage, because I had no interest in going there, but she kept that between her and God. She has always been willing to follow me, whether that involved Nepal or whether it didn't. When we had to leave Nepal in 1989 because of a change in visa laws and lived in the States for the next 12 years, she didn't do anything to

try to get me to return. She was content to be my wife and the mother of our children and to wait on the Lord to lead me however He pleased.

The woman is designed by God for her role in life, and this design is evident in her physical, mental, and emotional makeup.

Genetically the woman is different from the man, beginning with a difference in chromosomes. Each human cell has 23 pairs of chromosomes, and one pair consists of sex-differentiating chromosomes. The woman has a pair of X chromosomes, while the man has a pair consisting of one X and one Y. Genes on the Y chromosome are “responsible for the cascade of developmental events that cause bodies and brains to take on male characteristics.” Researchers at the Weizmann Institute in Israel have found 6,500 genes that are expressed differently in men and women (*Daily Mail*, May 4, 2017). The genetic difference between a man and a woman is 15% greater than that between a man and another man. Dr. David Page, director of the Whitehead Institute, observes, “We aren’t unisex, and our bodies know this--every cell knows it at the molecular level.”

Physically the woman is very different from the man. The differences between men and women have been obvious to mankind throughout history. The most obvious is that the woman is marvelously *designed* to conceive and bear children. This includes a major difference in hormones, which are different from and more numerous than a man’s. Rabid unisex campaigners today are doing their best to belittle the differences between men and women. Speaking at the Armed Forces Full Honor Review Farewell Ceremony on January 3, 2017, President Barack Obama said, “Joe Biden and I know that women are at least as strong as men” (“Obama to Armed Forces,” *Breitbart*, Jan. 4, 2017). This nonsense is refuted by the fact that women cannot compete

head-to-head with men in most athletics. “As a group, women do not run, jump or swim as fast as men. ... The mean difference has been about 10 percent between men and women for all events. The mean gap is 10.7 percent for running, 8.9 percent for swimming and 17.5 percent for jumping” (“How Do Men and Women Differ Athletically?” Livestrong.com). Women are smaller in stature than men and have significantly less crushing strength in their hands. Women’s hearts are about 25% smaller than men’s. Women have about 30% less lung capacity, less oxygen-carrying capacity, about 50% less upper body strength, and about 30% less lower body strength than men. Women have less bone mass than men, having shorter and smaller bones. (See “Men vs Women Physiology,” www.wayoflife.org.)

Mentally the woman is different from the man. She is not intellectually inferior, but she is different. As man’s divinely-intended partner, she is intellectually his equal, but she thinks differently because she needs to think differently, and every man and every woman knows that she thinks differently! Scientific studies in the brain are finding major differences in processing, chemistry, structure, and activity. A report in *Stanford Medicine*, published by Stanford University, says, “But over the past 15 years or so, there’s been a sea change as new technologies have generated a growing pile of evidence that there are inherent differences in how men’s and women’s brains are wired and how they work” (Bruce Goldman, “Two Minds: The Cognitive Differences between Men and Women,” *Stanford Medicine*). In the *Journal of Neuroscience Research*, Dr. Larry Cahill observes, “The neuroscience literature shows that the human brain is a sex-typed organ with distinct anatomical differences in neural structures and accompanying physiological differences in function” (*Journal of Neuroscience*, Jan-Feb. 2017). A pioneer in this field is Diane Halpern, author of *Sex Differences in Cognitive Abilities*. She has found that women, on average, excel over

men in verbal ability, writing ability, reading comprehension, fine-motor coordination, perceptual speed, and retrieving information from long-term memory. Men, on average, are better at juggling items in working memory and have superior visuospatial skills. These are just a few examples. This has surprised modern scientists and psychologists who are steeped in humanistic feminism and expect the differences to be cultural and social rather than hardwired in the brain, but this is exactly what we would expect to find based on the Bible's teaching about the woman.

Emotionally, the woman is different from the man. Both men and women are emotional beings and experience the same range of emotions, but the woman relates to, is influenced by, and expresses her emotions differently. Literature and blogs are filled with discussions on the emotional differences between man and woman. A typical example is "6 Ways Men Deal with Emotions Way, Way, Way Differently Than Women" (YourTango.com). "Women retain stronger, more vivid memories of emotional events than men do. They recall emotional memories more" (Bruce Goldman, "Two Minds: The Cognitive Differences between Men and Women," *Stanford Medicine*). Science is learning a lot about the human brain, and it has been found that the neurons that express emotion are connected to different regions of the brain in men and women ("Emotions--Differences between Men and Women," HeathGuidance.org). "For women, these neurons connect to areas of the brain regulating internal areas of the body, thus focusing on aspects such as her hormones, blood pressure and respiration. On the other hand, these same neurons in men will connect to areas of the brain focused on the external areas, including vision and movement. This will cause a significant difference in the behaviour of a man and woman experiencing the same stressful situation."

