



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 53”

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Informed. Insightful. Intelligent.



The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 53

2Samuel 11:5

5 And the woman [Bathsheba] conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, “I am with child.”

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.

As we have been examining in our past few lessons, God has appointed David the King of Israel as a replacement for the disobedient King Saul. In our last lesson, we recorded David’s defeat of the Philistines and his restoral of the Ark of the Covenant to the Tabernacle, which at this time, is in David’s capital of Jerusalem, the city that David acquired when he defeated the Jebusites.

Once the celebration of the restoral of the Ark was completed, David built a palace for himself, and as he was completing his palace, David decided that the mobile Tabernacle was no longer good enough for the worship of God. David wanted the articles of worship, those being the Ark of the Covenant that contained the tablets upon which God wrote the Ten Commandments, Aaron’s rod that budded before the Pharaoh, and a pot of manna gathered from the wilderness, covered by the mercy seat with the two gold cherubim, as well as the golden lampstand, the Breastplate of Judgment, the altar of incense, the bronze laver for washing, the golden table and utensils to prepare sacrifices, and the veil that stood before the Most Holy Place, to have a permanent home.

But God disagreed, as God told Nathan the prophet, in **2Samuel 7:5–7**:
5 “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?”

6 For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to



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shepherd My people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’ ” ’

God did not want David to build the Temple. Nonetheless, God did tell David that there would be a Temple built, and that he, David, would have a great deal to do with it. **2Samuel 7:12–16** records that God said:

12 “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.

15 But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” ’ ’

So God assured David that the fate of Saul would not befall him; that he would not be rejected and then be replaced. Of course, it is important for us to realize that God’s assurance of His grace to David was contingent upon David maintaining his relationship with God, which is not specified, but goes without saying.

We didn’t cover this as part of our lessons on the life of Saul, but Saul’s final downfall came when Saul commanded the medium at En Dor to call up Samuel from the dead, the doing of which was witchcraft. Saul did his job as the God appointed king to remove those that practiced witchcraft from the land, but, after Samuel’s death, Saul decided to use witchcraft to consult with his dead counselor. But consultation with Samuel couldn’t save Saul, as Saul sealed his fate by that action.

So, unless David decided to have a dalliance with the devil, God assured David that his kingdom would last through the reign of his son, who would build that which turned out to be the Temple of God.

Since David had his house, his city and his kingdom, David decided to go to work on God’s Temple. David knew that his son would actually build God’s Temple, so David decided that he would provide an inheritance that would give his son the resources needed to build God’s Temple. **2Samuel 8:1–2** tells us:
1 After this it came to pass that David attacked the Philistines and subdued them. And David took Metheg Ammah from the hand of the Philistines.
2 Then he defeated Moab. Forcing them down to the ground, he measured them off with a line. With two lines he measured off those to be put to death, and with one full line those to be kept alive. So the Moabites became David’s servants, and brought tribute.



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David began acquiring the resources to build God's Temple from the tribute of the Moabites. In his next conquest, David defeated the king of Zobah, and took 1000 chariots and horses from him. David employed 100 horses and chariots in his army, and kept 900 of the chariots in the treasure trove that he was building for the construction of the Temple.

22,000 Syrians came to the aid of the king of Zobah, bearing golden shields. David defeated the Syrian army, and took the shields and a large quantity of bronze from the Syrians to increase the treasure trove that he was building for the construction of the Temple.

King Toi, who was at war with the Syrians when David defeated them, brought David a great deal of silver, gold and bronze as a tribute for defeating the Syrians.

When the king of Ammon died, David sent a delegation to Ammon to offer his condolence to the new king of Ammon, but the Ammonite king's counselors erroneously advised the king that David had sent the delegation to spy out the land. The new king of Ammon insulted David's men and sent them back to Israel, so David sent his army to Ammon. The Ammonites hired the Syrians to defend them against David, and the Syrians sent an army of 700 chariots and 40,000 horsemen. David and the Israelite army defeated them as they had defeated the Syrians earlier. And the Syrian commanders decided to not be mercenaries in any more conflict with Israel, because of the strength of David's army.

