



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 59”

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Informed. Insightful. Intelligent.



The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 59

Proverbs 7:24-27

24 Now therefore, listen to me, my children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth:

25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths;

26 For she has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong men.

27 Her house is the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death.

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, we chronicled the inauguration of the reign of King Solomon, who wanted to be a diplomat, a man of wisdom and persuasion rather than being a man of military force as was his father David. So Solomon applied to God, in **1Kings 3:6-9**:

6 And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7 Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

8 And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.

9 Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

And God responded positively, in **1Kings 3:10-14**:

10 The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.

11 Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor



have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice,

12 behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.

13 And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.

14 So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

And Solomon demonstrated his God-given ability to make wise decisions to Israel when he had to decide the identity of the parent of a child over which two women were both claiming maternity.

When Solomon offered to physically divide the child between the two women, the woman that actually bore the child asked for mercy for the child. The woman that was trying to steal the child was angry about the death of her own child, and so she was sanguine about Solomon's solution to kill the living child. From the women's reactions, Solomon was able to ascertain that the woman that wanted mercy for the child was his true mother.

Israel was impressed with Solomon's decision making ability, and followed Solomon's leadership as he worked on his major project, that being, building the Temple for the worship of God. Solomon's father David had amassed a great deal of the precious metal needed to build the Temple, and then Solomon hired the King of Tyre to provide the master craftsmen and the aromatic cedar timber from the forests of Lebanon that Solomon would need to complete his task.

Solomon also needed workers, and **2Chronicles 2:17–18** records that there were one hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred aliens in the Land of Israel, and Solomon made seventy thousand of them bearers of burdens, eighty thousand stonecutters in the mountain, and three thousand six hundred overseers to make the people work.

So, with labor and raw materials, Solomon began building. **1Kings 6:2** records that the temple King Solomon built for the LORD was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

2Chronicles 3:4, 8, 10-12 records that the porch in front of the temple was 30 feet across and 30 feet high. Solomon covered the inside of the temple with pure gold. The Most Holy Place was 30 feet long and 30 feet wide, covered inside with 23 tons of fine gold. Solomon decorated the inside of the Most Holy Place with a pair of large carved cherubim covered with gold. The total length of the cherubim's wings from was 30 feet. One of the first cherub's wing tips touched the wall. The other wing tip touched the wing tip of the other cherub. The second cherub's wing tip touched the other wall.



The Temple that Solomon built for God was a magnificent, glittering, golden structure. And God was pleased with the work. Solomon's prayer dedicating the Temple is recorded in **1Kings 8:22–30**:

22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven;

23 and he said: “LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.

27 “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

28 Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today:

29 that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place.

30 And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.

Solomon, in his wisdom, focused on obtaining forgiveness from God. Solomon recognized that the forces of sin are stronger than the will of man, and that it is only by aligning ourselves with God that we can either avoid sin or recover from its effects when we fall prey to it. Solomon goes on to say, in **1Kings 8:46–52**:

46 “When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near;

47 yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, ‘We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness’;

48 and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name:

49 then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause,

50 and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them



52 that Your eyes may be open to the supplication of Your servant and the supplication of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You.

And in this prayer, Solomon teaches us that we should always call on God that He may grant us repentance of our sin. That we will sin is inevitable because of our sin nature, as Paul explains to us, in **Romans 7:18–23**:

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will [to do good] is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

And our members are our problem. I can remember when I first went to work for the telephone company, the telephone company sent me to technical training in Grand Rapids and put me up in a hotel Monday through Friday, for sixteen weeks.

My wedding day was the Saturday before I started technical training. I spent that Saturday and Sunday with my new wife, and then, on Monday morning, I left our apartment to go to Grand Rapids, not to see my wife again until the next Friday. She couldn't come with me, because she was attending college at Michigan State.

Of course, I was not the only one in Grand Rapids without my wife. There were about twelve guys in the class, six from Lansing and, if I'm not mistaken, five of us Lansing guys had wives at home in Lansing while we stayed in Grand Rapids. And we were away from our wives for sixteen weeks.

After about the third week, I heard some of the fellows talking about "Critical Thursday". Being unfamiliar with the term, I asked about it. One of the guys said, "Thursday is critical because it is the day when your desire to have sex may override your fear of the consequences of getting caught."

Six strong, healthy, normal young married men, away from their young wives, staying in hotel rooms with expense money given to them by the telephone company, had to deal with the concept of "Critical Thursday". **Romans 7:22–23** reminds us:

22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.



23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

So, the solution to the problem of “Critical Thursday” is that I have to delight in the law of God and resist the law of my members. Without the commandment of **Deuteronomy 5:18** which says,

18 ‘You shall not commit adultery, most men would not restrain themselves. Remember David on the roof? He had seven wives available to him, none of whom were 60 miles away. And David still sinned.

Since sin is always with us, the wise Solomon knew that the greatest need of the Israelites, himself included, was the need for forgiveness, which is that for which Solomon asked God. And God responded, in part, in **2Chronicles 7:12–14**:

12 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: “I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.

13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,

14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

God makes it clear that He warns us, via negative circumstances, to turn away from our sins. God specifies that drought, insect infestation and contagious diseases should all be considered warnings, and that prayer, humility and seeking God should be our proper responses to being warned.

It is important for us to realize that we live in a sinful society, by which I mean that many things that are seen as normal by most people in the society are really sinful. Our society considers abortion, divorce and promiscuity normal and acceptable, and because of the sinfulness of our society, it is of the utmost importance that we stay close to God because of our personal propensity for sin.

It is difficult for many of us to even acknowledge our own sin, because our positive self-image is based upon our perception of ourselves as being right. We justify our sin as permissible because “everyone is doing it”. As adults, our first reaction to being challenged that we have sinned is generally to justify ourselves. But Solomon warns us this type of thinking, in an episode that he relates, beginning in **Proverbs 7:6–9**:

6 For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice,

7 And saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, a young man devoid of understanding,

8 Passing along the street near her corner; and he took the path to her house

9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night.



Solomon begins by saying that the young man on his way to a sinful rendezvous lacked understanding. The young man should have recognized, because of the historical example of David and Bathsheba, that adultery brings a worse reaction than even stealing. **Proverbs 6:30–33** explains:

30 People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving.

31 Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; he may have to give up all the substance of his house.

32 Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he who does so destroys his own soul.

33 Wounds and dishonor he will get, and his reproach will not be wiped away.

And, of course, marriage is the provision that God gives us so that we can avoid adultery. **1Corinthians 7:3–5** says:

3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

But the young fool is only half of the sinful couple. **Proverbs 7:10-14** introduces the other half:

10 And there a woman met him, with the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart.

11 She was loud and rebellious, her feet would not stay at home.

12 At times she was outside, at times in the open square, lurking at every corner.

13 So she caught him and kissed him; With an impudent face she said to him:

14 “I have peace offerings with me; today I have paid my vows.

The peace offering is the sacrificial burning of plant material that gives off a sweet smelling aroma. The idea of a peace offering is to make peace with God by giving Him a sweet smelling offering that He can enjoy. So the woman went to church, paid her tithe and then gave a peace offering to God with the intention of buying God off, that God might wink at the sin that she is planning to commit.

The woman then continues speaking, in **Proverbs 7:15-20**:

15 So I came out to meet you, diligently to seek your face, and I have found you.

16 I have spread my bed with tapestry, colored coverings of Egyptian linen.

17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.



18 Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; let us delight ourselves with love.

19 For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey;

20 He has taken a bag of money with him, and will come home on the appointed day.”

The woman's husband is not home and is not scheduled to be home soon. The woman has been to church and thinks that she has paid God off. In other words, she feels justified in the sin that she is committing. Since her husband is not home, she considers promiscuity normal and acceptable. So this Biblical episode must be occurring on a “Critical Thursday”. **Proverbs 30:20** tells us: **20 This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, “I have done no wickedness.”**

Yes, this must be happening on “Critical Thursday”, because **Proverbs 7:21** records:

21 With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him.

The young fool is about to make the wrong Critical Thursday decision. **Proverbs 7:22-23** says:

22 Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks,

23 Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, he did not know it would cost his life.

It was not her fault that he sinned; it was not his fault that she sinned, but each of them bore the blame for their own sin. And Solomon gives us his wise conclusion, in our text, **Proverb 7:24-27**:

24 Now therefore, listen to me, my children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth:

25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths;

26 For she has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong men.

27 Her house is the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death.

So, young fellows, when you see the seductress coming for your soul, don't think about the temporary pleasure; think about the consequences. And the seductress doesn't have to be an adult woman; she might be a high school girl. Some people start early.

But sexual sin does not always consist of a man being seduced by a woman. Marilyn came in to see a counselor. She began, “I had a boyfriend two years ago that I can't get over. He was a jerk and I should hate him, but I just can't get over him. I just can't.”

“Well”, the counselor said, “how old are you?”

“Nineteen”, Marilyn replied.

“And”, said the counselor, “how old were you when you had sex with him?”



Marilyn looked shocked for a moment. She opened her mouth, and then she closed it. Finally, she responded, "Well, it was the beginning of my senior year, so I was almost eighteen."

The counselor said, "So, you were seventeen. Were you a virgin?"

"Yes", said Marilyn, "but I...."

And the counselor cut her off. "Marilyn", the counselor said, "Stop talking. Listen and let me tell you something."

"One of the reasons that I recommend that teenaged girls not get involved in sex is that the bonding hormones in their brains produce emotions that girls feel very, very intensely. Some of the most intense emotions come when girls or young women lose their virginity. Girls or young women want to have the emotional assurance that the boy or man to whom they lose their virginity loves them. The fact that the man loves and gives himself for the woman makes their sexual experience meaningful."

"But in your case, this boy did not love you, so your first sexual experience was actually meaningless."

"Now, I know that many girls and young women will tell you that sex is no big deal, but they say that because, being promiscuous, they have allowed themselves to be used often. And promiscuous women become crass, meaning crude or unrefined, about sex to the point that, for them, sex really IS no big deal. The more men with whom a woman has sex, the more crass about sex she becomes."

"But you haven't had sex with that many men, and your extremely intense teenaged brain has not yet become crass. You still want sex to be something other than physical exercise, but you gave your virginity away like you were just doing a workout routine. And since the boy did not care about you, your first sexual experience was meaningless."

"Now, having given away your virginity pointlessly makes you feel bad, makes you feel used, makes you feel like a discarded tissue. And girls and women cope with those feelings by hanging on to the romantic notion that they are in love with the boy or man to whom they gave their virginity."

"As long as you are in love with him, there is a chance, in your mind, that something good might happen, even if it is only a fantasy in your own mind and even if you really know that he is not in love with you. Staying in love with a man with whom you have had sex deflects the pain of the fact that you allowed yourself to be used and the sex was pointless."

"When you say, 'I can't get over him', you are really saying, although you don't realize it, 'I gave away my virginity for no good reason. I feel used, embarrassed and ashamed, but I can't get my virginity back. So you say, 'Oh, I'm still attached', to keep the relationship going in your mind and in order to avoid the embarrassment and shame of being used.'"



The counselor stopped, and looked intently at Marilyn. Marilyn looked down, and then responded, "Yeah....."

And the counselor continued, "So, this preoccupation with your old boyfriend is how you are dealing with embarrassment, shame and regret. And that's why women should not have sex until they are married. A woman should not have sex until the man has made a public marital commitment to love her, to cherish her, to be there with her to raise a family, and to do all of the other things that make sex meaningful.

"To a man, to ANY man, sex is just recreation until he makes a public, marital commitment to a woman. You were just a pickup game with some guys on the corner. One day, he will commit himself, sign a contract and get married, and that girl will be his NBA.

"You can have sex as often as you want and treat your body like a toy with which you can attract men, but you are more than just a body. You are also a soul and a spirit, and letting a man sexually violate your body without meaning violates your soul and spirit. You are hanging on to him because you volunteered to let him violate you and you desperately want that violation to mean something."

The counselor stopped talking. Marilyn looked up and said, "Right....."

