



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

# “The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 16”

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



### The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 16

**Genesis 29:31-32:**

**31 When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.**

**32 So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, “The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me.”**

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.

We left our last lesson after a discussion about anger. The protagonist of the last episode, Jacob, tricked his brother Esau out of the blessing from his father Isaac, and then left his father’s camp after Esau displayed his anger at Jacob by threatening to kill him when their father died. Jacob fled to his uncle Laban’s home, hoping that Esau would cool off. There, Jacob fell in love with his cousin Rachel, and agreed to work for Laban for seven years in order to receive Rachel’s hand in marriage.

Rachel had an older sister, Leah, with an eye defect that made her unattractive, who had no serious prospects for marriage. When Jacob completed his seven years of service to Laban and requested his bride Rachel in payment, Laban decided to palm Leah off on Jacob, trusting that Jacob couldn’t tell Rachel and Leah apart in the dark. Laban’s scheme was successful, but the next morning, an angry Jacob went to see Laban. Laban diffused Jacob’s anger by promising to give him Rachel as well, after Jacob finished his honeymoon week with Leah.

Jacob tricked Esau, and now Laban has tricked him. One of the points that I made about being angry is recorded in **Romans 12:19**, which 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. Esau could not get even with Jacob after Jacob left



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home, but although Jacob left home, he never left the sight of God, who is taking care of the situation. Interestingly, Jesus tells us, in **Matthew 5:38-48**:

**38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’**

**39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.**

**40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.**

**41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.**

**42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.**

**43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’**

**44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,**

**45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.**

**46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?**

**47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?**

**48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.**

This is called radical Christianity. Jesus was so confident in the justice of God to His people that He told us to not defend ourselves, but allow ourselves to be misused, because there is a greater power in the universe that is watching over all of us and is active in evening up the score.

And this works. Many of us have seen the macro evidence of the truth of this passage in our own lifetime, in the works of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. The people on the front lines of his movement were trained, in their churches, to “turn the other cheek” when set upon by the racist law enforcement of the day. And they took a great deal of abuse and, in some cases, were even killed.

But God eventually moved, shifted the leadership of America, and, eventually, it became a shame to be called a racist in this country. Dr. King gave his life, but in so doing cemented both the successful completion of the cause for which he struggled and his place in history.

But it’s a difficult calling to be a radical Christian. Most of us are content to simply become less pagan and improve our responses to situations that make us angry gradually as we age. We have an affinity for our emotional responses, and we suppress them only with great difficulty. But, as our takeaway statement



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indicates, this life is preparation for the next life, and we may find that the more radical we are here, the more responsibility we have there.

So this life is a learning experience, and Jacob is learning that what goes around comes around. But Jacob does not take the coming around part well. After Jacob completed his honeymoon week with Leah, the Bible tells us, in

**Genesis 29:30:**

**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.**

**Genesis 2:24** tells us:

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

One of the reasons that God tells husbands and wives to be “one flesh” with one another is to preclude the warfare that goes on between women if a man has more than one. I have often spoken of the bonding chemical, oxytocin, that God designed to emotionally join a woman to a man. I have also said that men do not have this chemical in the same concentrations as do women. Women commit, to some degree, emotionally, hormonally and chemically, but men make conscious, intentional commitments, so it is a good idea for a woman to not expose herself sexually to a man that has not made the formal commitment of marriage to her.

On the other hand, men can comfortably have sex with any number of women. That is the reason that **Genesis 2:24** is in the Bible as a commandment. God tells men to restrict themselves, but, particularly in the Old Testament period, God was somewhat flexible about the enforcement of that commandment. God’s design was monogamy, but God allowed polygamy, if for no other reason than to show us the problem that it causes.

The first problem with polygamy is shown in the “a” portion of **Genesis 29:30:**

**30 Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah.**

Since the emotional attachment of a man is not hormonal but volitional, a man with more than one intimate partner can, and generally does, have a favorite. Men that have a favorite partner are less likely to treat the partner that is not their favorite equally. God anticipates this problem, in **Deuteronomy 21:15-17:**

**15 “If a man has two wives, one loved and the other unloved, and they have borne him children, both the loved and the unloved, and if the firstborn son is of her who is unloved,**

**16 then it shall be, on the day he bequeaths his possessions to his sons, that he must not bestow firstborn status on the son of the loved wife in preference to the son of the unloved, the true firstborn.**



**17 But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.**

Marital relationships do not only affect the husband and the wife, but also the children. If a man has a favorite wife, he likely feels more affection for the children that he has by her than he does for those that he has by his less favorite wife, which damages the children as they feel their father's rejection. Of course, this problem can be avoided by a man having only as single wife, but that wisdom does not help Jacob at this point. Jacob didn't campaign for two wives, but he has them, and we will see the problem that his situation causes.

