



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

# “The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 15”

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***Informed. Insightful. Intelligent.***



### The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 15

#### Genesis 28:1-2:

**1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.**

**2 Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother.**

We attend Church to obtain the mind of Christ, meaning, to have the Bible illuminated in our minds so that we can clearly understand the principles that Jesus taught and base our daily personal decisions on those principles.

We come to Church because we want to be obedient to the Bible, which is the doctrine of Jesus Christ, in an informed, insightful and intelligent manner.

Our takeaway point in this series on the Biblical Design of Gender is that God has designed man as the cooperative coalition of husband and wife so that man can successfully achieve the objective that God has given us to exercise dominion over the earth, developing wisdom and knowledge in preparation for further responsibility in our eternal life.

In our last lesson, Isaac was preparing for his demise. His oldest son, Esau, was that which the Bible calls a profane man. Esau showed that he did not value the blessings that God provided for him by trading half of his inheritance to his younger brother in return for a bowl of stew, and then, against his parent’s wishes, polygamously marrying two Hittite women who were not worshipers of God.

These flaws notwithstanding, Isaac preferred Esau as a companion over his younger son Jacob because of Esau’s ability to hunt and prepare wild game. Since Jacob acquired the birthright because of a poor trade by Esau, Isaac decided to give Esau a special blessing. But Esau’s younger twin brother Jacob was Isaac’s wife Rebekah’s favorite. Rebekah successfully conspired to fool Isaac into blessing Jacob with the blessing intended for Esau.

As I mentioned last week, the blessing was Isaac’s to give, and since Rebekah chose to deceive Isaac and thwart his intention, she lost access to her favorite son. The unintended consequence of Rebekah’s conspiracy against Esau was that Esau, being a profane man, threatened to kill Jacob. God would have preferred a peaceful solution, as the book of Hebrews admonishes us, in **Hebrews 12:14-17:**

**14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:**

**15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root**



of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;  
**16** lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

**17** For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

So peace with Esau was not forthcoming. Rebekah prevailed upon Isaac to send Jacob away to save his life, under the pretext of finding a wife that worshipped God. Our text, **Genesis 28:1-2** records:

**1** Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

**2** Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother.

Jacob left the camp under a death threat, leaving his parents, his brother and his inheritance behind. Jacob followed his parent’s instructions and travelled to Rebekah’s home town of Haran. On the first night of the journey, God met Jacob as Jacob slept. **Genesis 28:12-15** records:

**12** Then [Jacob] dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

**13** And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: “I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

**14** Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

**15** Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

Upon awakening, Jacob responded to the dream, in **Genesis 28:20-22**:

**20** Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,  
**21** so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.

**22** And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

So Jacob made the deal with God to receive God’s protection and guidance. God started on the job immediately. God gave Jacob travelling mercy and facilitated his travel to his desired destination. Upon arrival, Jacob met a group of fellows at a well, who verified that they were in the territory in which Jacob’s uncle Laban, whom Jacob had never met, was living and doing well.



As Jacob and the boys were discussing the situation, a beautiful girl entered their view and headed for the well. When Jacob saw her, he did a double-take, and his jaw fell open. The fellows noticed, and one of them said, “You were asking about Laban? That’s his daughter, Rachel.”

Rachel was leading a flock of sheep to the well. The obvious fact that she was bringing the flock to drink was not lost on Jacob. **Genesis 29:10-12** records: **10 And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother’s brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother’s brother, that Jacob went near and rolled the stone from the well’s mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother’s brother.**

**11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice and wept.**

**12 And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father’s relative and that he was Rebekah’s son. So she ran and told her father.**

Once Laban found out that Jacob was in town, he immediately went out to meet this nephew that he had never seen before. After Laban heard Jacob’s story, he offered Jacob hospitality. Why would he not? After all, the first thing that Jacob did when he saw a member of the family was to help them. Living in an agrarian society, labor was always needed, and Jacob certainly seemed eager to help.

One of the first thing potential fathers-in-law need to find out about is their potential son-in-law’s ability to take care of their daughter. The act of marriage implies that a man has to be able to take care of his wife, as **1 Timothy 5:8** tells us:

**8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.**

When Abraham’s servant came to Laban forty plus years earlier to find a wife for Isaac, the servant brought riches; a caravan of camels loaded down with provisions and golden presents. Jacob showed up at Laban’s house with nothing except a strong back and his ability to work. But after having been at Laban’s home for a month, Jacob’s work ethic so impressed Laban that Laban decided to hire Jacob to help take care of his farm and his flocks. **Genesis 29:15-18** records:

**15 Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what should your wages be?”**

**16 Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.**

**17 Leah’s eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.**

**18 Now Jacob loved Rachel; so [Jacob] said, “I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter.”**

The word translated “delicate” in the New King James is from a Hebrew word that has several English synonyms. The general consensus of interpretive



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opinion is that Leah was cross-eyed, which seems to fit the context as a reason that Leah's eyes were unattractive to Jacob.