An interesting example of the emotional difference between men and women (in general) pertains to Golda Meir, one of the prominent leaders of modern Israel. During the War of Independence, she was taken on a tour of Haifa right after a sharp battle in which Arabs and Jews had been killed. When confronted with an old Arab woman who had lost everything in the fighting, Golda and the Arab woman burst into tears. The Israeli commander was frustrated that she was crying at a time when the soldiers were happy that they had won the battle. Her biographer comments, "From a soldier's viewpoint, Golda's tears were silly, a betrayal after the relief of victory. For Golda, they were a spontaneous expression of compassion for a woman who had lost everything" (*Lioness: Gold Meir and the Nation Israel*).

Our purpose here is not to do an extensive study on the woman's makeup. The point is that God's design for the woman is reflected in every area of her being: physically, mentally, psychologically, and emotionally. This is a fact of creation. It is a reality.

"Man and woman are the two poles of the sphere of humanity, opposite and complementary, complementary because opposite. And the one pole implies the other. Legislate as much as you please, you cannot abolish the fact of the sexes. Constituently, elementally the same, man and woman are organized on different bases. Like the stars, they differ in their glory (1 Co. 15:41). Each has certain excellences which are peculiar to each, and distinctive of each. Man's excellences are virtues; woman's excellences are graces; and I suspect that, in the judgment of Him who seeth in secret, the graces are diviner than the virtues" (*Biblical Illustrator*).

God's people must understand and accept the fact that the woman is equal with the man by right of being made in God's image. The man and the woman are the apex of God's magnificent, unspeakably brilliant creation.

God's people must also recognize, appreciate, and honor the God-made differences between man and woman. The differences are real and God-designed and important.

- The woman should not try to be man-like.
- The man should not try to be woman-like.
- The woman should not try to feminize the man. She will be glad for a man to be a man and will support and encourage him in this.
- The differences are maintained by our individual submission to the roles God has given us, by our actions in marriage, even by the way we dress.
- In the unisex movement, modern society is in open rebellion to God's created order. The child of God must live as a pilgrim in a foreign land and follow the ways of his or her Saviour God and not the ways of the world.

The woman who will live life as God intends her to live it will find her redemption in Jesus Christ and then pursue God's will in the knowledge that she is carefully and particularly designed by an almighty, omniscient, compassionate, holy God for His eternal purposes.

“You can choose to believe that everything exists by pure accident and that nothing has a fixed purpose. If that's the case, then you are left to create your own definition of manhood and womanhood. On the other hand, if God created the universe as Genesis says He did and you believe it, then you find yourself called to embrace a breathtaking dignity and fixed meaning to your life and your womanhood. You are purposeful, designed, intentional, and God has put you here because He is out to achieve something in the gender He wrapped you in. The same is true for men” (“The Wonderful Differences Between Men and Women,” Mar. 17, 2012, Crosswalk.com).

Eve sinned against God (Genesis 3)

Eve believed the devil's lie and sinned against God.

The Woman's Part in the Fall

Eve *should* have said, "I have the fullest confidence in God's goodness, and therefore I deem it impossible that He could withhold any real good from me. If that fruit were good for me, I should surely have it; but the fact of its being forbidden by God proves that I would be no better, but much worse off by the eating of it. I am convinced of God's love, and I am convinced of God's truth, and I believe, too, that you are an evil one come to draw my heart away from the fountain of goodness and truth. Get thee behind me, Satan" (C.H. Mackintosh).

Instead, Eve made several serious errors:

First, she usurped her husband's authority. She made a decision that her husband should have made.

God had given the commandment to Adam before Eve was created (Ge. 2:15-17), and any decision in that regard was Adam's decision to make. Eve was not created to be the leader, and her feminine nature allowed her to be more easily deceived by the devil. The Bible is very clear on this. See 1 Ti. 2:12-14; 2 Co. 11:3. The woman is called "the weaker vessel" (1 Pe. 3:7). This is why she was the devil's target.

The woman is to obey her husband except when the husband's law contradicts God's law. Compare Acts 5:27-29. If the husband commands the woman to disobey God's Word and commit sin, she must obey the higher authority. If a man commands his wife to participate in "wife swapping" or to get drunk and gamble with him or to dress immodestly or worship idols, or if he forbids her to read her Bible and attend

church, she must do everything possible to obey her higher Head, who is Almighty God.