The spring after David and the army defeated the 47,000 Syrians, David decided to finish his business with the new king of Ammon, but since the Ammonites did not have the protection of the Syrians, David decided that he would not go with the army personally, since the Ammonites without the Syrians were light work. David sent General Joab to command the army while he stayed at home.

At home, David ran into something that he could not defeat as he did the armies of the lands surrounding Israel. You may remember that, two weeks ago, we discussed the situation between David and the beautiful Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, who was innocently bathing in her own home when David, from the roof of his palace, looked at and was transfixed by her nakedness.

And let me reiterate a point from that lesson. Marriage is designed to be monogamous. God's plan is for a man to find one woman to marry and then spend the rest of his life becoming one with her, physically and emotionally. In

Matthew 19:4-6:

4 And [Jesus] answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'

5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh' ?

6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."



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Jesus says “what God has joined together, let not man separate.” And Jesus says this because two can only become one if no one comes between them. The simple truth of the matter is that if anyone in your life is more emotionally important to you than your spouse, the two of you are not one. The definition of marital oneness is that one’s primary human relationship is with their spouse; no one can be emotionally closer than they. And God’s laws against adultery tell us that spouses ought not participate in physical intimacy with anyone other than their spouse.

However, at the juncture of David’s life which we are discussing, David already has seven wives and some number of concubines, which are women to whom David has sexual access without a marital commitment. David’s lifestyle is not conducive to the monogamous marriage to which God calls us, and, as a function of that, David finds having a number of women to be a trivial matter.

Until Bathsheba. Why does David’s adultery with Bathsheba suddenly make his relationship with her important? **2Samuel 11:5** informs us:

5 And the woman [Bathsheba] conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, “I am with child.”

On World AIDS day, which was last Wednesday, I found myself in a conversation with some people that wanted to discuss the reason for the AIDS epidemic. Of course, I went straight to the point and said that the reasons for the AIDS epidemic, by and large, are two antisocial behaviors: out-of-wedlock sex and illegal drug use.

You can imagine, that with the current societal acceptance of out-of-wedlock sex, my answers were not particularly satisfying to the others in the conversation. Unfortunately for those in the discussion with me, I had the facts on my side. As they turned the conversation to seeking potential solutions to the problem of AIDS, I once again went straight to the point. “Since”, I said, “the problem is out-of-wedlock sex and illegal drug use, the only solution to the problem, obviously, is to stop having out-of-wedlock sex and stop using illegal drugs. There can be no other effective solution.”

As the discussion ensued, various individuals decried my solutions and talked about needle exchange programs and sex education as potential alternative solutions, but I kept bringing them back to the points that any needle exchange program would have to account for 100% of the illicit drug transactions to be effective, thus in order to be effective, the people exchanging clean needles would have to pass them out with the drugs, meaning that they would have to be the ones pushing the drugs in the first place; and that sex education doesn’t stop AIDS. Most of the people that contracted AIDS through sexual contact knew that AIDS is transmitted sexually, and so they knew the risk before they participated in that risky behavior. But knowing the risk neither stopped them from risky behavior nor stopped them from contracting AIDS.



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Finally, a lady became frankly hostile. “Well, we’re looking for solutions”, she replied angrily, “not judgment. All you’re doing is judging people for immorality and people need help, not judgment.”

“My friend”, I replied, “maybe you don’t understand that morality IS the only solution. If you’re looking for the solution so that people can have sex out of wedlock, shoot drugs and, at the same time, have the AIDS problem solved and have AIDS go away, good luck. But I doubt that you have much.....”

Of course, that only frosted the lady more. However, in the final analysis, the truth is the light. Sexually transmitted diseases of any form are just like the episode in the garden. In **Genesis 2:16–17**:

16 the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

And, as the man and the woman in the Garden proved by their experience, there was no alternative solution for the problem caused by eating the forbidden fruit that did not lead to death. God tells us, in the “a” part of

Romans 6:23:

23 For the wages of sin is death.

Romans 6:23 tells us that we are like mice, and sin is like the bait on the trap that God has set. God is a little more merciful than we are, because when we set a mousetrap, we don’t inform the mice that trying to eat the bait from the trap will kill them, but God tells us that the wages of sin is death and warns us to not commit sin.

