

WOMEN: Is God's word -- SEXIST?

Part 1 of 2



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I think, if truth be known, many people – men and women alike, in their heart of hearts conclude the Bible can be sexist as it seems to definitely favor men. It minimizes women, they'd say, and puts women in a secondary role – so therefore it has to be sexist. And if anyone thinks that, in the end you're also therefore saying – since the Bible is God's word – that GOD also favors men and is sexist. Let's look into that today.

Hello everyone, I'm Philip Shields, and welcome to Light on the Rock.

When I was a little boy, society definitely had women doing certain things and most were stay-at-home moms – but then in the past 40-50 years, we see women executives and women doing all types of jobs even those once reserved for men – fighter pilots, mechanics, or even running for President.

It's easy to see why some feel the Bible is more geared to men than women:

- **the writers of the books of the Bible are probably all male**
- **All 12 apostles Yeshua (Jesus) picked were men**, though he did have a lot of women followers as well. The names on the gates and foundations of the heavenly Jerusalem are all male names – the 12 sons of Israel (but not Dinah their sister), + 12 apostles on the foundation stones. But no women's names.
- **All the main, big name prophets were men. We know of female prophetesses** like Miriam, Huldah, Deborah, Anna and Philip's 7 daughters, but other than the song of Deborah little is told us about what they said or prophesied. I could go on and on... but you get the point, and surely you understand what I'm getting at.

Let me say from the outset: from the perspective and viewpoint of this present world ruled by Satan (2 Cor. 4:4), the conclusion absolutely will be – according to this world – that God and his word are sexist. I'M not saying that or agreeing

with that –but based on this *world’s* standards, they’d say the Bible is sexist. It favors men, they’d say, and it puts women in a 2nd-rate role compared to men, they’d say.

So, is God sexist? Is God fair? Do women have the same standing before God as men? Ladies, and men too, how do you feel about it in your heart? And how is the way you truly feel about God and his word affecting you spiritually and affecting your spiritual growth?

Bottom line is this: whose kingdom are you seeking to be a part of? Satan’s – or God’s kingdom? Satan’s standards – or God’s? On this and every other point of life you will have to decide where you stand.

But when we really understand what God actually WANTS in his word for men and women, you’ll see *that too many believers have listened too much to Satan’s propaganda to diminish our great God and make you unhappy with His Word.*

NO PARTIALITY with God

Scripture clearly states there is no partiality or favoritism going on with God. He does not play favorites – whether Jew or Gentile, and by extension, not with male or female either. *We either have to believe that or we can’t believe anything in God’s word.* We have to believe every word of God – or we start questioning everything.

Acts 10:34 – Peter says “...for I perceive there is NO partiality with God.”

Romans 2:11 – “For there is NO partiality with God.”

We either believe God is impartial and doesn’t favor some over others—or we might as well give up! Let’s read another one from Paul to the mixed church in Galatia (Turkey), made up of men and women, Jew and Gentile. Paul teaches that Once we’re baptized into Christ’s body, it doesn’t matter if we are male or female.

Galatians 3:26-29

“For you are ALL sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were *baptized into Christ* have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, ***there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*** 29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

So in God’s eyes, whether we are male or female, we’re all the same in God’s eyes. We are all covered by Christ (“you have put on Christ”- v 27). We’re ONE body. There’s no competition going on between Jews and Gentiles or men and women!

And if you’re a believer who is married to an unbeliever, whether your spouse is male or female, YOUR sanctification with God also sanctifies your unbelieving husband or wife. (1 Cor. 7:14). In other words, the unbelieving wife is just as valuable to God as the unbelieving husband. Now chew on that thought a while!

GOD WANTS WOMEN IN HIS FAMILY

Peter says that husbands and wives are “*heirs together* in the grace of life.”

1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving HONOR to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as **being heirs together of the grace of life**, that your prayers may not be hindered.

You see men and women alike are heirs *together*. Paul takes great effort to emphasize the notion of equality between all believers - and that we’re together in this quest to be children of God.