Eve's second error was that she dialogued with the devil and entertained his statements. The Bible warns that "evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Co. 15:33). The believer must be careful about whom he associates with. The mind is the battleground, and if we allow ourselves to entertain wrong thoughts in order to learn from error, we will sin.

This shows the importance of what we meditate upon, what we read, what we watch, what music we listen to, with whom we converse, whom we befriend, what schools we attend, etc. Many young people that have grown up in church have become spiritually ruined by attending secular schools where their faith has been attacked day after day. Many women have been led astray by listening to the wrong people or reading or watching the wrong things. Once, after a woman heard me preach about the danger of wrong communications, she admitted to her pastor that she loved to listen to Pentecostal preachers and she asked if she could continue to do so. Women have been wrongly influenced by listening to Pentecostals, evangelicals (e.g., Beth Moore), psychologists, New Age dietitians, and friends and relatives on social media.

There are two ways to hear and read. One is non-critically, and the other is critically. We should always hear and read critically in the sense that we are carefully testing what we hear by God's Word and rejecting those things that are wrong (Ps. 119:128; Ac. 17:11; 1 Th. 5:17). We must not be like the simple person who believes every word (Pr. 14:15). The believer must not walk in the counsel of the ungodly (Ps. 1:1). If a woman hears or is confronted with heresies such as feminism, humanism, evolution, self-esteemism, charismaticism, new evangelicalism, pop psychology, contemplative prayer, etc., she must not accept it but rather

should aggressively refute it with the truth. This means she must be a student of the truth and must be educated in those things that will protect her.

Eve's third error was that she distanced herself from God in her heart. Throughout Genesis 2:4-25 and 3:8-14, God is referred to as *Jehovah Elohim*, which refers to God's compassionate redemptive character. The name *Jehovah* reminds us of God's gracious, faithful character as the covenant-keeping God. He was not only the man and woman's Creator God; He was their kind Friend. The devil didn't want Eve to think about this, and Eve foolishly obliged. In Eve's dialogue with Satan, she refers to God merely as *Elohim*, which is an impersonal name for God. It appears that she was thinking of God as somewhat distant and unknowable and uncaring. When the church at Ephesus left their first love of Jesus, they were in great spiritual danger (Re. 2:4).

Fourth, Eve was careless about how she handled God's Word. Compare Genesis 2:16-17 with Genesis 3:2-3. Though Satan was full of wisdom before his fall (Eze. 28:12), Eve could have had victory over him if she had simply stood on God's Word. "All the craft and cunning of the evil one would have availed him nothing had Eve simply responded to every suggestion with the simple statement, "Thus saith the Lord" (John Phillips).

Consider the errors that Eve made in regard to God's Word:

Eve *omitted from* God's Word (Ge. 3:2). She omitted the word "freely," which is an important word that should have reminded Adam and Eve that God had graciously supplied all things for their sustenance and pleasure and that they had not been required to pay anything in return.

Eve *added* to God's Word (Ge. 3:3). She added "neither shall ye touch it," which God did not say. By this addition, Eve

made God's commandment appear to be unreasonable. It was as if she were saying, "Why, He won't even allow us to touch it!" See the warning in Proverbs 30:5-6.

Eve substituted God's Words for her words (Ge. 3:3). Instead of plainly naming the tree as God had done, she referred to it as "the tree which is in the midst of the garden." This was the first paraphrase or dynamic equivalency! By this mechanism, she erased the fearful and sobering thought that the tree was associated with evil.

Eve weakened and softened God's Word (Ge. 3:3). Eve's "lest ye die" was much softer and less dogmatic than "thou shalt surely die" (Ge. 2:17). And by omitting "in the day that thou eatest thereof" she softened the finality and immediacy of God's judgment (Ge. 2:17).

Consider some examples of how this type of thing occurs today:

- Eve's policy is imitated by modern Bible version translators who take away from, add to, and weaken God's Word. For example, the critical Greek New Testament from which the modern versions are translated is shorter than the Reformation Greek New Testament by 2,886 words, which is equivalent to the omission of the entire books of 1 and 2 Peter. The critical New Testament omits or questions 45 entire verses -- Mt. 12:47; 17:21; 18:11; 21:44; 23:14; Mk. 7:16; 9:44; 9:46; 11:26; 15:28; 16:9-20; Luke 17:36; 22:43-44; 23:17; Joh. 5:4; 7:53--8:11; Acts 8:37; 15:34; 24:7; 28:29; Ro. 16:24; and 1 Jo. 5:7. In addition it omits significant portions of 147 other verses. The Today's English Version weakens God's Word by replacing "blood" with "death" in many key passages.

