

What is a Woman? Eve: The Original Pattern of Motherhood

On this Mother's Day, I think it would be appropriate for us to consider the question, "What is a woman?" That is a question that many in our culture, including at least one supreme court nominee, want to avoid answering. Many people today seem to be very confused as to the answer to that question. That question has become symbolic of the corrupt and depraved culture in which we live. Up until just a few years ago, almost anyone could easily define what a woman is. Now, because of the ongoing moral revolution in western civilization, many people won't even try to define what a woman is.

Of if they do try to define it, they say something like, "A woman is whatever you want it to be." Everyone is free to come up with his/her own definition of what a woman is. Anyone can identify as a woman. Womanhood looks different to everybody. Every person has the right to define it however he/she/ze wants to define it.

These days, even those claiming to be women can't define what a woman is. They don't want to define it, because there are plenty of people today who are not women but who want to portray themselves as women. Some men enjoy beating women in sports, so they pretend that they are women. Some men want to do very wicked and evil things, so they portray themselves as women. We live in a seriously deranged, corrupt, and confused world.

With so much corruption and confusion swirling around us, it's good to know that we have a resource that gives us a true definition and a true source of information regarding women and motherhood. Of course, I'm referring to the Bible. In the Bible, we find the original pattern for motherhood in the first and original female, Eve.

Today I'd like to look at the example of Eve and see how she defines the concept of womanhood and motherhood. Of course, some things about Eve are unique and not repeatable. But other things about her seem to set a pattern reflecting God's design for female life.

What is a woman? While the definition of that term eludes many of the elite in our culture today, we can quite easily define that term by looking at Eve.

I. A woman is not a man.

A. God “made” a woman from Adam’s rib.

Genesis 2:21-22 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

1. The word “man” in Hebrew is “ish.”
2. The word “woman” in Hebrew is “ishah.” The word is just the feminine form of the same word. An “ishah” is a female human, the female of the species.

BTW, do you know that the English word “woman” comes from the words “womb man.” A woman is a human with a womb. That is just about the most basic definition available. “What is a woman?” A woman is a human with a womb.

3. The word “made” literally means “built.” God built the first man out of dirt/dust, but he built the woman out of the man.
4. As Matthew Henry said, “If man is the head, [the woman] is the crown, a crown to her husband, the crown of the visible creation.”
5. And regarding Eve being “built” from Adams’ rib, Henry goes on to say in one of his most famous statements, “[Eve was] not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”

B. One of the most obvious things from this whole creation account is that Adam and Eve were different from one another. They were both equally human, but not identical. Adam didn’t need another man; Adam needed a woman. He was an “ish,” and he needed an “ishah.

God didn’t make Adam and Steve; he made Adam and Eve—a man and a woman.

C. How did Adam respond to Eve?

Genesis 2:23 *And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."*

Note the language here:

1. "this now" – i.e., "this for the first time, this at length." Among all the animals, no other human was found. Finally, Adam found someone like himself in Eve.
2. "bones...flesh" – this woman is a human, very much like the man. She was taken out of man and is quite similar to man. She's not like the animals; she is human; but she is not a man.

Trans: Thus, if we are trying to define what a woman is by the biblical pattern, the first thing we'd have to say is that a woman is not a man. We define what a woman is, in part, by saying what she is *not*—she is not an animal and she's not a man.

One of the most destructive and despicable things about modern culture is its redefinition—or really refusal to define—what male and female means. The elite in our society now tell us with a straight face that a man is a woman and a woman is a man. We see a guy parading around in long hair, a dress, and heels. He looks every bit like a guy dressed up as a woman, maybe as a joke or for a funny skit. But no, this is no joke. This is a man who now identifies as a woman. And our society tells us that we must take this person seriously.

Bruce is now Caitlyn. Richard requires everyone to call him Rachel. William now goes by Lia. As if changing one's name, pronouns, hairstyle, and clothing can actually change one's sex. This has to be one of the most ridiculous and stupid claims that anyone has ever made. And it's equally ridiculous and stupid for anyone to go along with this charade, to take such a person seriously.

Those who for so many years have told us to "follow the science" now tell us to ignore the science and pretend that a man is a woman or a woman is a man.

We must never compromise on the clear biblical truth that a man cannot be a woman and a woman cannot be a man. There is no way to change your sex; it's impossible to transition from one sex to another—there is no “trans.” You are born with what God gave you, and you must allow physical reality to define you according to your physical properties.

Gen 5:2 *Male and female [God] created them; ...*

Those are the only two options/categories available. There is no transformation possible that will change one sex to the other. No amount of surgery or hormones or cross-dressing can change one's sex. And no one should try to do that anyhow. It is highly immoral to try to pass yourself off as the other sex.

