

## Growth Group Discussion Questions For Our Growth Group- On Line Meetings

“Why Am I Here?”- Part 2

**“...To Win The Battle Of The Sexes”**

Week of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Summary-** We’re answering questions posed by our Series theme which is” “Why Am I Here?”... and we’re here this week looking at how to “Win The Battle of The Sexes”. The culture has been in conflict and struggle between men and women since The Garden of Eden, and in our time, particularly since the mid 1960’s! It’s part of the curse! Women’s Liberation, no-fault divorce and the advent of abortion laws, has poured gas on the conflict fires! We hear that men and women are totally interchangeable now, that sexuality is more how you feel about yourself than anything physical you were born to be. And as the culture warriors are about making these considerations “rights” rather than responsibilities, the battle lines are set. But what about Christians? How are we to react? Does the culture dictate our response to the battle of the sexes? We’ve been made “new” in Christ...what does God expect our relationships as men and women to be and how does that work itself out in the church and in our families? How do we relate to the culture, being wise as serpents but gentle as doves regarding roles as men and women? Great stuff to discuss. No elbows, please!

### ICE BREAKER & WELCOME BACK QUESTION

**1.** Would you rather have a fast forward, pause, or rewind button on your life?

### DIGGING DEEPER

**1.** Let’s get to the bottom of what God has communicated to us about how He made us to be. Look at Genesis 1:26-31

**Gen.1:26-31** “Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” 27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” 29 Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. 30 And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground— everything that has life.” And that is what happened.

**31 Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.**

- **In what ways did God create human beings “in His own image”, different than the rest of His creation?** (Hint: capabilities, responsibilities, privileges, etc.)
- **What are the two, distinct sexes revealed in Verse 27, that God say He created mankind to be?**
- **Notice that God says He created mankind as male & female and in Verse 31, He says everything He made was very good!. Are there any other options for sexual identity revealed in the creation story?**

## **Roles & Responsibilities**

**2. Being conformed to the image of Jesus (the transformation of believers into the image of Jesus) means our thinking and behavior is changing to reflect more of His teaching & image as we become more like Him. This shows up in our relationships & in how we relate to each other as Christians. **The key is submission all around.** Look at the follow verses & discuss how this submission works itself out in the family and the church.**

**1. Eph.5:21** And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. 30 And we are members of his body.

31 As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father & mother and is joined to his wife, & the two are united into one.” 32 This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ & the church are one. 33 So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, & the wife must respect her husband. 6:1 Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. 2 “Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: 3 If you honor your father & mother, “things will go well for you, & you will have a long life on the earth.”

- **What about submission within the family?** What should be happening in the lives of husbands and wives & children as Jesus followers as outlined in this passage above?
  
- **What about roles & responsibilities within the church?** Notice this submission of wives to husbands *is not about wives to other men*. But when it comes to the church, men & women have different roles & responsibilities and submission to Jesus is required there, too. Discuss the following roles & instructions from God's word that define how men & women are to function in God's church.
  - a. Elders- 1 Tim.3:1-7... who is to take the church leadership role?
  
  - b. Teaching- role of women: Titus 2:4-5; 1 Tim.2:11-15

**Submission Note:** It is important to note that the very idea of submission finds rage & push back in the culture that surrounds us. No question about that! Yet, as Jesus Followers, there is an order to God's creation and how He functions that starts with Himself. The Father, Son & Holy Spirit (the Trinity) all submit to one another in the God head. And, love is the operating style that makes it all work! Selflessness is the key to submission, and Jesus demonstrated that very thing, as He humbled Himself, willingly submitting to the Father's amazing rescue plan for mankind, to have His Son be killed & sacrificed, as the payment for the sins of us all! Therefore, the wisest thing we do, as men and women, is to submit and take up the roles and responsibilities God has assigned to each of us. It defines the family, it defines our church and it tells our world that we trust & love the God who showed His amazing grace to us all. Since God's kind of love is our operating style, no abuse is to be tolerated between men and women or children. We are to display God's image in all we are and in all we do.

3. Do you have any unanswered questions or issues you want to ask about from this week's session?