

# Ten Reasons Why the Fall Did *Not* Create the Order of Headship by Men and Submission by Women

By Blair Bradley

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## Did the Fall *Create* This Order

Some teach today that it was the Fall that *created* the Order of Man being in the leadership role and Women being in the support or the "help meet" role. In other words- these people teach that it was God's Curse on fallen humanity as a result of their sin that brought about this so-called "Order" and therefore- Salvation through Jesus Christ reverses that Curse.

### Galatians 3:13

**Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:**

The net result of this false teaching is that saved people should *not* ascribe to the Divine Order of Men being in the leadership or headship role, and Women should *not* ascribe to being in the complementarian or support role- but that Men and Women are now all "one" in Jesus Christ and there is no difference in their roles.

### Galatians 3:28

**There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

## Egalitarians Versus Complimentarians

Those who accept the unbiblical belief that the God ordained distinctions between Men and Women have been abolished in Jesus Christ are called "Egalitarians", while those who believe that the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ did not change those distinctions are called "Complimentarians".

Let me give you ten reasons why that logic is *not* true, and why we believe and teach that the Bible clearly teaches that the role of Men being in the leadership position and Women being in the support position in the home and in the Church was *not* caused by the Fall- but was an ordained Order by God from the very beginning.

Before we get into this- there are two words that need to be understood:

**Compliment:** An expression of praise, commendation, or admiration  
**Complement:** Something that completes or makes perfect:

Scripture teaches that Women were created as females to complement their husbands- they are to "come along side" of their husbands to *complete them or make them perfect*, they are to be the "help meet" to what God has called their husbands to do and this complementarian role is *not* the result of the Fall- but was ordained from the very beginning.

So let's look at the ten reasons why the Bible teaches that God ordained Women to worship Him by graciously submitting to a *complementary* role in the Home and Church, and why Men are ordained by God to worship Him by graciously submitting to a *leadership* role in the Home and Church before the Fall:

1. God Created Man With an *Implied* Leadership Function
2. Man was Created First
3. God Gave Man the Responsibility to Oversee the Garden and to Pass Morality to the Woman
4. Woman was Created for the Man, From the Man, and Given to the Man as a Help Suitable for Him
5. God Brought the Woman to the Man
6. Gave Man the Responsibility to Name all the Animals, and to Name the Woman
7. Satan Drew Adam and Eve into a Role Reversal
8. After the Fall- God called the Man into Account First
9. The Curse of "Desire" and Rule" Shows the Corruptness of the Divine Order
10. God Named Both the Man and the Woman- "Man"

Let's examine each one

## **1. God Created Man Initially with an *Implied* Leadership Function.**

### **Genesis 1:26&27**

**26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.**

**27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**

The Hebrew word for "Man" in this verse is "*adam*" which is also the actual name that God chose for the Man He created. So when God made the Man- He made him to be "adam", and gave this Man rule or dominion over:

- ✓ The fish of the sea
- ✓ The fowl of the air
- ✓ The cattle
- ✓ All the earth
- ✓ Every creeping thing

Then in verse 27- God said that He made "adam" "**in his own image**". And then said "**in the image of God made He him** (masculine singular); **male and female created He them** (masculine plural).

Now by itself- this point does not prove anything conclusively- but it *does* point to the fact that by using the word "adam", and by using both the masculine singular and masculine plural rather than the female tense of the words- that God is suggesting here a leadership role for the Man that is *not* suggested for the female.

But it is our belief that this first point- made in connection with the following nine reasons- *do* prove beyond any doubt that God intended Man to *always* assume a leadership role, and women to *always* assume a supportive role in the Home and the Church- and that the Fall did *not* bring about those roles. Let's see if that is true.

## **2. Man was Created First and Then the Woman**

**Genesis 2:7,18**

**7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

**18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.**

This is an indisputable fact of the Order of Creation. **Genesis** clearly teaches that Man was created first, and that Woman was created *from* the Man- at some point *after* God created Man to be a "help meet" for the Man- or to be a help that was suitable to assist the Man in a complementarian role do what God had called the Man to do.

It is important to note that God *could* have created Man and Woman at the same time and in the same way- but He did not- and that fact is significant. The Apostle Paul used this fact of the Order of Creation as part of his teaching as to why Women *cannot* be Elders or Pastors in the Christian Church:

**1 Timothy 2:12-15**

**12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.**

**13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.**

**14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.**

**15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.**

## **3. God gave Man the Responsibility to Oversee the Garden; and to Pass on Morality to the Woman**

**Genesis 2:15-17**

**15** And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

**16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

**17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The Woman was *never* given any responsibility before the Fall other than to be the help meet to what her husband was called to do. Also notice that God did not speak to the Woman at all- but He spoke to the Man, and the Man was to instruct his wife.