"However", the counselor responded, "there is a better way to deal with your situation than hanging on to a relationship that is not there.

"Rather than hanging on, it is better to repent. It is better to say, 'I'm ashamed and regretful that I gave myself away, but that was yesterday. I am not going to repeat stupid behavior like that.' And if you're willing to have remorse, take responsibility and decide to not repeat that sin, I think you'll be better off."

The counselor looked at Marilyn. "Well", Marilyn responded, "I'm totally willing to say that, but I just....."

And the counselor cut her off. "Marilyn, there is no 'I just'. If you have remorse, regret and are willing to take responsibility, then just say so to me."

"Okay", Marilyn began, "I regret everything he did to me....."

The counselor stopped Marilyn again. "No, Marilyn, I don't want you to say it that way. You can't blame that which you did on him. He did not rape you.

"To try to put the responsibility for that which YOU did on HIM keeps you from repenting, because only the one that is responsible for a sin can repent of it. You can't move forward as long as you try to make HIM responsible for YOUR sin. So Marilyn, if you really want to repent and avoid repeating this behavior in the future, you have to confess that YOUR decision was YOUR fault, not HIS fault.

"True, he could have spared you embarrassment and shame by stepping up to the plate, but you could have spared yourself embarrassment and shame by not having sex with him until he made a marital commitment to you. So, you have to recognize that it was not his responsibility that you chose to have sex



with him; YOU made the choice and it's YOUR responsibility. You're not embarrassed and ashamed for what he did; you're embarrassed and ashamed for what YOU did."

The counselor continued, "So, repeat after me. I'm ashamed of what I did."

Marilyn repeated, "I'm ashamed of what I did."

The counselor continued, "I regret what I did."

Marilyn repeated, "I regret what I did."

The counselor finished, "And I'm not going to repeat that foolish behavior and hurt myself again."

Marilyn repeated, "And I'm not going to repeat that foolish behavior and hurt myself again."

The counselor looked seriously at Marilyn, and then spoke, "Now, Marilyn, I'm going to write that down so that you can remember it.

"Every time you think about him, repeat: 'I'm ashamed of what I did. I regret what I did. And I'm not going to repeat that foolish behavior and hurt myself again.' You hide from your embarrassment, shame and regret by obsessing about him. So, you will have to keep reminding yourself, until you get it, that this mistake was YOUR fault. But you can repent of your mistake, get over your embarrassment, shame and regret, and not obsess about it. And the Bible tells us, in **1John 1:9**:

9 If we confess our sins, [Jesus] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 13:4 tells us:

4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

And, in **Matthew 9:13**:

13 [Jesus said], But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

And Jesus wants us to repent of our sins rather than be condemned by them. **John 3:16–17** says:

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.

Ultimately, God rejected Solomon's offering in the Temple due to the sin and lack of repentance of Israel. Grain and animal sacrifices have no power to change human spirits. The woman that committed adultery in the episode that we discussed today offered a sacrifice before she did so, but that sacrifice did not stop her.

But Jesus Christ offered a sacrifice of His Own precious Blood, as He suffered, bled and died on the Cross to pay the penalty of our sins. And we



understand the enormity of Jesus' sacrifice, the pain and the agony that it caused Jesus before He died, and the glory of His resurrection from the dead assures us that not only is there life after death, but that Jesus Christ is the one that will save us, in that eternal life, from the penalty of our sins.

Jesus Christ's sacrifice saves us from the penalty of our sins in our eternal life, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives saves us from the power of sin in this earthly life, as **Ezekiel 36:26–27** tells us:

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

The Holy Spirit is our Helper. But He does not make our decisions for us. Our conduct is still our own decision. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we have to deny the call of our members, of our flesh, and even of those that would tempt us, and decide to do that which is right rather than wrong. Despite the temptation, we must walk in God's statutes. Jesus tells us, in **Matthew 24:12–13**:

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

So let us endure. Let us yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin. Each victory will help you some other to win. Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue. Look ever to Jesus, because He will carry you through.

Ask the Savior to help you, comfort, strengthen and keep you. Jesus is willing to aid you. Jesus will carry you through.

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