Jacob is over forty years of age, and has been the favorite of a beautiful mother for those forty years. Esau sought out and found wives, but Jacob had no need for a wife. Jacob was closer to his mom Rebekah than was his dad Isaac, and Jacob stayed close to home and cultivated their relationship.

I have mentioned several times during this series of lessons that women are bonded hormonally by the hormone oxytocin. Women bond chemically with men whom they have sex and children that suckle at their breasts. Negative circumstances can override the chemical bond, but lacking negative circumstances, women often show an extraordinary allegiance to the husbands and children with whom they have these experiences. Mothers that have an extreme affinity for their sons and daughters are, in many cases, reluctant to allow them to grow up. Mothers often find it necessary to meddle in the lives of their grown children, and hang on to their grown children as though their relationship with their children is their primary relationship.

Jacob was Rebekah's primary relationship in that house; Rebekah valued Jacob's interest over Isaac's word. Isaac's could not separate Jacob and Rebekah; the thing that separated them was a viable death threat from Esau. After all, Esau killed things for a living.

Conditions have thrust Jacob into the world, away from his relationship with his mom. Jacob had a primary need to replace the comfort that he received from Rebekah with that of another woman. So Jacob did not make a deal with Laban for currency, land or for cattle to increase his fortune; Jacob was attracted to Rachel and wanted to be with her. As the "a" portion of **Genesis 2:18** records: **18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone."**

Most boys can't find a better helper than mom, but men need a different kind of help, as **Genesis 2:24** records:

**24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

Laban, recognizing Jacob's value to the family and farm, and not having a better option for a husband for Rachel, chose to keep the inheritance in the family and allow cousin Jacob to marry Rachel. However, in his agreement, Laban was cautious. He agreed to give Rachel to Jacob, but only after Jacob actually served the seven years of labor. That was not exactly what Jacob had in mind, but Jacob agreed to the deal after he realized that he would be on site and able to oversee his investment. Laban could hardly give Rachel to another man with Jacob right there, and although Jacob and Rachel couldn't consummate their relationship, Jacob was satisfied to be able to talk to Rachel and look at her every day. So Jacob and Rachel had one of the longest engagements between two people with an actual wedding in mind, but Jacob contented himself with anticipation. **Genesis 29:20** records:



**20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.**

Finally, Jacob's big day came. **Genesis 29:21** records:

**21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her."**

Jacob worked for seven years and did not receive a paycheck. He did receive room and board, and the ability to talk to a girl he loved every day, but Jacob had received no tangible resources in return for his excellent work. But Jacob didn't particularly see the lack of possessions and land as a problem, because he still had his inheritance at home. Jacob wanted Rachel.

Laban, on the other hand, looked at the situation differently. Laban knew that Jacob had an inheritance in another land, and Laban had already given up his sister Rebekah to never be seen again. Laban knew that once Jacob received Rachel, there was no telling how soon Jacob would be leaving for home. And Laban also knew that Jacob's nose was open. Anyone who would work honorably for seven years, with no pay, just to get the love of a woman, is someone that you can't just give up easily. So Laban did not. **Genesis 29:23** records:

**23 Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.**

Now, understand. Laban waited until sundown to give Jacob his bride. It's dark. It's their first time. Leah claimed that she was bashful, and wanted the lights turned off.

Wait a minute. What lights? This is in Genesis, which is before the days of electricity.

Leah and Rachel are sisters. They are similar in form and, in the dark, a man probably can't tell one from the other. At least, Jacob couldn't, and after seven years of waiting to consummate his marriage to Rachel, he was probably so excited about being with his beloved that he didn't worry about it. So, Laban pulled a fast one, and got over on Jacob. Jacob didn't mind too much being married to Leah in the dark, but in the daylight, Jacob took one look into those eyes and went to see Laban. **Genesis 29:25-27** records:

**25 So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And [Jacob] said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?"**

**26 And Laban said, "It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.**

**27 Fulfill her week, and we will give you [Rachel] also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years."**

"Well, Laban", said Jacob, "if the youngest couldn't be married before the oldest, why didn't you say so in the first place?"



