

XIV. God's Blueprint in Biblical Perspective  
*Foundations from Genesis*  
Foundation #5 – The Sanctity of Gender – Part 8  
Masculinity and Christian Manhood  
Genesis 1–2  
Dr. Harry L. Reeder III  
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We are in the middle of some extraordinary tectonic shifts in our culture today and the rapidity of it is astonishing. I do a ten minute radio program dealing with the issues of the day and bringing Gospel solutions and *people ask me where I come up with the issues and stories I use but it's not where* do I come up with them, it's which ones do I have to discard for there are more than we can cover. This is one of the reasons I wanted to do this series because I noticed whether it was the sanctity of life, gender, marriage, family, work or rest that once had a place of beneficial blessing by God's common grace in our culture, have not only been jettisoned but we're in the midst of a cultural revolution. The world sees it as a cultural revolution attempting to normalize the abnormal, attempting to remove shame and guilt from sin by making it acceptable, thinkable, and doable and as it is doing this, it is really attempting a revolution.

A revolution is not a movement that is looking for acceptance or accommodation or toleration, but it is a movement that demands surrender. It demands that you condemn what you previously celebrated and you celebrate what you previously condemned. It is not looking for a place at the table but it is looking for capitulation for those who were at the table. Secondly, we can't get drawn into a culture war because we from a Biblical world and life view realize this is not a culture war. On the contrary, this is a spiritual war for the souls of men and women. Culture is merely yet profoundly the battlefield for that's where we enter into the public square in these matters but the real issues come down to the hearts and souls of men and women.

Ephesians 6:12 says [12] *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* There is only one way to enter into the battle and that is to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ, the armor of Christ and take up the weapons of the Divinely fashioned Spirit. Every weapon and piece of the armor is all drawn from the Word of God, in the name of Christ and that's why God's Word is so crucial in these matters.

How are we going to respond to this? Here is how some Christians are going to respond. Some will respond by segregation. They are just going to try and ignore and segregate themselves from it. They think they won't have to deal with it and they let others deal with it. Some think it won't come to their region but it will stay in other regions and even if it comes to our region they think they are with the people of God who love Jesus so it really won't affect us. There is this notion we can isolate ourselves or ignore it and segregate ourselves in a Christian ghetto. That is obviously not the case. In Leviticus 18 through 20 here is what the nations do. Do not let it be named among you – why would He tell them that? It is because Satan is always wanting these things to be named among us.

The second things Christians do is, they just try and make peace with it and that's accommodation. They just want to rethink it. A bishop in the Anglican church stood up about five or six years ago and said 'Those who are engaged in the embrace of the LGBTQAI plus agenda that it won't be long that you will have your place among us for we just need to get a

radical Christianity through our theology, traditions, wisdom and worship of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.’ The Anglican church is now both in leadership and membership has made peace with the myth of same sex marriage and they didn’t get there through Scripture or tradition. This church hasn’t embraced anything other than a Biblical sexual ethic that sex belongs in the context of a conjugal heterosexual monogamous marital relationship so the Scripture wasn’t going to let them become “radical” nor the tradition of the church wasn’t going to let them become radical nor the stated common book of prayer but they became radical when they accommodated the culture in order to please the culture.

It’s what I call cultural magisterium. The foundational issue of the Reformation is what would become the authoritative rule of faith and practice. The reality is for the Christian that the authoritative rule of faith and practice is the Scripture which is why Martin Luther said ‘Unless I am convinced by Scripture, here I stand.’ The church was committed to clerical magisterium or ecclesiastical magisterium.

So where is the evangelical church today? We haven’t changed our confessional statement about the Scripture but functionally now, what does the culture tell us to make room for? It shows up in egalitarianism, ordination standards, with embracing ungodly biblical sexual activities, desires and finding ‘treasure from heaven’ in them, treasure that will be in heaven from them. That didn’t come from the Bible. That came from cultural accommodation.

There is one group in the church that says we’re going to remain pure by isolation, segregation and they just ignore what is going on in the culture but what’s out there always comes in here. Secondly, there comes accommodation and thirdly there is just out right capitulation and surrender. We see this in the mainline Protestant church as it surrendered to the pressures of theological liberalism and now those churches are literally on the dustbin of history.

What is our answer to this? It has to come from a Biblical foundation. Clearly, we live in a day of gender confusion and sexual anarchy. Where do we start as believers? I am a very simple man who has been converted by the grace of God in a very complex world from highly besetting sins in life and I think there is no place better for me to start than the Word of God. The Word of God is our only rule of faith and practice.

