



WEEKLY
Summary

Week Seven Summary:

We spent the first part of this course examining what has shaped our understanding of Womanhood and have suggested that Humanity is not as it should be. Men and women are not as they should be. “Masculinity” and “femininity” have lost the meaning God intended for them; the very ideas have been corrupted. We’ve considered many factors that have influenced us to take us off track. We’ve seen that we have an Enemy whose goal is to keep us from being what God intended, using whatever tool works to accomplish that goal. We’ve looked at how voices in the world around us can influence and deceive us about what it means to be women—from our culture in general to the feminist movement to our own families of origin.

However, if we stop there, we will miss the most important lesson we have to learn about why things are the way they are: **We** are not as God intends **us** to be; **I** am not as God intends **me** to be. This lesson is one that’s hard to learn; it’s a truth that’s hard to face. I’d much rather believe that I’m the product of my environment, that forces beyond my control have conspired to put me in my predicament. That view makes me feel justified and gives me someone to blame. Yet the truth, according to the Bible, is that I contribute more to my own problem than I want to believe is possible. I am not what God intended me to be because I am bent and broken. In fact, the world is not as it should be, in part, because I am not as I should be. I myself contribute to making the situation worse! In short, the problem is not “out there” as much as it is “in here.” Theologians call this concept Depravity. Mankind in general (and each one of us in particular) is broken. We are separated from God—and each other—as a result of our sin. We are utterly unable to fix or reform ourselves. We need to be **SAVED**.

The Good News is that coming to this realization is exactly what we need in order to turn to the One who can save us. When we face the fact that we are far from God and powerless to help ourselves, we have reached a crucially important crossroad, because then we are ready to accept the indescribable gift of God’s salvation—eternal life. As a bonus, we gain the help of the Holy Spirit in dealing with the power of sin in our lives, regardless of the influence of the world around us.