But this particular day, David, who was a man after God’s own heart, proved the correctness of **Romans 6:23**. David was a sincere worshipper of God, not only in word, but also in deed. David spent years avoiding the attempts of God’s previously anointed king Saul to kill him without retaliating in any way, shape, form or fashion. David celebrated the return of the physical signs of the Israelite’s covenant with God in such an enthusiastic way that his wife was even embarrassed at his fervor, and then David devoted his kingship to providing the resources to build a house for God. However, all of the good that David did previously was tarnished in one night when he should probably have been in battle with his soldiers rather than on the roof looking over the city.

And David went on to prove that the wages of sin is, in fact death.

Why was Bathsheba not a trivial matter as were the rest of David’s women? Because David has not only committed adultery, but has created life with another man’s wife. David has committed a sin which will result in death. But how could David commit adultery with such impunity? Did Bathsheba’s husband send her to the palace? Why did he not protest when David called for his wife after a bath in the middle of the night? What would the king be doing



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calling for his wife in the first place? And Bathsheba was certainly married.

2Samuel 11:3 tells us:

3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, “Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

So where is Uriah the Hittite all this time? **2Samuel 11:6–7** records:

6 Then David sent to Joab, saying, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered.

Uriah is in the Israelite army. That’s why his wife was at home alone. Uriah is one of David’s men, in David’s army, serving God.

Since David impregnated Uriah’s wife while Uriah was unavailable, the best solution that David could develop to solve the pregnancy problem was to bring Uriah home to be with his wife and thus confuse paternity, since there were no DNA tests in the 8th century before Christ. And since Uriah had been at war for some time without access to his wife, David thought that Bathsheba could certainly seduce her husband on his unexpected visit home.

But Bathsheba was not able to seduce Uriah, because Uriah didn’t even go home. Uriah stayed with the soldiers in the garrison guarding David’s palace. And when David asked him why he didn’t go home, in **2Samuel 11:11**:

11 And Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.”

Uriah, like David, felt the bond of brotherhood with the men in his unit. And while his brothers were in harm’s way, Uriah was not going to break the bond, even though he had been given unexpected leave by the king.

But David was a soldier before he was the King, and he had a solution for Uriah’s reticence to go home. **2Samuel 11:13** tells us:

13 Now when David called [Uriah], [David] ate and drank before [Uriah]; and [David] made [Uriah] drunk. And at evening [Uriah] went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but [Uriah] did not go down to his house.

David’s second plan to make Uriah go home and have sex with Bathsheba did not work any better than the first. So David went on to plan three. **2Samuel 11:14-15** tells us:

14 In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

15 And [David] wrote in the letter, saying, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.”

David’s third plan worked, and Uriah was killed in battle. Despite inflation, recession and quantitative easing, the wages of sin are still the same. Somebody has to die behind it. In this case, the first person to die was Uriah.



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But Uriah was innocent. And not just innocent, but honorable. Uriah did not die because of anything that he did, said or thought, either while his wife was being impregnated by David or afterward. David had Uriah killed for one reason: David did not want to be convicted of adultery. And David successfully avoided the conviction. **2Samuel 11:26–27:**

26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son.

It appears that David has been successful. He has another wife and he has another son. And, as far as David is concerned, life is good. Except for one thing. **2Samuel 11:27** tells us:

27 But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

And that is our problem, as well. We have displeased God. We may not have committed adultery and then killed the spouse of the person with whom we did so, but **Romans 3:23** tells us:

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

We may not have committed the sin of David, but that is because we do not have the resources or the situation of David. But **Romans 3:23** lets us know that we have disobeyed God to the extent that we can given our situation. And James tells us, in **James 3:1–2:**

1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

But very few of us are perfect. Most of us have done the things that we teach others not to do. But **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.

And this is the crux of Christianity. The purpose of Jesus Christ's advent into the world is salvation. Salvation means that we no longer have to rely on our own goodness or our own righteousness to be right with God. Salvation means that we do not have to worry about our sins bringing us into the condemnation of God. Salvation means that we are saved from the ultimate penalty that we deserve for our sins.