We believe in verbal plenary inspiration – every word and the order of the words have been placed in the Bible by the hand of God through the Spirit of God through the human authors that He has chosen. The Bible is where I would go to try and understand this seismic shift that is all around us in this world which gives us the Christian Biblically framed world and life view on this. So, I want to give you five statements on gender and sexuality from which we will launch into Biblical sexuality and gender manifested in masculinity and femininity in this series.

Number one, to address the issue of gender confusion and sexual anarchy it begins with the supremacy, sufficiency and sovereignty of God as revealed in His Word. That is where you must start. How does the Bible set us on the origin of understanding the foundations of life in the book of Genesis? All of the sanctities of life at in the book of Genesis and not accidentally is the most hated and attacked book of the Bible in this world. Probably no verse is more despised is the very first verse of the Bible; Genesis 1:1-2 says [1] ***In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*** [2] *The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

We start with God for nothing else is eternal, only Him. Space, time and matter are not eternal. Humanity is not eternal. Eternal – no beginning, no end. We have a beginning. The only One who is Alpha and Omega – beginning and end – is God Himself. In the beginning God created – He is not created for He is the One creating. If you were to go to other passages like

John 1, Colossians 1 – you will see the Trinity in creation like we do here in Genesis. God the Father authored it, God the Son accomplished it, and God the Spirit ordered it – hovered over it to bring it to order. The earth was unformed and unfilled, then God made it unformed in three days and then God filled it in three days. How did He do it? We see in creation the phrase ‘And God said...’ for everything that exists, exists by the spoken Word of God – He spoke it into existence. From nothing everything comes into existence from the eternal God.

For this study on gender and sexuality let’s not look at Genesis 1:26 and here we ease drop in on a conversation of the Trinity. Genesis 1:26-31 says [26] *Then 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 birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”* [27] *So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

[28] *And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”* [29] *And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. [30] And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. [31] And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

By the use of the word ‘us,’ we see the doctrine of the Trinity and that man singular is going to be plural by the use of the word ‘them’ in verse 26. The focus on the creation week comes to the sixth day where God makes man – male and female. Then we see how this occurs in Genesis 2.

Genesis 2:18-25 says [18] *Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”* [19] *Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. [20] The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. [21] So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. [22] And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.*

[23] *Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman (isha), because she was taken out of Man (ish).”*

[24] *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. [25] And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

Here we see God had decreed man to have authority over these animals to define them, name them. The woman is called *isha* which means the reflection of man, completer of man, mirror of for she was taken out of man. She is not man. She came from man.

I do not believe this section of Scripture is a hyperbole. We live in a culture of insanity, absurdity, immorality, lethality (death) and it is rooted in profitability. Would you like to know how much money is made from pornography, from gender reassignment surgeries, from the culture of escapism through alcohol and drugs? It is absolutely astonishing. There is the

anticipation that Roe v Wade may be overturned and some measure of sanity being returned to some degree yet now a state is making its tax money the abortion destination for any and all to come. Its devoting itself to create the industry of abortion although we know it's already there through organizations such as planned parenthood. Sin always has roots. The reason Ephesus had a riot after it was turned upside down was because people quit doing idolatry which was big money in that culture and silversmiths lost their job. Sin is rooted in profitability. Why do you think big business embraces the LGBTQAI plus? It makes money.

So how do we tackle this? We tackle it with the Gospel of grace – man by man, woman by woman, child by child – to win men and women to Christ and disciple them with all that Jesus commanded including Genesis – the Word of God, with its sanctities and that's what God calls us to do. We do this by beginning with the doctrine of God. The United States senate or Supreme Court does not own sexuality and they did not originate it. Only God owns it because only God created it. God created and made man – male and female – in His image, to bear His image. It's clear they are equal because they become one. Two entities that are not equal cannot become one. They may have a negotiated partnership of 60/40 but you can't become one unless you are equal and you can't become one if you're the same for that is sameness, not oneness. Oneness is for two equal things that exist to unite intricately and intimately indivisibly.

FaceBook may put 59 genders but there are two. FaceBook has the ability to put up that many but it has no cosmic right to do that. Whenever you defy the Creator, that is cosmic treason and sin. Sin will bring death.

What you begin with is not gender, nor the state, the family, marriage but you begin with God who is, who was and who is to come. God is sovereign and sufficient. God is the One who spoke and brought all things into existence, including man in two genders – male and female. We begin with the doctrine of God in His Word. He originates everything therefore He owns everything and therefore He defines everything and directs the right use of everything. He is the Creator who has established His creation and then sanctifies it in terms of definition and direction. This leads us to the second point.