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“Well, Jacob”, said Laban, “how could I get you to work for me for fourteen years for no pay if I told you up front that I was taking you? But, I’ll make you a deal. Spend the rest of this week giving Leah a good honeymoon, and I’ll give you Rachel next week rather than making you wait seven more years to get her.” And **Genesis 29:28, 30** tells us:

**28 Then Jacob did so and fulfilled [Leah’s] week. So [Laban] gave [Jacob] his daughter Rachel as wife also.**

**30 Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years.**

I was at home Friday evening, getting ready to go dancing with my wife, and she came into our bedroom from shopping for a new garment to wear. When she came into the room, I was, once again, reminded of the reason that I married her in the first place. She’s so cute that every time I look at her, I just have to smile. And one of the great joys of life is for a man to have someone cute to look at every day. I see women on television and at the dances that are made up to be drop-dead gorgeous, or that display themselves as really sexy, but beautiful girls have never affected me as much as cute girls. Maybe it’s my insecurity, because I see really beautiful girls as unattainable, and cute girls available to an average looking guy like me.

Every man has his own criteria for a woman, and, as a wise man once said, there is no accounting for taste. But once a man finds a woman that suits his fancy, the real relationship can begin.

Attraction is one thing, but relationship is another. Attraction is based upon physical proximity and some subjective characteristics, but love is based upon how we treat one another in the long term. As we will see in later lessons from this example, having sex with a man doesn’t make him love you. **1Corinthians 13:4-7** tells us:

**4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud.**

**5 Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others. Love does not count up wrongs that have been done.**

**6 Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices over the truth.**

**7 Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always endures.**

You notice that none of the attributes of love have anything to do with sex or looks. These attributes have nothing to do with body type, physical condition, or knowledge or ability to perform sexually. Having sex with a man doesn’t make him love you.

Love is a complex concept that can be explained simply with respect to marriage. To show love to the one that you have married, wake up every morning thinking of what you can do to make your husband or wife glad that they are alive, and glad that they are married to you. And then do it.



In a counseling journal, I read the interesting case of a woman who obtained evidence that her husband was having an affair with a co-worker. The woman confronted her husband, who was contrite and promised to immediately cease the affair and break off with the other woman. The couple went into marital counseling, discussed the situation thoroughly, and at the end of the counseling, the man promised to be faithful to his wife.

Six months went by, and the woman began to be suspicious of her husband. It was not for any reason that she could objectively state; her husband went to work on time every morning, came home on time every night, and never went out without his wife, a trusted friend, or to an event for which the wife was given the time parameters. The husband appeared to always be where he was supposed to be, and the wife could never catch her husband anywhere that he was not supposed to be. But, she was still suspicious of her husband, for some intuitive reason.

The uncomfortable wife decided to bug her husband's SUV. She put a sound activated tape recorder under his driver's seat before he went to work the next day. When she listened to the tape, she heard her husband apparently having sex with someone, in the SUV, for about fifteen minutes. She didn't say anything to her husband, but put the tape recorder back in his vehicle. The next day, she listened to the tape, and heard the same activity that she had heard the previous day. Just to be sure, she put the tape recorder back in his vehicle for a third day, with the same results.

The wife confronted her husband with the audio evidence. He confessed that he had only stopped having sex with his lover for a short time when he was first found out, and that he and she had been having sex before work for fifteen minutes every workday morning for about nine years. His lover was a married woman, and neither he nor she wanted to leave their marriages and children, but they both enjoyed the intimate time and pleasure that they had with one another.

Needless to say, the woman was shocked, asked her husband to leave their home, and filed for divorce.

Now, why would this man have sex for fifteen minutes with a married co-worker every day? This man is not out chasing women, because he is only interested in one woman outside of his marriage. Other than this case, he is never anywhere where he is not supposed to be. Neither the man nor his co-worker was interested in leaving their marriage, as they had been having their affair for nine years without doing so. In fact, they were obviously using their affair to maintain their marriages, as neither of them revealed their dissatisfaction with their marriages to their spouses.

The first question for you is: *How would their marriage have been different if the man's wife made love to him for fifteen minutes every morning before he went to work?*





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The second question for you is: *Do you have fifteen minutes to spare for your mate?*

It is an interesting fact that life is lived on a day to day basis. Jesus says, in **Matthew 6:34**:

**34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**

The Bible tells us, in **Psalm 37:8, Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32**:

**8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm.**

**26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.**

**31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.**

**32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

What is the point of holding on to anger?

Being angry is a form of control. People stay angry so that they can keep the upper hand. If I can justify being angry at you, I can maintain control and justify not being loving, not doing that which the Lord tells me to do. I don't have to be patient and kind. I can justify being jealous, rude and selfish. I can justify being upset and can keep score of the wrongs done to me. Of course, my anger also allows me to erase the score sheet of the things that I have done to you.

