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The Origin of Gender

Dave Miller - apologeticspress.org

Considerable discussion has occurred in secular society in the last 50 years concerning gender - from the Feminist Movement of the 1960s to the more recent attention to transgenderism. The Bible speaks very precisely and definitively on the matter of gender. The phenomenon of gender is the result of God's own divine determination when He created the first human beings on the sixth day of Creation week: "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them" (Genesis 1:27).

When God created gender, He clearly intended to set the stage for all of human history. He sought to convey for all time the interrelationship between men and women. In the New Testament, this interrelationship is discussed in considerable detail in 1 Timothy 2 where Paul explains gender roles as they relate to worship. However, Paul also discussed gender in one of his letters to the church at Corinth. His pronouncements on gender are clearly tied to how men and women in the church are to interact with each other. The respective roles of male and female in the church are affected and informed **by gender**.

Paul's remarks demonstrate that gender, as it relates to role function in the church, is a matter of Creation - not culture (as some have alleged). He explains the origin of gender as it was instigated by God at Creation: "For man is not **from** woman, but woman **from** man.... Nevertheless, neither is man independent of the woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as the woman was **from** the man, even so the man also is **through** the woman; but all things are from God" (1 Corinthians 11:8,11-12). The bolded words represent prepositions in the original language. The term rendered "from" is the

Greek preposition *ek* which means "out of." The man was not "out of" the woman, but rather, the woman was "out of" the man. He is referring very specifically - and literally - to the origin of the first woman on Earth. Her body was constructed from a portion of the man's body. Her physical origin was literally dependent on having been taken "out of" the man's body. No wonder Adam declared: "This is now bone of **my** bones and flesh of **my** flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken **out of Man**" (Genesis 2:23). In Hebrew, the word for man is "*ish*." Adam employed a play on words by building on the word for man to indicate a woman: "*ish-ah*."

Three verses later, Paul further clarifies gender by stating that though the woman was "from/out of" man, nevertheless, the man is also "through" the woman. Here the Greek preposition is *dia* meaning "by/through." Once again, Paul is speaking very literally. All men throughout human history (except for Adam) have come into this world **through** a woman. Women are the designated child bearers. Men have no reason to consider themselves - or their role - to be superior to women. God intends for the male to fulfill very precise responsibilities in and out of the church, and He likewise has created the female to do the same. Their respective roles are, indeed, rooted in the creation of gender by God at the very beginning of time.¹

"The Bible speaks very precisely and definitively on the matter of gender"

Endnotes

¹ For a discussion of gender roles in the church, see Dave Miller (2014), "Male and Female Roles: Gender in the Bible," Apologetics Press, <https://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=7&article=5007&topic=389>; Dave Miller (2019), *Female Leadership in the Church* (Montgomery, AL: King Solomon Publications).

Do you have a Bible question you would like answered?



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The Simple Gospel Plan of Salvation

The simple chart below provides 9 occasions of when individuals and/or groups who were privileged to hear the gospel and responded positively. Too many people believe a false idea that goes like this: “*The church of Christ believes that water saves*” or “*Baptism is a church of Christ doctrine.*”

First, water, by itself, does not save anyone. If it did, everyone who jumped into a pool would be saved and surely no one holds to that belief! However, being baptized (immersed) in water is a command of God that is undeniably connected to being saved from sin

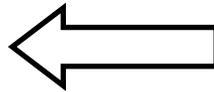
(1 Pet. 3:20-21). Second, baptism is not a “*church of Christ*” doctrine. The necessity of baptism comes from the Bible, not a church. All of the passages listed below are after the church had been established (Acts 2:37-38, 41, 47). No one denies the necessity of hearing God’s word to be saved (Rom. 10:17). No one denies the necessity of faith to be saved (Jn. 8:24). No one denies the necessity of repentance for salvation (2 Cor. 7:10). Why is it, then, that when it comes to baptism, so many people deny the necessity? Perhaps it’s ignorance. Perhaps it’s bias in theology. Perhaps we should take God at His word!

Passage	Hear	Believe	Repent	Confess	Baptize
Acts 2 – Jews	2:37		2:38		2:38
Acts 8 – Samaritans	8:12	8:12			8:12-13
Acts 8 – Ethiopian	8:35	8:37		8:37	8:38
Acts 9 – Saul	9:17				9:18
Acts 10 – Gentiles	10:32-33	10:43			10:47-48
Acts 16 – Lydia	16:14				16:15
Acts 16 – Jailer	16:31-32	16:31	16:33		16:33
Acts 18 – Corinth	18:8	18:8			18:8
Acts 19 – Ephesus	19:4-5				19:5

Would You Like to Study the Bible?

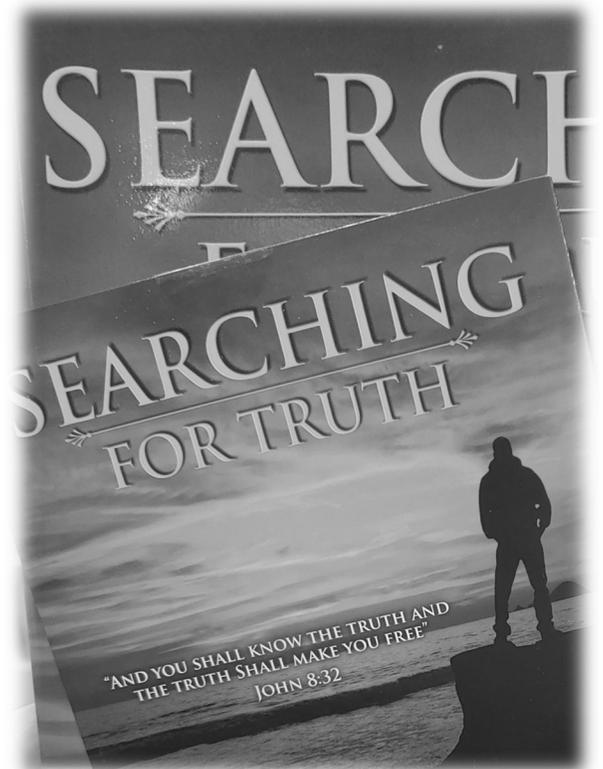
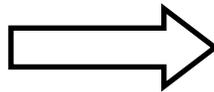
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Unique features of the Church of Christ

- We use the Bible only (2 Pet. 1:3). We have no creed book, convention, or central headquarters.
- Our name is after the One who died to establish His church (Rom. 16:16).
- The church of Christ began in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-3; Acts 2:1-4).
- Jesus promised to establish His church (Matt. 16:18).
- That church was purchased with Jesus' blood (Acts 20:28).
- The church is married to Christ (Rom. 7:4).
- It was established in the first century (Acts 2:41, 47).
- Jesus is the one and only Head of the One Body (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23).
- You can only be added to the church by God Himself (Acts 2:41, 47).

What about being saved?

- All people are saved by grace, though faith (Eph. 2:8-9).
- No one is saved by faith alone (Jas. 2:14-26).
- No one is saved by grace alone (Matt. 7:21).
- Jesus said that belief plus baptism will produce salvation (Mk. 16:16). That is a promise, not a command.
- The Bible teaches that repentance plus baptism produces remission of sins (Acts 2:37-38).
- Belief, confession, and baptism is seen in the account of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:37-38).
- The Corinthians heard, believed, and were baptized (Acts 18:8).
- Christ is "put on" in baptism (Gal. 3:26-27).
- The apostle Peter said that "baptism does save us" (1 Pet. 3:21).

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