The second point is heterosexuality in gender alone is natural by Divine decree. In our sin we invent all kinds of sexuality, like homosexuality, bestiality, zue sexuality, transsexuality, bisexuality, etc. These are inventions of man's sin and they are not establishing alternatives of sexuality. They are establishing cosmic treason against God the Almighty. When you break the decrees and laws of God eventually it will break you or as Romans 1 put it; you receive the due penalty within your body. It is unavoidable, not only physically but emotionally and spiritually. The only place sexuality is shameless is when God has established both its environment and its definition. It is only heterosexuality that is natural and anything else will be full of shame.

That brings me to the third point – what is the environment for gender and sexuality to function? The environment for this to function is marriage for heterosexuality resides shamelessly within marriage. Man in rebellion may embrace all kinds of sexuality and may embrace heterosexuality outside of marriage in promiscuity or unnatural sexuality. Is it unnatural outside of marriage? Yes, because by definition it has to be outside of marriage. There is nothing more mythical than same sex marriage for it is impossible. Marriage has been defined as its own created by God.

That is what we just saw in Genesis 2:24 which says [24] *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* Marriage is a covenantal, monogamous, heterosexual, conjugal relationship. None of the other unnatural sexualities can engage in a covenantal, conjugal relationship as designed by God and therefore

they are myths. I understand the Supreme Court can declare them legal and that senators and republicans can vote for them to be legal, but by the definition of a Biblical world and life view what has been declared is an absolute myth, a full fabrication. The effort is to remove the shame by declaring it acceptable and legal.

While it may be legal by the law of the land, it is not acceptable or in conformity to God's revealed decrees from His creation of man – male and female – and marriage as the environment for that relationship. Any unnatural relationship will not remove the shame but don't miss the fact that Adam and Eve as they come together in the first marriage were naked and unashamed (Genesis 2:25) because they were where the relationship belonged. Sexual intimacy between a man and a woman initiates the marriage – one flesh, recreates the marriage in ministry to one another and then procreates from the marriage. Hebrews 13:4 says *[4] Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.* Any sexuality outside the marriage bed God brings judgment.

We may establish movements for our cultural revolution that claim two consenting adults may engage in the name of freedom, but to begin with that's not freedom. Freedom is an ordered liberty so that is not freedom but autonomy – that is self-rule. Freedom is the ability to operate within the Divine mandates of the Creator in His creation law. Homosexuality is actually not freedom but cosmic treason against God. It is ultimately a declaration to God that we will not live as You created us to. We will not recognize the Creator, the creation binary and we do that by denying every binary the Creator puts in creation. Paganism strikes back with the work of creation itself.

Please notice how God works. God created man and it's not good for the male image bearer to be alone, why? It is for two reasons. One is that the male image bearer doesn't properly image God. Two the male image bearer cannot do what God made him to do. He was made to have dominion over the earth, subdue the earth and to fill the earth and that's why he was made from the dust of the earth. Man can't do this without a suitable helpmate so he needs someone who is his helper/completer. So God takes from Adam's side because she fits alongside of him and God doesn't make another man. There will not be a same sex mate nor will He make two more individuals for He says 'no' to bisexuality, nor does He make ones the same and inside they say they are something else because God says 'no' to transsexuality. He makes a woman so there is male and female and then He makes marriage. We see how God is doing this in terms of creation and law.

One of our great laws is the creation law of the Sabbath and it pains me to see how we violate it so readily. God didn't make man for the Sabbath but He made the Sabbath for man (Mark 2:27). Man was made on the sixth day of the creation week and the Sabbath was created on the seventh day of the creation week. He didn't make the Sabbath and then man. God made man, then marriage and then the Sabbath. It is this order God has given to us and then displayed in every word and the order of words within the Scripture itself. Heterosexuality is natural but only to be embraced within marriage.

Why does marriage exist? It exists for two reasons. One is that it is God's gift to us as the foundational relationship in humanity and it is foundational to all other relationships. It sets patterns for the church, for society, for governments – the relationship we are to have of office and submission, of leadership and follower ship. All of that is built within the context of the family which sets the patter for life.

The second reason marriage exists is even greater. Marriage was put into the creation in anticipation of redemption that God was going to establish a covenant of grace and God was going to save His bride through His Son. A Son will leave His Father, go to the cross to purchase and cleave to His bride and nothing can separate us from Christ, our Bridegroom, for we are washed with the water of His Word. It wasn't like God needed an illustration for marriage through His Son but it was His plan right from the beginning. Marriage was placed in the creation in order to give us the picture of redemption of a covenant keeping God who will have His bride with intimacy – union with Christ. We are in Christ and Christ is in us and there are no grounds for divorce. Nothing will separate us from the love of Christ in the glorious marriage of eternity which we will enjoy in the consummation at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Marriage is the place where gender and sexuality allow us to be drawn together in the glorious blessings of intimacy before the Lord. This gender sexuality – male and female – become one as the marriage is initiated, recreated and procreates for the glory of God.