One problem is sexual frequency. With two wives, a man has to figure out in which wife's bed he is going to spend the night tonight. I suppose a man could develop an equitable schedule, but in practical application, a man would probably decide to spend more time with the wife that he prefers, wouldn't you agree? Well, how does that make the unloved wife feel?

Now, suppose the unloved wife reacts with anger. Anger makes a woman less attractive to a man. **Proverbs 19:13** says:

**13 A foolish son is the ruin of his father, And the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping.**

The idea of a continual dripping is analogous to Chinese water torture. **Proverbs 21:19, 25:24** says:

**19 Better to dwell in the wilderness, Than with a contentious and angry woman.**

**24 It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.**

These passages of Scripture are not the bitter ramblings of a frustrated husband, but they are the Divinely inspired Written Word of God. God is warning the men among us that are not married to make sure that the person to whom they join themselves is neither angry nor contentious, because if a man fails to be diligent about this matter, he will regret it later.

And when the unloved wife reacts with anger, her anger pushes her husband farther from her, like to the wilderness or to the corner of the housetop, or, more likely, to the bed of his other wife. No one volunteers for Chinese Water Torture; most people do whatever they can to avoid torture. And the more he avoids her, the angrier she gets, And so the cycle builds upon itself.

A woman marries her husband to have someone with whom to have a loving relationship. She anticipated that the two of them would become one flesh, or at least spend loving time together. She thought that she was getting a companion, and women are so designed that they need a companion. Remember all those bonding chemicals that I keep talking about? And now her husband is with another woman. It drives her crazy, and, in this case, she can't even beat up the other woman because the other woman is her little sister.



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Laban's trick didn't just hurt Jacob. Laban's trick hurt Leah as well. Yeah, Leah is off of Laban's hands, but he didn't exactly put Leah in a position that Leah could enjoy.

But, guess who is still watching and is still evening up things? Yes, you guessed it. God. **Genesis 29:31** records:

**31 When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.**

Leah, baby, you need someone to love and your husband doesn't love you? Well, here you go. Here's a child. Not only that, it's a male child, which will help you draw in your husband. **Genesis 29:32** records:

**32 So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me."**

Have you ever heard of "baby mama drama"? Well, it didn't start with the Maury show. That's one of the places where it is now, but it didn't start there. Husbands aren't the only one that can cause the oxytocin response in women. Babies do as well. If a woman needs someone to love her, a baby boy is almost perfect. The baby can't leave; he won't be out playing ball with the guys or chasing other women. The baby will be with his mother 24/7 for at least a few months, and he'll be stuck to her leg for probably about five years. He'll cuddle and snuggle, and he'll up look at his mom with those big, brown eyes and make her feel wanted and needed. He needs her for everything, and she can make sure that he gets it. When a woman has a baby boy, she has a man that loves her unconditionally and whom she can tell what to do. It's a perfect set up.

Except Leah wanted Jacob to love her. She wanted the baby to draw Jacob in. But babies don't draw men in.

To a woman, a baby boy is love and affection. To a man, a baby boy is a project.

When Paul was born, I thought about all the things I could teach him. Yeah, I carried him around when he was a baby, but I was just taking care of him until he became big enough to do something. That's when sons are fun.

I will never forget the time we got off the plane in Hawaii. We left Chicago at eight am in the morning, flew west for eleven hours, which would have made it 11pm in Chicago, but it was 1pm in the afternoon in Hawaii. Paul was about three. He played on the plane as long as he could, and then finally, he fell asleep. He was sleeping on my shoulder as I carried him through the airport, and he stayed asleep all the way to the hotel. I laid him down on the bed, and he woke up.

The room door was open, because I was still bringing the bags in. Paul woke up, saw the open door, and started running for it. His mother yelled, "Paul!" Paul never broke stride. "Paul!" she repeated. Paul never stopped moving.



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I turned around and said, “Paul.” He stopped and looked at me. I pointed, and went back to sit down on the bed. “It’s the tone of my voice”, I told my wife. “Your voice sounds like his to him. You sound like another kid. But the deep voice is different. It gets him every time.”

Yeah, sons are fun. They cause some great moments between a husband and a wife. **Psalm 127:3-5** tells us:

**3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.**

**4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth.**

**5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.**

So sons are fun, and there is strength in numbers. But this son, Reuben, didn’t exactly fulfill his mother’s expectation. Jacob was no more attracted to Leah after Reuben was born than he was before. And God was still watching.

**Genesis 29:33** records:

**33 Then [Leah] conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this son also.” And she called his name Simeon.**

So Leah still feels unloved, but at least she has the babies to keep her company. Now she has two little boys running around to play with, to chase and to hug. But how’s her relationship with Jacob? It’s about the same. **Genesis 29:34** tells us:

**34 [Leah] conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore his name was called Levi.**

Did you ever wonder why women that have children out of wedlock keep having them? It may not just be immorality. It just may be her way of trying to attract her man. And he comes around every now and then, like a hit-and-run driver. Jacob probably came to see Leah on the Thursday of the week that Rachel wasn’t available. But although Jacob gave Rachel love rather than Leah, God gave Leah fertility, and the sons are piling up. **Genesis 29:35** tells us:

**35 And [Leah] conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Now I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing.**

Well, now Leah has enough children. Four little boys running around at her skirt tails. (I’m assuming that they wore skirts back then.) Jacob was still making his monthly runs, and Leah was busy enough with the boys to realize that Jacob was just not going to be there, and that she should concentrate on her relationships with her sons and God.

