

COMPLEMENTARITY

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Historical Definitions

EGALITARIAN: Meaning equal or level also known as biblical equality. It holds that all human persons are created equally in God's sight—equal in fundamental worth and moral status.

COMPLEMENTARIAN: a theological view that all human persons are created equally in God's sight—equal in fundamental worth and moral status and but at the same time affirms that men and women have different but complementary roles and responsibilities in marriage, family life, religious leadership, and elsewhere.

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Genesis 2:18-23

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

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Genesis 2:18-23

²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

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Some tidbits of the **EGALITARIAN** framework

- ❖ Man was created before women. However, animals were created before man.
- ❖ Man and women both cultivated and took care of God's world
- ❖ The Fall provided broken culture that permitted a de-creative understanding of men and women relationships.

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Some tidbits of the **COMPLEMENTARIAN** framework

Genesis 1:26-27: Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons and distinct in their manhood and womanhood.

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*Some tidbits of the **COMPLEMENTARIAN** framework*

Genesis 2:7, 18: Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being . . . ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

Man is created first, then the woman

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*Some tidbits of the **COMPLEMENTARIAN** framework*

Genesis 2:15-17: Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Man is given the moral teaching for governing the garden to pass on to the woman

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Genesis 2:18-23: ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs

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Genesis 2:18-23: and closed up its place with flesh. ²²

And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

- ❖ *Woman was created “from man” and presented as a helper “fit for him”*
- ❖ *Man names woman (v.23)*
- ❖ *Adam's headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall and was not a result of sin.*

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Genesis 3:1-6: Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

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Genesis 3:1-6: ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

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Genesis 3:17: And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

The serpent undermines the roles ordained by God and draws Eve and Adam into a deadly role reversal with God and each other

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*Some tidbits of the **COMPLEMENTARIAN** framework*

Genesis 3:7-9: Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

God calls the man to account first, not the woman

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Some tidbits of the **COMPLEMENTARIAN** framework

Genesis 3:16: To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

Genesis 4:7b: Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

The curse of “desire” and “rule” show the futility of role corruption

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The Recapitulation of the Trinity

- ❖ Essence, Worth
- ❖ Roles, Work
- ❖ Submission, Servant Leadership

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