

***Celebrating Women
in Ministry***

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ 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.

Genesis 1:26-28

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 2:18

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."

"All of the other occurrences of ezer in the OT have to do with the assistance that one of strength offers to one in need (i.e., help from God, the king, an ally, or an army). There is no exception. More, fifteen of the nineteen references speak of the help that God alone can provide (Exod. 18:4; Deut. 33:7, 26, 29; Pss. 20:2; 33:20; 70:5; 115:9-11 [3x]; 121:1-2 [2x]; 124:8; 146:5; Hos. 13:9).

Linda Belleville

Psalm 121:1-2 is representative: "I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth". Help given to one in need fits Genesis 2:18-20 quite well. The male's situation was that of being "alone," and God's evaluation was that it was "not good." The woman was hence created to relieve the man's aloneness through strong partnership." *Linda Belleville*

Exodus 18:4

and the name of the other, Eliezer (for he said, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh").

Deuteronomy 33:7

And this he said of Judah:

“Hear, O Lord, the voice of Judah,
and bring him in to his people.

With your hands contend for him,

and be a help against his adversaries.”

Psalm 20:2

May he send you help from the sanctuary
and give you support from Zion!

The essence of our creation is that man and woman are made in God's image and the "not good" of one gender isn't solved singularly by marriage. Although human marriage between men and women doesn't persevere into eternity, relationship does. Relationship and community, brotherhood and sisterhood—not marriage—are the "good" of two genders from Genesis 2:18 that endures into eternity future.

-Wendy Alsup

Women of Strength

- Sarah (Hebrews 11:11)
- Shiprah & Puah (Exodus 1:15-20)
- Rahab (Joshua 2)
- Ruth (Ruth 1:16)
- Deborah (Judges 5:7-13)

Forgive Us

Distinctions - Priests/Levites/Apostles

1 Timothy 2:12-13

¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve;

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Designations are part of God's sovereign choice. Meaning, as our Creator, God gets to decide how best we get to serve/image Him and has laid out unique ways for each of us to do that (Isaiah 45:7-9).

NEW FRAME WORK

- All roles except elder open to women
- Women will be preaching at MACC
- Women & Men will be equipped to preach
 - Preaching & Teaching Team (you should join)

NEW FRAME WORK

- We want the voice of women to influence all aspects of MACC
 - Subcommittee Voice for future position papers
 - Women's leadership council that will quarterly attend elder meetings
 - Deaconess representation

Ephesians 5:22-23

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

WINNITY