Ever wonder why some churches are so emotional, and are mostly attended by women? Church work can be a substitute for a relationship with a



man, especially if you have the pastor's, or the deacon's or some man's attention at church. **1Corinthians 11:8-9** tells us:

**8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man.**

**9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.**

**Genesis 2:18** tells us:

**18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."**

Logically, if it's not good for a man to be alone, and woman was created specifically for man, how can it be good for a woman to be alone? Women were created for men, which is why they have the bonding chemicals of which I have spoken. Women need the attention of men, because they are drawn, by design, to the rush that they feel when those chemicals flow. After all, the prime directive from God, given in **Genesis 1:27-28**:

**27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

**28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**

And that's what this is about. Fruitful multiplication leads to dominion. How can we have dominion over the earth if there are not enough of us to populate it?

The baby boom generation caused one of the greatest expansions of the economy in history. Why? Well, with all those children, the economy had to grow. First, industries that produced products for infant care exploded. Then it was the toy industry, as the baby boomers became old enough to play with toys. Colleges grew at an astronomical rate as the baby boomers moved through, and then the industries that cater to furnishing houses and supplying appliances, cars, and so on experienced similar growth. As the baby boomers became adults and started their own families, the economy recycled itself over again. As the baby boomers now hit the downside of life, we see our economy shrinking. Stores are going out of business because the baby boomers have enough stuff on the shelf so that we can stop buying. I talked last week about how cute my wife was when she came in with her new garment. I don't buy new garments. Why should I? I like black. (of course, you are free to disagree)

I was having a discussion this week about the recent statistic that 48% of Black women between the ages of 14 and 49 are infected with an incurable sexually transmitted disease. In the discussion I recommended that Black women stop having sex out of wedlock, and get married instead. I was immediately bombarded by the position of many people that getting married, while not a bad solution, just wasn't all that easy. Someone cited the statistic there are 1.8 million more Black women than there are Black men, in the first place. Someone else said that only 54% of Black men 25 to 34 were available to marry. It's true that



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21% on Black men in that age range don't have a high school diploma, 17% with a high school diploma are chronically unemployed, and 8% are in jail.

It's also true that the number of black women earning bachelor's degrees has increased by 55% since the mid-1970s, compared with an increase of 20% among black men. In law and medicine, among black women, the number of degree earners has soared 219%. But for black men, it has increased only 5%. And so, 70% of Black women with BA's, MD's and JD's are unmarried. The consensus of the discussion was that Black men need to step it up, and I had no choice but to agree with the conclusion.

42% of Black women have never been married, which is double the rate of white women, and there are a lot of Leah's out there having children, which, of course, only contributes to the trends going in the direction that they are. And not Leahs exactly, after all, Leah was married to her baby daddy. He just spent most of his time with his other wife.

So, what's the solution? Well, the only solution that I have is still the same one. I'm a man that has come to believe in design. And God has designed marriage as the relationship into which children should be born. If Black women stop having sex with Black men that are not married to them, Black men will get their act in order rather than go without a woman. The sisterhood could motivate the brotherhood, if the sisters would stick to the script.

The Jews brought Jesus a woman that they caught in adultery. **John 8:4-11** tells us:

**4 they said to [Jesus], "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.**

**5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"**

**6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.**

**7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."**

**8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.**

**9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.**

**10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"**

**11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."**

So marriage, rather than adultery or fornication, is the way to go. However, Jesus makes it clear that the Law of God is not about condemnation,



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but about repentance. Sin doesn't send anyone to hell; the criminal, that died on the cross next to Jesus, who was being executed for his crimes, went to Paradise. The law is about repentance. **Matthew 26:28** tells us that Jesus said: **28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

Remission means forgiveness. Jesus forgave the woman, just as Jesus will forgive baby mommas everywhere. But in his forgiveness He says, **“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”**

**John 3:16-17** tells us:

**16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

**17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**

Jesus Christ died so that our sins, being many, could be forgiven and so that we might have a right and a just right to the tree of life that our first foreparents rejected in the garden, preferring rather to take the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So it is ours to choose. Starting today, we can choose sin, leading to death and damnation, or we can choose repentance, leading to eternal life.

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20** tells us:

**19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;**

**20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”**

So let us make the choices that lead to life, as we conclude our discussion today with **1John 5:11-13**:

**11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son [Jesus Christ].**

**12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.**

**13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.**

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