- Eve's policy is imitated by many Christians who are careless about how they read and quote God's Word. I recall how impressed I was when I met the Christian man that led me to Christ. The thing that impressed me the most was his knowledge of the Bible. He refuted my unscriptural thinking by quoting the

Scripture, and he could show me the exact reference each time. Most Christians I had known until then did not know the Bible well and could not quote it accurately and apply it effectively to life's situations.

- Eve's policy is imitated by compromising preachers, who handle God's Word carelessly and weaken it in order to tickle the ears of rebels (2 Ti. 4:3-4).

- Modern evangelicalism has weakened the power of God's Word by downplaying doctrines such as judgment and hell and separation.

Eve's fifth error was that she made the decision based on her own thinking rather than by God's Word (Ge. 3:6). Compare Proverbs 3:5-6. We need to follow the wise example of the Bereans and test everything by the Scriptures (Acts 17:11). Too many Christians are like Eve and make their decisions based on their own thinking or the thinking of society. If decisions such as job, friends, marriage, child training, finances, clothes, music, or entertainment, are not made on the basis of God's Word, we will doubtless make the wrong decisions.

Eve's sixth error was that she followed the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (Ge. 3:6). "She looked, as Lot did on the well-watered plain; as Esau did on the mess of pottage; as Achan did on the bar of gold; as David did on Bathsheba. The woman's was the first look of its kind, and a ruinous look it has ever been" (Scroggie).

Compare 1 John 2:15-17, which describes the same three areas of temptation that Satan uses today. We must look beyond this short life to that which is to come. "The world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Jesus faced the same three temptations and overcame them (Luke 4).

- The lust of the flesh (“command this stone that it be made bread” Lu. 4:3)
- The lust of the eyes (“shewed unto him all of the kingdoms of the world” Lu. 4:5)
- The pride of life (“cast thyself down ... and his angels ... shall bear thee up” Lu. 4:9-11)

Adam’s Complicity in the Fall

Adam was there with Eve (Ge. 3:6). But there is no record that he tried to help her or stop her.

Adam was not deceived (1 Ti. 2:14), but he ate the fruit offered by his wife.

As the head of the race, Adam was held responsible by God. When God approached the couple after the fall, He addressed Adam first (Ge. 3:8-9). And it is *in Adam* that the human race was plunged into sin and condemnation (Ro. 5:12).

We see Eve’s great influence on Adam. He should have resisted his wife’s wrong influence, but the fact remains that a wife has influence. She can encourage and influence her husband and family to obey God, or she use her influence in the opposite way. Many wives are like Eve and they pressure the husbands not to be strict in obedience to God’s Word, not to separate from the world, not to discipline the children according to the Bible, etc. Many pastors’ wives have undermined, even destroyed, their husband’s ministry by having an unspiritual, worldly influence. The wife must understand that she has a real influence and must be very careful in how she uses it. “Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands” (Proverbs 14:1).

Many Christian husbands are like Adam. They don’t lead their families; they don’t oversee their families; they let the

wives make the decisions; they don't help their wives; they don't instruct and build up their wives; and they don't correct their wives. They don't care enough about the discipline and training of the children. They leave all such things in the hands of the wife, and it is a great, great sin. It harms women; it harms children; it harms churches; it harms society. The effects of weak male leadership are felt from generation to generation.

Every husband and father who refuses to take the spiritual leadership of his home will answer to God, and it will not be a light matter.

The Consequences of the Fall

Everything the woman is and does is tainted by her fallen condition. Nothing is pure like it was before the fall. Her thoughts are fallen; her emotions are fallen. The fall is the cause of all of the troubles of life. The effects of the fall are seen in sickness and death (Re. 20:10-15).

The woman died spiritually (Ge. 2:16-17; Eph. 2:1). This refers to separation of her spirit from God. Man is born in this condition and unless he is born again, he will die in this condition and experience the second death which is eternal judgment in the lake of fire.

The woman's heart became corrupted (Ge. 3:6-7). There was an immediate change in the heart and mind of the man and woman. Their conscience was corrupted. They experienced guilt and fear. Their thoughts were no longer pure and true. Sinful thoughts flooded in.

Jeremiah 17:9

This verse contains a summary of the condition of man's fallen heart. Consider some lessons: