



IMAGO DEI

Male and Female--God's Crown of Creation

For the week of September 21, 2025.

Life

Describe your idea of a “perfect day.” What would a day in paradise look like for you? Name the one person you would most like to join you on your special day. Why?

There’s an old book called: Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus. What do you find most perplexing or baffling about the so-called “opposite sex?”

Theology

In Genesis Chapter One we are told that God creates the heavens and the earth. He then creates man and woman in his own image as the very crown and pinnacle of creation (Gen. 1:27). In Chapter 2 the story of creation is repeated, but in a more detailed depiction, and particularly in regard to the creation of the human man and woman. Read Gen. 2:18-25. What is your personal response to this passage? What strikes you or impresses you the most?

In your opinion, why do you think God says, “**It is not good for the man to be alone**” in Gen. 2:18? Why not? What does this reveal to you about the nature of humanity, and God’s will and purpose for us?

God creates “a helper suitable for the man.” This is sometimes perceived as a derogatory or demeaning description of a woman – especially in the 21st century. But this is not the case at all according to the Hebrew definition of this word (cf. Psalm 121:1-2; 115:9-11; Hos. 13:9). How would you paraphrase the word, “helper,” in a way that better captures the original Hebrew meaning?

What do you find most meaningful or significant about the fact that God creates the woman from the man’s rib in Gen. 2:21-22?

We moderns tend to call each other “the opposite sex.” But according to Genesis, we are not so much “opposites,” as we are “counterparts.” The whole point of the narrative is our similarity, not our differences. Why do you think this is so essential when it comes to honoring and revering the image of God in one another?

Does this passage teach that it is only through “male and female together” that the image of God is most fully and properly displayed? And, if so, what does this say about single men and women? Are they an “incomplete” image of God? Why or why not?



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In Practice

There is an old traditional Jewish “blessing” which the man of the house would pray every morning: **“Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for not making me a Gentile, a slave, or a woman.”**

...Obviously, this runs counter to the God-given revelation we find in Genesis 1 and 2! But it's a very real reflection of the pervading culture of the ancient past, and, sometimes, of the contemporary present as well. Take some time in prayer to honestly reflect on the following exercise:

How would you fill in the blanks of a prayer that goes like this: “Lord, I thank you for not making me a _____, a _____, or a _____.”

What does this exercise reveal to you about those whom you often fail or refuse to recognize as people created in the image of God?

In Galatians, Paul writes: “So in Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26-28). This week, prayerfully seek to live out this passage in every encounter you have – even with those who dramatically differ from you. Next week share the results of this experience with your Life Group.