But David is our example. Before David's little trip up to the roof, God assured David that he would not befall the fate of Saul, be rejected and then be replaced. **2Samuel 7:16** records that God said:

16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” ’ ”



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And there was only one contingency, unstated, but understood by all that have an allegiance with God. That contingency, as I have already noted, was that God's assurance of His grace to David was contingent upon David maintaining his relationship with God. Not perfection, not sinlessness, but relationship.

How do you, being a sinner, know whether or not you have a relationship with God? The criminal on the Cross exemplifies being a believer. The relevant episode tells us, in **Luke 23:39–42**:

39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed [Jesus], saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"

41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

The criminal knew criminals when he saw them, and he recognized that Jesus the Christ was not one. The criminal was able to evaluate that which he knew about Jesus Christ and come to the conclusion that Jesus Christ, as He was dying on the Cross next to him, was on His way to a Kingdom. And **John 3:16** says:

16 that whoever believes in Him [Jesus Christ] should not perish but have everlasting life.

The criminal recognized that the dying Jesus Christ was the King. The criminal recognized that Jesus Christ was HIS King. So the criminal confessed his sin and Jesus Christ's holiness. And Jesus Christ recognized the criminal's sincerity when, in **Luke 23:43**:

43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

So, to have a relationship with God, we have to recognize Jesus Christ as our King. Yes, sin is a problem for us, circumstances and situations may successfully entice us to do the wrong thing, but recognizing Jesus Christ as Lord, which is equivalent to recognizing Him as King, is the key to our relationship with Him, as the Apostle Paul tells us, in **Romans 10:9**:

9 that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

And Paul also tells us about Jesus' remedy for our sin, as he says, in **Romans 6:23**:

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And this gift of God is intended to be that which the presents given during this current Christmas season signify. God so loved the world that He gave His



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only begotten Son, who gave us the gift of eternal life. We give one another gifts to signify that God gave us a gift, as **Luke 1:26–38** tells us:

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The miraculous birth of Jesus Christ was the gift of God. Jesus Christ was not born by the normal activity of man, but by the miraculous gift of God. And Jesus Christ was not raised from the dead by the normal activity of man, but by the miraculous gift of God.

God's gift to us during this Christmas season, is the life of Christ, by whose shed blood on Calvary's cross made it possible for us to recover our relationship with God. And Jesus Christ has been empowering we weak sinners to change our ways and recover our relationship with God, even as did David, as we will continue to study in our next lessons, and even as did the Apostle Paul, as he testified of his own life, in **Acts 26:12–18**:

12 "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,

13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.



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14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

15 So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,

18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

The gift of God is given to us that we may open our eyes, that we may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, and that we may receive forgiveness of our many sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Jesus Christ. This is why we celebrate the birth and life of Christ.

Seeking solutions to the problem of sin that do not include repentance and forgiveness of sin, but rather seek to perpetuate sin through technology and education while rejecting the Word of God are not ultimately effective, but the only effective solution to the problem of sin is throwing ourselves on the mercy of Jesus Christ, the Suffering Savior of the Word, accepting His sacrifice on Calvary’s cross, and repenting of our sins to establish our relationship with God, will ultimately be effective for us.

To repent of his sin was the solution for David. And to repent of our sins will be the solution for us, if our sin problem is ever to be solved. And the reason that we must continually preach repentance, hear about repentance and actually repent is that it is so easy for us to allow our sins to beset us, so easy for us to become defensive about the evil that we may do, and so easy for us to decide us to call wrong right, as did my friends with whom I was discussing AIDS. But we can avoid defensiveness and denial when we sin, because repentance is available to us. Jesus Christ came to earth in the flesh and made a way, through His physical sacrifice on the Cross, for us to be forgiven when we do finally repent, even as was the criminal.

And this Christmas celebration is in remembrance of that gift of repentance. So as you wrap your Christmas gifts, say a little prayer that the person being given the gift may remember the reason for the gifts. And, on Christmas morning, as you unwrap your Christmas gifts, remember the reason for the gifts yourself. **John 3:16–17** tells us of God’s gift, on that first Christmas:

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.



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

So let us thank God for the gift of salvation, through the life of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Darryl R. Curtis
Family Life Baptist Church