This is why Eve got it wrong about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil when she spoke with the serpent- she either didn't hear Adam correctly- or Adam did not teach her correctly or both.

#### **4. Woman was Created "for" the Man and "from" Man and Presented "to" the Man as "an Help Meet for Him".**

**Genesis 2:18-23**

**18** And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

**19** And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

**20** And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

**21** And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

**22** And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

**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.

#### **5. God Brought the Woman to the Man**

**Genesis 2:22**

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

#### **6. Man is Given the Responsibility to Name all the Animals- and to Name the Woman**

**Genesis 2:19, 20, & 23**

**19** And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

**20** And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

**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.

## **7. The Serpent Undermines this Divine Order and Draws Eve and Adam into a Deadly and Sinful Role Reversal against God and Each Other.**

**Genesis 3:1-6**

**1** Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

**2** And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

**3** But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

**4** And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

**5** For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

**6** And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

## **8. After the Fall- God Calls Man to Account First**

**Genesis 3:7-11**

**7** And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

**8** And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

**9** And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

**10** And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

**11** And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

## **9. The Curse of "Desire" and "Rule" show the Sinfulness of the Corruption of the Divine Order**

### **Genesis 3:16**

**Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.**

Now the way that the original Hebrew actually reads is "**...and for your husband- thy desire, and he shall rule over thee**". And many people throughout history have taken this statement to be a mandate- that sin caused the woman to want her husband and her husband is going to come down on her with authority.

And many feminists take this verse to teach that man being in a leadership role over the woman, and the woman being in a complementarian role under her husband came about as a result of the Curse- and was not God's original Plan- and thus has been "done away" in Christ.

But that is not at all what is happening here. Look at a parallel passage found in **Genesis 4:6&7** to see just what this "desire" and what this "rule" actually is:

### **Genesis 4:6&7**

**6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?**

**7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.**

Now these two passages are too close to be accidental. What was God actually saying to Cain here? He tells Cain that sin "lieth" at the door. The word that was translated here into English as "lieth" comes from the Hebrew word that means: *to stretch oneself out or to couch- like a ravenous beast "lies" in wait for his prey.*

So God is telling Cain that sin is couched at his door- ready to pounce on him and then God says:

**... unto thee shall be his desire...**

Who's desire? Abel's? No, Sin. The word "his" in the Hebrew is modifying the word "sin"- *not* the name, "Abel". This is not a fleshly wanting like we would think when God told Eve that her "desire" will be to her husband- this is not about human sexuality or human desire toward another person- but God is telling Cain here that sin wants "rule" over him or dominate over him.

This means that sin desires to dominate or rule or conquer over Cain in the same manner that a lion desires to dominate or rule or conquer his prey. And then God tells Cain,

**... and thou shalt rule over him**

or better translated,

**... but thou must rule over it (sin)**

So what God is talking about here is the ongoing battle over the mastery of the soul of Man. Sin constantly seeks to dominate over Man, and Man must be aware of this ongoing effort by sin to dominate him, and not be naive, and not be ignorant, and not be foolish- but fight back and turn the tables on sin and dominate sin.

So in the case with Eve and Adam- God is saying here that two things are going to happen as a result of sin that should never have happened- and both of them are bad. The Woman is going to be like a lion- couching at the door- seeking to dominate her husband in every way- and the Man is going to fight back- usually by violence- to forcefully push the woman back down.

The opposite of this is that the Woman is going to use various tactics (sex, money, silence, etc.) to try to manipulate the Man, and the Man is going to passively sit back and allow that to happen.

Both of these efforts by the Woman and both of these responses by the Man are wrong and sinful- this is *not* a mandate- both of these things are the result of the Curse- *not* the Divine Order that has Man as the Leader and Woman as the complementary "help mate".

## **10. God Named Both the Man and the Woman, "Man"**

### **Genesis 5:1-3**

**1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;**

**2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.**

**3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:**

God called "**their**" name "**Adam**", or Man- once again underscoring the Divine Order that Man was created first and the Woman was made to help the Man do and accomplish what God had called him to do.

The Divine Order of Male headship/leadership and Female submission/support is being challenged today in both the pagan culture and (sadly) the modern Church. We must be bold to teach the Biblical and God blessed distinctions between Man and Woman, and the subsequent differing roles that those distinctions allow to the Glory of God and the fulfillment of our joy.

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