



WEEKLY  
*Summary*

***Week Thirteen Summary:***

So, we've taken a good, hard look at our understanding of Womanhood: what has shaped us and what shape we are in. Now, it's time to at Womanhood from a different angle, not from our cultural view or from our own personal experience and desire, but from God's view and intention. What is His Design for our shape? Who did He create us to be? This is the perfect time to hit the reset button, to "go back to the beginning" and start over again. Or, rather than "beginning" we could say "Genesis." The beginning of the Bible describes the beginning of humanity and God's original design for men and women. The Bible uses "story," the narrative of Adam and Eve, to show us God's intended pattern for male/female relationships and roles. It certainly isn't what we would have come up with, and we may have very mixed feelings about it, but His idea is worth our attention and consideration, don't you think?

"In the beginning," God created men and women with some fundamental commonalities in value and purpose, but He also made us different—intentionally. He made us for different purposes, with different roles and different responses to the world and to each other. He made us in a way that BOTH of us are needed to pull off His grander calling. The man was created first and given *responsibility* and *authority* to fulfill that responsibility. God then created woman. She brought things that the man desperately needed; he alone didn't have what it would take to fulfill the calling on mankind. He needed *help*. Summarizing the core roles in God's design, the man is the *Head* and the woman is the *Helper*. Our natural inclination when we read this might be to assume that this distinction assigns different *value* to the man and the woman. But, that is our misunderstanding. The Bible is clear, both in Genesis and elsewhere, that men and women are equally valuable in God's sight. Both are created in the image of God, and both are equally heirs of His grace. However, any team needs structure to accomplish anything great. All on the team need clarity about their part, what essential elements they bring, their "role" and their responsibilities. We see this in business, in the classroom, on sports teams, and in volunteer organizations. It is also true in families. The CEO is not more important than the Director of Engineering. The Principal is certainly not more valuable than the Teacher. The Committee Chairman is not better than the member in charge of fundraising. And the man is not more important, more valuable, or better than the woman. We just have different roles and responsibilities. As we understand more clearly and clarify our (and our culture's) faulty assumptions about those roles, together we achieve something great, something beautiful.

