

## Evidence for Complementarianism from Genesis 1-5

### 1. The creation of man and woman equally in God's image, yet God named man and woman "*man*" (Gen. 1:26-27, 5:1-2).

Both man and woman are created in God's image (1:26, 27c), yet "man" seems to be given as the representative for both male and female (1:26, 27a). The English word "*man*" is "*adam*" in Hebrew.

### 2. Man is created first and then woman (Gen 2:7, 18, 22; 1 Tim. 2:13).

God could have created Adam and Eve simultaneously or made woman first. Yet, he creates man first, and this order indicates something of man going first as leader.

### 3. Man is given the moral teaching to pass on to woman (Gen 2:15-17).

The command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is given to man, before the creation of woman. It is not repeated by God to the woman, and it is implied that Adam has the responsibility to pass it on to Eve.

### 4. Woman was created from man and is presented as a helper suitable for him (Gen 2:18-23; 1 Cor. 11:9-10).

The idea of *helper* is one who comes alongside to provide assistance in accomplishing God given tasks.

### 5. Man names woman (Gen 2:23).

This is a significant leadership function. This shows he has authority and leadership.

### 6. The serpent goes to the woman rather than the man because he was crafty and seeking to undermine God's design (Gen 3:1-6).

Satan approaches Eve, not Adam who is "with her." Adam listened to her instead of leading her (Gen 3:17). He listened to her interact with the Serpent and did not lead or protect. Satan is seeking to undermine Adam's God given role as leader and Adam and Eve's role as creatures under God.

### 7. God calls the man to account first, not the woman (Gen 3:8-11, 1 Cor. 15:22).

Woman is the initial spokesman to Satan, yet God calls Adam to account first. He is called to account for eating of the fruit and listening to his wife deal with the Serpent instead of protecting her (Gen 3:17).

### 8. The fall into sin distorts (rather than creates) the roles for husband and wife (Gen 3:16, 4:6-7)

Her "desire" is a sinful impulse to control her husband (just as sin desired to rule over Cain a few chapters later). Her husband shall "rule" over her and be domineering (as Cain was supposed to do to the sin which was crouching at his door). Neither of these are good things in the male/female relationship. The fall brings in role *corruption* and twists God's good created order- it does not create roles.

### 9. The New Testament reaffirms these role distinctions and helps us fight the distortions (Gen. 2:24, Eph. 5:22-33 cf. Gen 3:16).