

Vancleave Church of Christ

Sermon Title: A Great Tool for the Church/US

Scripture: Acts 12:5

Prayer Requests and Announcements

June 4, 2023

Earl Kenney: Returned home last week from Physical Therapy. He and Linda need our prayers.

David Robinson: CT Scan scheduled for Monday to prepare for further radiation treatments.

Ongoing Prayers

Please be sure to update at: vcocministry@vancleavechurch.org

Roger Hammond	Susanne Samples	Trevor Glenn	Gene Searcey
Jackie Roach	Cheryrl Owensby	Sue Flurry	Gregory Cooley
Keondra Huddleston	Teresa Blackmon	Carla Clayton	Elsie Ashcraft
Heath Smith	Zenie George	Cheryl Solla	Frank Sentelle
Tara Forte	Anita Dees	Pete Hankins	Tommy Webb
Andi Barrett	Lisa Jenkins	Scott Mcollough	Kim Adkins
Barbara Patton	Traci Herrin	Jerry Mobley	

A Word of Encouragement for the Week Ahead

“He drew a circle to shut me out – Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in.” – Edwin Markham

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.”
(Jesus, Luke 6:27, NKJV)

Announcements / Other:

- Today is 1st Sunday and we will enjoy a fellowship meal immediately after morning services. There will be no evening service tonight.
- Thank you Brother Al Lowery for filling in for our regular pulpit minister in his absence! Our congregation is blessed to have so many competent and willing teachers and we give God all the glory!
- Other:

Our Local Mailing Address:

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Origin of Gender, by Dave Miller, Ph.D.

Considerable discussion has occurred in secular society in the last 50 years concerning gender—from the Feminist Movement of the 1960s to the more recent attention to transgenderism. The Bible speaks very precisely and definitively on the matter of gender. The phenomenon of gender is the result of God’s own divine determination when He created the first human beings on the sixth day of Creation week: “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them” (Genesis 1:27).

When God created gender, He clearly intended to set the stage for all of human history. He sought to convey for all time the interrelationship between men and women. In the New Testament, this interrelationship is discussed in considerable detail in 1 Timothy 2 where Paul explains gender roles as they relate to worship. However, Paul also discussed gender in one of his letters to the church at Corinth. His pronouncements on gender are clearly tied to how men and women in the church are to interact with each other. The respective roles of male and female in the church are affected and informed **by gender**.

Paul’s remarks demonstrate that gender, as it relates to role function in the church, is a matter of Creation—not culture (as some have alleged). He explains the origin of gender as it was instigated by God at Creation:

For man is not **from** woman, but woman **from** man.... Nevertheless, neither is man independent of the woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as the woman was **from** the man, even so the man also is **through** the woman; but all things are from God (1 Corinthians 11:8,11-12).

The bolded words represent prepositions in the original language. The term rendered “from” is the Greek preposition *ek* which means “out of.” The man was not “out of” the woman, but rather, the woman was “out of” the man. He is referring very specifically—and literally—to the origin of the first woman on Earth. Her body was constructed from a portion of the man’s body. Her physical origin was literally dependent on having been taken “out of” the man’s body. No wonder Adam declared: “This is now bone of **my** bones and flesh of **my** flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken **out of** Man” (Genesis 2:23). In Hebrew, the word for man is “*ish*.” Adam employed a play on words by building on the word for man to indicate a woman: “*ish-ah*.”

Three verses later, Paul further clarifies gender by stating that though the woman was “from/out of” man, nevertheless, the man is also “through” the woman. Here the Greek preposition is *dia* meaning “by/through.” Once again, Paul is speaking very literally. All men throughout human history (except for Adam) have come into this world **through** a woman. Women are the designated child bearers. Men have no reason to consider themselves—or their role—to be superior to women. God intends for the male to fulfill very precise responsibilities in and out of the church, and He likewise has created the female to do the same. Their respective roles are, indeed, rooted in the creation of gender by God at the very beginning of time.¹

Endnotes

¹ For a discussion of gender roles in the church, see Dave Miller (2014), “Male and Female Roles: Gender in the Bible,” Apologetics Press, <https://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=7&article=5007&topic=389>; Dave Miller (2019), *Female Leadership in the Church* (Montgomery, AL: King Solomon Publications).

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