So, God tell us to not sin in our anger by holding on to it. Yes, you may react impulsively to a situation that makes you angry, but whether or not you choose to hold on to your anger past sundown is a decision, not an impulse. And God says not to do it. From now on, I'm only going to make my wife angry at two minutes before sundown, so she can't hold on to it.

But that's the choice that we each have to make. Are we going to love, or are we seeking to control by holding on to anger?

After Jacob woke up lying in the bed next to cross-eyed Leah when he anticipated looking into the beautiful eyes of his desirable Rachel, he went to see Laban. Jacob didn't want two wives, and he certainly didn't want a cross-eyed wife, but Laban had the upper hand. Jacob had deflowered Leah, and he couldn't fix her back like she was before their night of passion, so Jacob was stuck.

However, do you remember how Jacob tricked Esau? **Romans 12:19** tells us:

**19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.**

In other words, don't hold on to anger because what goes around comes around on a cosmic level. And one of the reasons that God tells us to give up our wrath is that He is in control of the universe. As long as God is in control, the trick will eventually end up being on the trickster.



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I remember the greatest trick that God ever played. He played His trick on the Jewish leaders that were desecrating His Temple in Jerusalem by preaching His word falsely and cheating the people over whom they had control. The Jews deceived those to whom they were speaking that they were actually speaking for God, and that they were the arbiters of God's Word on the earth. So God tricked them. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who took on flesh, and came in the form of a bondservant, in the likeness of sinful man. Jesus Christ tricked them by disguising Himself, in that although Jesus Christ came through the line of kings, He came through the line of a descendent of David that lived in Galilee rather than Jerusalem.

So when Jesus showed up on the religious scene, Jesus was able to trick the Jewish leaders that were desecrating God's house into not realizing that He Himself was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. And although Jesus Christ was tricking them, He was also living the life that fulfilled more than three hundred Old Testament prophecies that they should have known. The Jews got stuck on just one prophecy, which was that no prophet would ever come from Galilee. And the bad part was that Isaiah 9 does prophecy a prophet from Galilee, but the Jews were blinded so that they couldn't recognize the truth of that passage of Scripture.

Their blindness allowed them to reject the fact that Jesus could heal the sick, raise the dead, open blinded eyes and cleanse lepers. Their blindness allowed them to reject the fact that Jesus could feed five thousand men with two fish and five loaves of bread, could walk on water and change water into wine. The multitudes believed in Jesus Christ as the Messiah, because His godly works were obvious, but God blinded the eyes of the people in the religious leadership, because God had a trick to play on them which He didn't want them to see because of their arrogance and sin.

So God allowed them to put Jesus Christ to death. The Jewish leaders couldn't even produce the evidence to execute Jesus Christ legally in their own kangaroo court, and when Jesus testified truthfully of His identity, they used the truth as an excuse to execute Him. And Jesus Christ submitted to the most ignominious death that they could produce. You all know the story of His crucifixion, the pain of the scourging, the anguish of the crown of thorns, the agony of the march up the Via Dolorosa, the suffering as He was nailed to the Old Rugged Cross, and the torment of listening to His accusers revile Him.

And then, God did His real work.

God turned out the light of the sun, and poured down all of His wrath against the sins that man has committed, from that of the fruit in the garden, to the sins of Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, Jacob and Laban, down to the very last sin that anyone will ever commit, on Jesus Christ. God's wrath for all of the times that you have been angry and treated your brother or sister disdainfully, every time you have disobeyed God by exercising your anger to punish your brother or



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sister and make them small in their own eyes in and in yours, every negative thing that you have ever done to belittle, disparage or demean your brother or sister; God's wrath for all of your sin and my sin was poured down, that day, on Jesus Christ. And when the very last sin was paid for by this sinless Man of God, Jesus Christ did not curse us, did not revile us, and did not condemn us because of the agony that He suffered, but He simply acknowledged that which He did for us by saying, "It is paid, the debt is paid."

And once Jesus' mission for mankind was completed, Jesus committed His spirit to God, He hung His head in the locks on His shoulder and He died. They took Him down from the Cross and buried Him in Joseph's new tomb. And God waited three days to play His trick.

And in three days, the greatest trick against the devil and against sinfulness that was ever played was played early on that Sunday morning. Jesus Christ rose from the dead, physically, and appeared to the women, the disciples and then to over five hundred men at once to instruct them to go into all the world and preach the good news that our sins can be forgiven if we believe in and learn the lessons of His sacrifice on the Cross and His resurrection from the dead.

**Romans 12:19** tells us:

**19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.**

And God repays. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is proof of God's repayment. So we should forsake anger, and not let the sun go down on our wrath, as Jesus Himself tells us, in **John 13:34-35**:

**34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**

**35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

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