In Gal 3:26 the Bible uses the word “sons”, *but apparently that was just a generic term they often used back then where we would today say “children”*. Remember that men wrote the Bible under inspiration – but used language from their culture at that time or they would have been out of synch. And true, it was a male-dominated culture so the writers of scriptures spoke of “sons” and “brethren” (brothers) and “men” – even when addressing entire groups which often included women and children. *In practice, the women among the early believers were given respect, as you’ll see in part 2.*

We’re being called *out* of this world, and God wants us to be clean, holy, different and separate. Remember the Hebrew words used by Jews for “holy” is “*qadosh*” or “*qodesh*” – meaning “sanctified, holy, sacred or set apart”. *And God clearly wants more than just holy sons as we’re about to read.*

God wants His family to become more and more like him by his own indwelling presence inside us – and less and less like this present evil world. God is unique, different; entirely set apart from what is common or profane. He wants us identifying with HIM and His way, HIS kingdom – NOT keep harking back to this present world’s thoughts and ways.

2 Corinthians 6:16

“And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. **As God has said:**

“I will dwell IN them

And walk among them.

I will be their God,

And they shall be My people.”

We’ve come out of Satan’s world and accept God’s call to HIS kingdom of God.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

Therefore,

"Come OUT from among them (Compare Rev. 18:4)

And be SEPARATE, says the Lord.

Do not touch what is unclean,

And I will receive you."

18 'I will be a Father to you,

And you shall be My sons and DAUGHTERS,"

Says the Lord Almighty."

SO is GOD sexist when we look at things from His Kingdom’s point of view?

NO. In fact, in the Judgment and when God hands out rewards and positions in his kingdom – I think a lot of us, and a lot of men will be surprised how many WOMEN get top rewards and positions.

You see in the kingdom there will be no male and female but we’ll all be CHILDREN of God, and those closest to Christ will all be the Bride of Christ – whether we are male or female in this world now. Are you getting this? And if you are male or female and part of the Bride of Christ, all who are the Bride will be in “the female” role – when understood that the Bride of Christ is the “female”.

God has laid out functions for men and functions for women that we’ll hear more about in this 2 part video sermon. Those who obey God’s call and fulfill those assigned functions of men or women will be rewarded greatly in His kingdom, even though it may look, feel and SEEM like right now we’re not going as far as men and women of the world in this life as we comport ourselves to GOD’S will for us instead.

For example, you may be a wife and mom with 4 kids, so you work from home, or work hard to be the best mom possible for those 4 kids instead of pawning them off to day care centers or leave them as latch-key kids. *You’re there for your kids and husband. You’re like a Proverbs 31 wife. You may at times succumb though to feeling sad (if listening to Satan’s broadcasts about women’s true destiny) that you didn’t become a great career woman who is a lawyer, or CFO or some other high paying career woman –but you will be rewarded for forever and ever when the Christ returns for raising, teaching, guiding your children and home and being the kind of wife to your husband, as described in the Bible.*

So I hope this sermon and my next one will help us all realize that what is **IMPORTANT is to really, fully get on God’s side.** We must all come out of this evil Babylon world ruled by Satan, the god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4) and quit

buying in to the thinking put out by this world – including all his propaganda about being a powerful woman.

What do I mean? Satan fills his world with anti-God messages like--

- Telling us that God is unfair to women by telling them they need to submit to their own husbands—as they would to Christ himself! (Col. 3:18-19; Ephesians 5:22-24). Men – LOVE your wives. So Satan screams out through his media – “God isn’t fair to women. He favors men”
- That “leaders God uses are usually men. That’s unfair to women” – Satan screams out.

MY point is that we need to decide whose side we’re on and whom we believe, to whom we want to listen – Satan – or God? YOU and I have been called OUT of this present evil world of Satan’s kingdom.

Whose way and kingdom are we going to be a part of? Satan’s – or God’s? We have to decide. If we are “Submitting” to what God says to us – but not with our whole heart – what good is it? God looks upon our HEARTS. How we are really feeling about what God requires of us?

(And you’ll see in part 2 that God requires a LOT from men too!)

Frankly our lives are meaningless unless and until every person being called out by God – is willing to live out his/her role and function as GOD DIRECTS, as God wills, regardless if our spouse or associates do or not. (Read it again).

3 questions to answer God’s View of Men and Women

I want to answer this accusation of God being sexist by 3 questions we will answer in this and the next video. Part 1 will handle point 1; Part 2 we’ll handle the other 2 points.

1. What was Almighty God’s ***original intent*** for females and wives – as well as the men? We’ll especially look at Genesis 1-3.
2. What do other scriptures actually SAY to us about women and men and our functions and roles -- and our spiritual future?
3. **Since Yeshua is our example** in all things (1 Cor. 11:1), I’ll take parts of my sermon on “How Jesus treated women” and show HIS example in the next video. He shows us a great pattern.

