

“First Family” Genesis 1:26-28; 2:24-25

WHY THIS SERIES?

CREATION OF MANKIND—DIFFERENT THAN ALL THE REST

1. God created man distinct from the rest of Creation—with unique privileges & responsibilities.

- God created man directly and personally. v.26
- God revealed himself as plurality to no other creature. “Let us...”
- God created man in his image and likeness. v.26
- Adam was given authority to rule. v.26b “Let them have dominion”
- Adam was given moral responsibility. v.28 (no other creature given freedom & responsibility)
- The text emphasizes man’s creation by God (not evolution). v.27 (3 X’s: “God created him”)
- The capstone summary of man’s creation: “And behold, it was very good.”

2. God created man perfectly whole and holy. (without brokenness and without sin)

- Note God’s intentional order:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Day 1: Light, day & night | Day 4: Sun, moon & stars |
| Day 2: Water and sky | Day 5: Fish and fowl |
| Day 3: Land and vegetation | Day 6: Animals, livestock & man |
- Same idea for mankind: we had a job/vocation (1:26-28; 2:15), food (v.29), and a secure future (v.28-30).

3. God created man to relate and to rule.

- Adam joined God in worshiping him (PRIEST). He enjoyed Sabbath together with God. 2:1-3
- Adam joined God in ruling over creation (KING). He was to cultivate and care for creation. 1:26-28; 2:15
- Adam joined God in speaking over the creation (PROPHET). He had freedom to name creation. 2:19; 3:20

MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM

1. God made two sexes at creation. 1:26-27

2. God created two sexes to reveal his image. 1:27

- Male and female he created them.

→ Not 2 creation accounts; Gen. 2 is a more detailed and expanded account of Day 6 from chapter 1.

- Man’s creation as male and female reflect the image of God. Like a mirror.

3. God made the two sexes as distinct and different from one another. 1:27; 2:18

- God intentionally made the woman to complement the man. See 2:18.

→ Not to complete the man and not to compete with the man.

FIRST FAMILY

1. God created two sexes—male and female—to join together to make a family. 2:24

- Marriage is a God-given cultural mandate. “Therefore a man shall...” (Affirmed many X’s in OT and NT)
- Leave... hold fast... become one. → ‘leave, cleave, and weave’
- God created marriage before the Fall into sin (in Genesis 3).

2. God created marriage to be a lifelong, monogamous covenantal union between one man & one woman.

- Only 2 biblical reasons for divorce: adultery & abandonment.

3. Marriage between man and woman is intended to reflect the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:22-33

→ No human government has the authority to change marriage into something contrary to what God established.

4. God demonstrated a natural order in creating two distinct sexes: male and female.

- “To introduce gender as a new category of personhood, separate from the biological category of sex, in pursuit of a different sexual identity, is unnatural to the creation order, and harmful to the purpose for which God made us.”¹
- When this natural order is abandoned or distorted, chaos ensues. Rom 1:26-27: For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

¹ *The New Reformation Catechism on Human Sexuality*, by Rev. Christopher J. Gordon. Q & A #6