

Understanding gender from God's perspective (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-8, 18-24)

Introduction

- *"Anything you can do, I can do better. I can do anything better than you!"*

I. The Completion of Creation including Humanity (Genesis 1:28-31)

- The key verse: **Genesis 1.31**
 - The meaning of 'everything'
 - Order in creation (**Genesis 1:28-30** cf 1:3-5, 16-18)
 - Order amongst humanity (Genesis 2:7-22; 1 Timothy 2:13)
 - The understanding of "very good" (Psalm 19:1)

P1: As creator, God's authority over creation (including humanity) is good and final.

II. The Creation & Commissioning of Humanity (Genesis 1:26-29; 2:4-8, 18-24)

A. Creation

- God made humanity in His image (**Genesis 1:26-27** cf James 3:9)
 - Humanity is 'formed' and given the breath of life (**Genesis 2:7** cf **Genesis 2:23**)
- God blessed and commissioned humanity collectively (**Genesis 1:28**)
- God provided for humanity's needs (**Genesis 1:29**)

P2: As creator, God ascribes equal significance and value to both male & female.

B. Commission

- Men and women play different complementary roles to fulfil God's mandate (**Genesis 1:28**)
 - The meaning of 'helper' ('ēzer) (**Genesis 2.18** cf Psalm 33:20, Psalm 70:5, Psalm 115:11, Psalm 121:1-2, Psalm 124:8, John 14:26)
- Men and women are uniquely suited to their roles (**Genesis 2:19-23; 2:4-8**)
- Men and women complement each other perfectly (**Genesis 2:24**)

P3: As creator, God assigns different (complementary) vocations to both male & female.

Conclusion

- Redemption in Christ removes the corruption (of the fall) and restores proper connections (among fallen people) (Ephesians 5.22-32)

Reflection

1. *What are some roles which the scriptures say are properly assigned to us?*
2. *Which aspect(s) of this divine design do we find difficult to accept? How should we respond to these challenges?*
3. *How should recognising God's imprint on all humanity change the way we view others?*

*Jonathan Sam
29 January 2023*