Point 1 -- GOD’S ORIGINAL INTENTION FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Let’s start by just reading the scriptures about God’s original intention for men and women. Genesis 1 gives an overview ending with Gen 2:1-4 about the Sabbath. Then the rest of Genesis 2 adds in the details about the creation of the first man and woman. Let’s start in Genesis 1 and the first 6 days of creation.

Day 5 – God created the sea and water life and bird life. (Gen 1:20-23).

Day 6 -- God started Day 6 by speaking mammals, animals, bugs and crawlers and land life -- all came out of the ground (Gen 1:24-25) on the Word’s command. Everything created was done technically by both God the Father and the Word (Yeshua) –as Eph 3:9 says – but actually done by the Word (John 1:1-3)

But then later on Day 6, after the animals were created, God created the man and then the woman. Let’s look at God’s intentions.

First understand there **are 2 almost identical words in Hebrew #120 and #121 in Strong’s – both look like “Adam”**. But one word #120 means “man, mankind, humankind, and person” and how you would translate it would depend on the context.

The other word #“121” – is the ***name*** given to the first man – “Adam”, related also to the word for “ground, dirt” – *adamah*. It has a picture of “red dirt”, or it can refer to “rosy, reddish”, pointing to the dirt from which the man was created.

Genesis 1:26

Then God (Elohim – plural) said, "**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let *THEM* have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

*The word for “man” in verse 26 is translated in some translations as “humankind (CJB), mankind (NIV), humans, persons” because it CAN be translated that way and the context shows Elohim is referring to both humans he’s about to create. So I’d agree in Verse 26 – I like better “**Let us make HUMANS in our image...**”*

And notice God’s original intention was that **together they would rule the earth**. Or as Peter says in 1 Peter 3:7, they were to be “heirs together of the grace of life. And Genesis 1:26 says “Let THEM have dominion ...” BOTH were to work together.

Let’s continue for now in verses 27-28, this time I’ll use the NIV:

Genesis 1:27 NIV

So God created **mankind** in His own image; in the image of God He created them; **male and female** He created them.”

First notice that God created them as definite sex genders -- male and female. Do NOT buy in to the notion we’re hearing that we can decide our own sex gender or that genders are irrelevant. God is the Creator of male and female.

So both the man and the woman are created in the **image** of God. It is my belief that “image” declares our ultimate purpose, what we are **supposed to BE like**. “**Likeness**” refers to what we are supposed to LOOK like. This is crucial.

God apparently intends men and women to both, equally, BE like Him, to have his attributes, to be a part of his divine family and both are to be in his likeness, to LOOK like him. God as a spirit being is neither male nor female but depicted as masculine. He is CREATOR, above both the concept of “male” or “female” though he appears to us as more male than female.

Women are as much in God’s image and likeness as men are. Please get that, all of you. It is NOT Biblical to say “Men are more like God than women are.” Spiritually there no male, no female (Gal. 2:28).

We refer to YHVH or Elohim (God) as “Father” but he – and the angels – do not have the defining sex organs that make humans either male or female. ***I think God shared his properties – what he’s like, the masculine and the feminine – equally between the man and woman.*** Most people – since he is “Father” – see him as the masculine more, but God made BOTH male and female in his overall image and likeness; not just the males.

The fact is both the man and woman are created in God’s image and likeness -- equally! NO other creature is created in God’s image or likeness. Period.

Genesis 1:28 NKJV

Then God (Elohim) **blessed them**, and God **said to them**, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Notice also – Elohim made one man, one woman. That’s what God intended marriage to be. God did not create Adam and Steve. Nor did he create Adam with a bunch of wives. One man, one woman.

From the beginning, God intended one man and one woman to come together and stay together for life. He never intended **DIVORCE**. Yeshua says “From the beginning, it was not so” – they were intended to stay together (Matthew 19:7-9), working out their difficulties.

Divorce – and remarriage – is RAMPANT today, even in God’s church. There ARE good reasons for divorce at times, but surely we’ve gone way overboard. Yes, I know God also divorced Israel as well – but only after thousands of offenses and infidelity by Israel – not just one or two bad cases.

So even God – because of our human weaknesses and sins – had family issues and marital issues. He cast out his “children” from the garden. He divorced Israel.

So what do we have so far?

- Both male and female humans are created in the image and likeness of God.
- BOTH of them were to rule the earth together and have dominion over creation.

NOW GENESIS 2, Adam CREATED 1st; God’s gift to Adam

We’re still on point 1 – Elohim’s original intentions. Genesis 2 peels back the curtain and gives more details now. Genesis 1 gives the high-overview of the 7 days of creation, thru Genesis 2:1-3. Then starting Gen 2:4, God goes back and fills in the details of what happened when he started making humans.

