



## IDENTITY CRISIS

### I. Clarity about our Identity is found in our Origin.

#### A. Why did God create humanity?

Human Purpose (Isaiah 43:7; Genesis 1:27-28)

1. multiply and fill the earth = to love
2. Subdue and rule over earth = to lead

***Key Principle: God created people to reflect His image by loving Him and one another and leading His creation for the benefit of all.***

Human Resources (Genesis 2:7, 18)

1. The Man.
2. The Woman.

#### B. Why did God create woman?

1. To help man love = relational interdependence
2. To help man lead = responsibility beyond self

### II. Confusion about our Identity is found in the Fall.

#### A. Pain in Childbearing

#### B. Conflict in Marriage

***Key Principle: God created the genders to be interdependent rather than independent in fulfilling our common purpose.***

### ***Discussion Questions:***

1. From the Reflection Assignment last week, how do you usually know when you are wrong in your thinking (or deceived)? Do you have any “red flags” that let you know you are getting off track?
2. In the past, when you heard that God created woman as a “helper” for man, did that seem like a positive or a negative thing? Why?
3. In what ways are men and women the same? In what ways are we different?
4. What are the possible advantages of these differences in accomplishing God’s plan for humanity? (In other words, why would He want us to be different?)
5. As women, we experience many stages of life: Single, married, single-again, with or without kids, and empty-nesters to name a few. How can you, at your stage of life, help love (fill the earth with “image-bearers”) and lead creation?

### ***Reflection Assignment...***

Specifically, how are you different from the men with whom you live and work? How can these differences reflect your God-intended purpose? See Genesis 1:28-29.

***Passage to Ponder this week... Proverbs 14:12***

### **Week Three Summary ...**

Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose?

If you don't know what a complex piece of equipment is for, ask the designer—the engineer. God is the designer of life, so if we want to know the purpose of life—of humanity in general or woman-kind in particular—we would be wise to consult God. We've already tipped our hand. You know that we will be consulting the Bible as our authority—it is the text book, if you will, for this study. So what does the Bible say about the purpose God had in mind when He created people? Why did he create humanity at all? And having done so, why men AND women? Why gender differences and sexuality? We could speculate for a long time (and have a good laugh) about all the ways God **could** have designed things, but the fact is He did create us, male and female, and He even told us **why!** The creation account in Genesis (and elsewhere in the Bible) tells us that we are created “in God's image,” to give a physical representation of what He is like. We were created to bring Him glory (to make Him look good), to care for the rest of nature on His behalf, and to raise up future generations of image-bearers. For the purposes of this study, we call that the responsibility to Love and to Lead Creation. When God created man, he said that it was not good for the man to be alone. In other words, Humanity could not accomplish God's purpose with only the masculine representative. The man needed a “suitable helper”—the woman.

In the Bible, the term “helper” is not a disparaging one; it refers to one who supplies exactly what is lacking. God himself is called our Helper in times of need. All that to say, women have an exalted position in Creation. We supply crucial elements in the Human make up. Men and women are not independent entities. We are relationally **inter**dependent, and together we are called to a lofty purpose which is far greater than any of us could accomplish independently. Women are the nurturers of life and the cultivators of relationships. (It is worth noting that the Fall left us wounded particularly in those areas: “Pain in Childbearing” and “Conflict in Marriage”. More on that later...) The bottom line is, women play a unique and vital role in Humanity's mission to Love and Lead creation.