Number four is, the only shameless sexuality is marital sexuality. Any sexuality outside of marriage will be shameful whether it is unnatural sexuality of homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, trans-sexuality or even if it is the natural sexuality of heterosexual in promiscuity which is premarital or extramarital sexuality. I have done the reading I'm supposed to do as a pastor and I don't know how much time I have spent in counseling on this but many times I'm dealing with the sins on sexual immorality of either promiscuity or abnormalities – unnatural sex – the government, supreme court and senate can pass whatever laws they want, but it doesn't ever takeaway the shame. So many of these I've counseled have said they would sit in the shower and beg for it to be washed away.

The only place it is found gloriously is in a marriage in which a husband's sexuality is marshalled to bless his wife and the wife's sexuality is marshalled to bless her husband. The body of the husband belongs, not to him but to his wife and the body of the wife belongs, not to her but to her husband. What that is saying is, all those created desires are there not to use the other person for your gratification but to give yourself to the other person for their blessing and then comes the glorious truth that it's more blessed to give than to receive. So, it is that location that gender and sexuality is to be embraced guided by redemptive Gospel truth.

Number five is, there is the Gospel that is the double cure for the insanity, the absurdity, lethality, immorality and even the profitability of this cultural moment. Let's now go to I Corinthians 6. There wasn't a place that was more inundated with immorality than Corinth. In fact, to be called a Corinthian was like being called a sex criminal almost, but the Gospel had done its work there.

Here is what Paul says to them in I Corinthians 6:18-20 says [18] *Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. [19] Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

Do you see the call to Biblical sexuality here? Now I want to show you what precedes that call to obedience, that call to Gospel transformation – what precedes it is Gospel declaration. I Corinthians 6:9-11 says [9] *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, [10] nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God. [11] And such were some*

*of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

Notice that in verse 9 He doesn't say 'the righteous can earn their way into the Kingdom of God. The only way to get into the Kingdom is through inheritance. It is a gift of grace. Who is it who will be in the Kingdom? It is not the unrighteous. This is simply where I want to end this study. Do not read that and think after you are converted you live a perfect life and that's why you go to heaven. That is not what He is saying here. He is saying the righteous go to heaven but my righteousness at any point in time in my Christian life is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). He is not speaking of your righteousness. He is speaking of Christ's righteousness. You were washed, justified and we who were guilty are not innocent, why?

It is when you come to Christ, your sin record is taken away and His righteousness clothes you. You were also sanctified. That is what you were and why would we ever identify ourselves with what we were? This is not saying you don't have to fight indwelling sin on your way to heaven. This is not saying there is not going to be temptations outside and inside. It is saying that when you get converted you have a new standing – no condemnation. The righteousness of Christ is yours and you have a new reigning power – no longer does sin reign over you and no longer do you live under the dominion of sin for now you live under the dominion of grace. It's not saying you don't have sin living in you or that you don't have entangling sins that kept reaching out to pull you back, but it is saying that you are no longer the victim of the guilt, shame or power of sin. You are now in Christ and through His power you can kill sin in desire, word and deed on your way to heaven.

You are definitively sanctified in Christ. You are gloriously justified in Christ and now sin no longer has dominion over you. Now you can grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. I have recently been exposed to a book that says to quit telling those sexual, immoral, addicted people that they can be cured for you just care for them. I care for them. I love them. I have had the privilege to minister on many occasions to them and because I care for them I tell them there is a Gospel that has a double cure – it cleanses you from sin's guilt and its power, therefore we can now be men of God and women of God who live as God calls us with increasing faithfulness and obedience by the grace of God who has made us right with God through His righteousness, His atoning death and the indwelling, sin power breaking of the Holy Spirit. We are born again, regenerated and justified.

II Corinthians 5:17 says [17] *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* Jesus is at work in you making all things new (Revelation 21:5). Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You that we could be in Your Word and that we could walk our way through these wonderful, glorious passages of Scripture to try to place this within a God-centered, God-defined, Biblically defined world and life view as we minister caringly and we don't have a Gospel to cope but a Gospel with a Hope – you can be right with God and God will be right within you. Praise His Name forevermore, Amen.