Trans: The point is that a woman is not a man. A woman cannot be a man. Eve was not an “ish”; she was an “ishah.” Perhaps the most basic way to define a woman is to say that she is not a male.

II. A woman is suitable for a man.

Gen 2:18 *And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”*

Gen 2:20 *Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.*

- A. Among the animals, nothing was suitable or comparable to Adam. A literal translation would be something like “a helper as before him,” that is, one corresponding to and adapted to him; a counterpart; a suitable partner/helper/mate.
- B. But then God made Eve; she was suitable/comparable to Adam. I don't need to go into a full discussion of the human anatomy to prove that men and women are suitable or appropriate or fitting for one another.
- C. In fact, we know that the propagation of the species is not possible without the contributions of both the man and the woman. Men and women have to cooperate to produce an offspring. Both have something to contribute.

- D. Just as Adam found nothing suitable/comparable to himself among the animals, so Adam would have found no one suitable for himself among other males, had there been any. God didn't make another man for Adam; God made a woman.
- E. That fact has very important implications/consequences.
1. It tells us that men are different from women. They are suitable or comparable to each other, but not identical and not transferable. You can't transition from one to the other.

Up until very recently, everyone assumed/understood the differences between men and women. E.g., the book "Men are From Mars, Women Are From Venus." Virtually everyone agreed that men and women are different. People today deny those differences.
 2. The suitability/compatibility of men and women tells us that you need one of each to fully realize the purpose of both. The human experience is not complete unless you have a suitable partner. The woman completes the man, and the man is necessary for the woman to fulfill her purpose. There are certain human experiences that are *not* available to those who don't have a partner/companion. The human experience is not complete without a relationship with a compatible partner.

Trans: What is a woman? How do you define womanhood? A woman is a human who is a suitable partner for a man, just like a man is suitable for a woman.

The Bible defines a woman through her compatibility with a man. And I think primarily in view here is physical compatibility. There is a physical partnership that can take place between a man and a woman that cannot take place between two people of the same sex.

Obviously, suitability goes beyond the physical. Typically speaking, the husband and the wife complement one another in many ways. They fit together socially and intellectually and in temperament and personality. Often times, where one is weak, the other is strong. If you are looking for a mate, make sure you find one who is compatible/suitable with you.

In the modern world, the social elites tell us that physical/anatomical suitability does not matter. What really matters today is how you feel about yourself. If you feel like you are a woman, then you are a woman. All that matters are your own personal feelings about yourself. And if your inner feelings about yourself do not line up with your physical anatomy, then you modify your anatomy—or at least your dress and behavior—to fit the way you feel. You change the external world to correspond with your internal feelings.

Not that many years ago, experts would have told someone confused about his sex to align his thinking with physical reality. If a man thought he was a woman, the psychologist would tell him that his thinking was in error; he was mistaken. He should align his thinking with his physical anatomy.

But now, experts no longer do that. Your thinking and feeling trumps reality. You can change reality to fit with how you think and feel, not vice versa. You change your body and your behavior to match how you feel personally and emotionally. Instead of changing yourself to match reality, you change reality to fit your feelings.

Biblically speaking, we don't define ourselves by our inner world, our inner thoughts, our emotions and internal feelings. We can look at our physical anatomy, and we can study our DNA and chromosomes, and determine what we are. We look at reality and let the physical facts define us. We follow the definition God gives us—we are either male or female.

Trans: A biblical definition demands that a woman is a suitable companion/helper/partner for a man. A quick glance at physical reality should tell you for whom you are a suitable partner.

III. A woman has the capacity for life.

On Mother's Day, we are celebrating this particular aspect of womanhood. Only a woman has the capacity to bring forth life from within herself.

Gen 3:20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

- A. The woman, formerly known as "ishah"—the female human—now gets a proper name—Eve. That name is based on the Hebrew word "havah," meaning "life." Havah is a fairly common Jewish female name.
- B. In Gen 3:16, God had said that Eve would "bring forth children." Adam seems to have understood what that meant. He knew what a woman was, and he understood the concept of bringing forth offspring.
- C. So we can further refine the definition of a woman as a human with the capacity to bring forth children.
- D. Here's the dictionary definition of "female" – "of or denoting the sex that can bear offspring or produce eggs." Until very recently, virtually everybody would have agreed with that definition.
- E. And regarding definitions, we should remember a main rule of making definitions: we make definitions based on the normal, ordinary understanding of reality. We don't make definitions based on rare exceptions. We make definitions based on what normally happens in the vast majority of cases.
- F. We all know that there are exceptions for every rule. In some cases, women cannot bear children. And we know that in such cases, those women are still women. The exception to the rule does not invalidate the rule.