We find in Genesis 2 that Adam was created from the ground, outside the Garden of Eden initially. YHVH blew into his nostrils and he became a living being. See Genesis 2:7-8

Genesis 2:7-8

“And YHVH Elohim formed man (*adam* #120) of the dust of the ground (*adamah*), and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

8 YHVH Elohim (LORD God) planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.”

The YHVH in this case is the One who became Yeshua because God the Father created all things THROUGH Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:9; John 1:1-3, etc.), who did the actual creating. All things, including Adam were made by him.

I gave a **3-part sermon series in Dec 2018** (“YHVH—is YHVH just the **Father, or the Word, or Both?**) showing that “YHVH” can absolutely apply to God the Father (as in Psalm 110:1) and YHVH can absolutely apply to Christ at

times too – for no human has seen God the Father but many have seen the YHVH who appeared to Abraham and many others. All the points that prove this, are in that 3 part series. So the YHVH of Gen 2 and 3 was the One we know who came as Jesus Christ, the Word of God who was made flesh (John 1:14).

Instructions were given to Adam before Eve’s creation

Continue reading in Genesis 2 and you see that man – Adam – is alone. HE is given the instruction not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:15-17). Eve has not been created yet. She does not hear those prohibitions from GOD – but Adam explains it to her later. This is important.

The man Adam was created first and HE passed on God’s instructions to his wife, who was created from his SIDE, as a part of HIM, a part of HIS body. She was not created separately from the ground as Adam was. All of this is very important, and we’ll develop it as we continue the next video.

Helper, “ezer”

God says Adam needs a helper (“ezer”) and companion (Genesis 2:15-17). The Hebrew word for “help meet” or “helper” is the very same as the word used to describe GOD as OUR helper! **Ezer. The name “Eliezer”, for example, means “My God is my help”.**

So if GOD is OUR help, then Eve being Adam’s help is being just like God is to us – our helper! Woman in no way is being demeaned by God to call her Adam’s “help”.

ELIEZER – “My God a help” or “My God is my helper”

Psalm 54:4a – “Behold, God is my helper....”

Adam goes on to name the animals in the garden. Adam no doubt felt a bit lonely after naming all the animals and seeing how they had more than themselves; they had mates.

God gave Adam a wonderful blessing: someone like him – but different, and beautiful to give him company and help with everything – and from his side, from Adam’s body YHVH built a woman (Gen 2:21-22).

(By the way, for a different time, that’s what God the Father is doing with the Bride of Christ too – built from his body, his blood, his side...more on that later). So from the one body he made a wife.

Adam was to love her, teach her what Yehovah had told him about the boundaries of what they could and could not do, and protect her. He was to guard the garden – and his new wife. Adam was being set up by God to be the leader of this 2-human team. They were to work and live together as one, but with Adam being the head of that family.

So we have to get this from our Maker’s viewpoint, and what I say is completely backed by so many scriptures. Let’s read the scriptures first and then go on.... But I hope we will read God’s word and accept it without concluding Paul or God or Peter are being misogynistic (anti-woman)!

1 Corinthians 11:3

“But I want you to know that **the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.**”

The Greek here for man (“andros”) and woman (“gune”) can be translated either as “man/woman” or “husband/wife”. I think the second part of the verse is probably better to read “the head of the WIFE is her husband”—as many other scriptures say.

It’s not saying all women have to submit to all men.

So CJB v. 3 – “...and the head of a wife is her husband...”

NCV – makes the note “Man can also refer to her husband.”

Man was created FIRST, before Eve, to LEAD and guide the woman and be the head of that household. Scripture is clear about this. No apologies for that. Husbands are not to lord it over, *not* to be a rough dictator, NOT a bully, not to be unkind or ever mean and abusive -- **but to BE LIKE Christ IS to his Church, His body. HIS example is that he gave himself for her, serves her, and loves her.** We’ll cover that very well next time – including how Christ actually **serves as our model** both for men AND women, and I’ll show you how he is the model for both in my next sermon, part 2.

1 Timothy 2:12-14

“And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 **For Adam was formed first, then Eve.** 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

Many of you women and wives are challenged by having a husband who is not a believer. And some of you men have non-believing wives. Well, remember, because of YOU who do have God’s spirit, YOUR non-believing spouse is also HOLY – as you can read for yourself in 1 Corinthians 7:13-15.