E.g., some people are born with six fingers or with webbed toes. Some people grow to 6' 6" in height. These are traits are rare/unusual. We don't define humanity based on abnormalities. We don't say that a human is a mammal with 6 fingers just because some people have 6 fingers. We define humanity based on what is true in the vast majority of cases.

Likewise, we know that in extremely rare cases, people are born with genetic abnormalities and physical irregularities. Some people have unusual chromosome patterns or rare physical features. But we don't define humanity—or the concepts of male and female—by rare, uncommon, unusual cases. We define these concepts by what is normal or most common.

- G. In the vast majority of cases, women have the capacity to bring forth life; they can produce offspring. Women normally have the physical ability to conceive human life, gestate that life for about 9 months, bring forth that life, and then sustain that life from their own body. The male contribution to that process is fairly minor. Women can do all of that naturally and normally, often without much help.

It should go without saying that men cannot do any of that. If a person becomes pregnant, gives birth, and sustains that child with her own body—or if she has the anatomy to do so—she is obviously a woman. If you do not have the anatomical features to do that, then you are a man. Pretty simple.

- H. Adam called his wife Eve/Havah because she was “the mother of all living.”

Eve is “mother of all living” in the sense that she was the first human mother, the first human to produce a child. Adam could not function as a mother. Adam could not bring forth another human being from within himself. Men do not have the anatomical properties to give birth to a baby. Adam was the father of all living, but Eve is the mother.

App: Do you know that today, the word “mother” is being removed from all kinds of documents? In government, education, health care, business, entertainment, and sports—almost every segment of our culture—the word “mother” is being removed. Why? Because the cultural elites don't want to offend those mixed up people who think of themselves as men, yet give birth to children.

Can men give birth to children? No, obviously not. But some confused women, who like to think of themselves as men, get pregnant and give birth. They identify as men, so they don't want to be known as mothers or females. Our political and cultural leaders demand that we bend over backwards to accommodate about 0.001% of the population who want to think of themselves as men and who give birth to children and who don't want to be called "mother."

Today, the popular words replacing "mother" are "birthing person." In our confused culture, a "birthing person" could be a "man"—not an actual man, not a male of the species—but a woman who likes to think of herself as a man. She doesn't want to be known as "mother," so she insists on being called a "birthing person."

Illus.: Just the other day, Democrat Wisconsin State Representative Francesca Hong called women "birthing bodies."

Even the American Medical Association now refers to mothers as "pregnant persons," not women, and not mothers.

I would not be surprised if Mother's Day is renamed as birthing person's day.

Our modern culture has radically degraded motherhood. In years past, everyone understood that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." Mothers were highly esteemed for their abilities to produce and nurture children. But the value of motherhood was greatly decreased with the onset of feminism in the 1960s. Feminists convinced women that motherhood was a meaningless drudgery one must avoid at all costs. Staying at home and caring for children was a waste of your life according to the feminists. A meaningful life is spent in the business world, earning just as much money as a man and doing the same jobs as a man.

Our current culture has gone far beyond the teachings of feminism. Today's popular culture doesn't even know what a woman is, nor can it define what a mother is.

We can define what a mother is because the Bible defines it for us. A woman is a human who can become a mother. She has the capacity to bring forth life and sustain that life from her own body. Some women don't have that capacity, but the vast majority do. We define the concept based on what is most common, not by the rare exceptions to the rule.

What is a woman? Given the biblical information, it is very easy to define what a woman is. Looking at the pattern set by Eve, we see that a woman is not a man, a woman is a suitable partner/mate/companion for a man, and that a woman has the capacity to bring forth human life. That's a fairly basic/elementary definition, but it's all that is necessary to define genuine womanhood.

If our culture would simply follow that basic definition, there would be no confusion regarding sex and gender. It's only been during the last couple of decades that such confusion has existed. The moral revolution in western culture opened the door to all sorts of confusion, and now that confusion has extended even to the definition of men and women. What a terrible, disgusting, and unnecessary shame.

Those who know the biblical definition should stand strongly and absolutely against those who are trying to redefine—or really, undefined—the concept of womanhood or motherhood. We must not simply adopt the world's ideas on this issue. Mothers are not simply “birthing persons.”

On Mother's Day especially, we must emphasize the value of motherhood by stating categorically that we know what a woman is and we know what a mother is. We refuse to adopt worldly, unbiblical, ridiculous, wicked ideas regarding men and women.

The only way that we can truly celebrate *motherhood* is if we have a robust biblical definition of *womanhood*. The Bible gives us that definition. Common sense confirms that definition, and we must not relinquish that definition to the unstable, corrupt, and evil people in our society.

Today, on Mother's Day, let's celebrate mothers and express our appreciation for what they do.