Much more on this part and much more in the next video. But Jesus said, **those in leadership are not to LORD IT OVER** others, but to SERVE them. (Matthew 20:25-28). Peter says we men are HONOR our wives. Much, much more on all this next time....it’s not just barking orders. Not at all. We are to love, protect, cherish, serve and honor our dear wives – as co-heirs of the grace of life.

Women are not to be the heads of their family. NO. Men are called to be the head and leader. Men, *take* the mantle and lead lovingly. Men, when in charge, take charge. But of course, get advice from your wife, and be kind. Women, take your mantle and *encourage your husband to lead*.

If you’re single, that’s fine too. Yeshua was single too and he was fine. DON’T buy in to the lies that he secretly married and had sex with Mary Magdalene. A total falsehood! Anyway, Adam needed a mate in order to populate the earth and start the human family.

We MEN are ALSO in submission role, by the way! First of all, several scriptures say we ALL are to be submissive to one another (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:4). There are times we men should bite our tongue and submit to what our wives need and want. And--We have a boss at work – who might even be female. We have our head – Christ – as well. How well do we submit to all the things he makes you and I go through?

But in the marriage, scripture is consistent from beginning to end, God intends the man, the husband, to lovingly lead – as CHRIST DOES his church. (Col. 3:18-19; Ephesians 5:21-30; 1 Peter 3:1-7) and for women to willingly submit themselves to their own husbands and to respect him as they would Jesus Christ himself.

More on all that in part 2 when we will also look at Yeshua’s example of how HE interacted with women.

Notice here that Christ is the perfect model for men AND women.

- First He is the head of the church and so he is the MODEL for MEN on how to lead. How? In love for his wife; giving of himself for her; and listening to her (our prayers), often answering in the affirmative.
- **He is also the model for us all, including men and women, on how to SUBMIT** – because he said over and over that He was not here to do his own will but the will of the Father and to speak his words, do HIS work.

So as we submit either to our boss at work, or to our husband, or ALL of us, to our head Jesus Christ – Do you see how he’s the perfect model both for LEADERSHIP as well as for SUBMISSION? And he UNDERSTANDS both positions: of leading, but also of not having his own will but doing what God the Father says. Had you seen that about Yeshua before that he exemplifies both roles?

So ladies, Christ knows what it means to submit. Submitting is HARD. Letting someone else LEAD, is hard for some, even we men find it hard sometimes to really submit to our own leaders – at work, in church, etc. More in part 2.

SO God’s original intention was that they were to act as ONE....so Eve came out of the one body of Adam. EVE was not created separately in the dirt beside Adam. Ponder that. She was part of her man and was supposed to understand God made him first to show he was to be the leader.

Adam did NOT lead properly. While Eve was talking to the serpent and being deceived, Adam was right there with her (Genesis 3:6), SAW THRU IT ALL --BUT did nothing!

Failure of leadership! So the first sinner was actually Adam. The correction from God after the sin – was much harsher on Adam (Genesis 3:17-19). So men, there are times to stand up, stand firm and LEAD your family. Speak up when you should speak up. LEAD – gently but firmly. BE the godly leader you’re called to be!

So what were God’s stated original intentions for man and woman – especially married men and women?

- BOTH man and woman are created in the image and likeness of God. Equally so.
- BOTH were to work together; rule the world together (Genesis 1:26-28) capitalizing on each one’s strengths with mutual respect.
- The appointed leader was to be the man (1 Cor. 11:3). He is to lead kindly, righteously and as a team with his wife, soliciting and listening to her view and opinions with deep respect and honor.
- It’s a super test when we have an unbelieving spouse, but if he/she is pleased to continue in the marriage, we are not to divorce. (1 Cor. 7:13-16)

So is God sexist? You might think so IF you listen to Satan’s world and his propaganda.

But we are called OUT of this world, and to listen to OUR God, and the ways and thoughts of His Kingdom. DON’T let the world influence your thinking.

So whether the world feels the Bible is sexist or not, is *irrelevant*. We are children of GOD being called to live our lives according to HIS *Kingdom’s* WAY, according to *God’s* mind and ideals. Men and women need each other, and frankly *ALL of us are to learn to submit and serve ONE ANOTHER* in love and humility. My time’s up but I’ll develop this much further in part 2.

I think you’ll enjoy the next video very much. Be sure to tell others and to hear the next one. We’ll go into more scriptures about our roles – and how Yeshua treated women. His example was awesome, truly awesome.

CLOSING PRAYER