

I. Truth in the Word of the Incredible Worth of Women (God's Lens)

- A. Created equal yet unique – A common lie of the enemy is that anything that is different from us is inferior and therefore valued less. The differences between women and men have been exploited by darkness and rather than being celebrated and cherished they are generally used to hurt, demean, and destroy.
1. Equal – (Gen. 1:2, 5:1-2, Joel 2:28-29, Acts 1:15, 2:1-21, Gal. 3:28)
 2. Unique – (Gen 3:16-20, 1 Cor. 3:18-19, Eph. 5:22-28, 1 Tim. 2:9-10)

Women are a mystery to men. They are like innumerable galaxies whose existence and depth extend far beyond the most powerful male telescope. -Ed Silvano

- B. Blessing and Worth – The truth of the uniqueness of the man and woman are actually to be celebrated and cherished. It is not good for us to be alone. We were created to be together. Even those who are called to celibacy are not called to isolation. The uniqueness of a woman is a great gift to humanity. They are blessings of priceless worth. (Pro. 31:10-31)
1. *Need* - The creation of God does not function rightly without men and women having dominion over creation together. We are designed to come up short of full potential without the other.
 - (Gen. 2:18-24, Pro. 12:4, 18:22, 19:14, 1 Cor. 11:7-12, 1 Pet. 3:7)
 2. *Treasure and Honor* – Biblically women are to be seen as a great treasure to humanity. The worth of a woman fulfilling her destiny is to be compared to having or finding unmeasurable wealth and great glory. (Pro. 19:14, 12:4, 1 Pet. 3:7)

II. Heroines of Faith

- A. There is much ignorance within the majority of the western church of the greatness of women in the scriptures. When you actually look at it, you see clearly that over and over God has used and placed women in vital roles throughout redemptive history.
1. Eve – The key for the coming of the redeemer (Gen. 3:15, 1 Tim 2:15)
 2. Sarah – Brought forth the promised son through great faith. Abraham would be nothing without her. (Heb. 11:11)
 3. Jochebed – Bravely saved Moses from certain death from the most powerful king in her time. (Gen. 2:1-3)
 4. Zipporah – Saved Moses from death through her obedience when Moses was rebelling against God. (Gen. 4:24-26)

5. Rahab – Hid Joshua’s spies and through faith saved her family (Josh 2:1-24, 6:17-25, Heb 11:31, James 2:25)
6. Deborah – Was God’s chosen leader over all of Israel. She restored the people to the Lord, and commanded their army. Peace was brought to the Land for 40 years under her leadership. (Judges 4-5)
7. Ruth – A Moabite woman, who the Lord highlighted to all his people as the pinnacle demonstration of faithfulness in a time of national faithlessness. God rewarded her faithfulness by granting her a privileged position in the lineage of David and ultimately Jesus. (Ruth)
8. Hannah – A faithful intercessor, which contended for her son Samuel and raised him in righteousness. She prophesied the first utterance of the King (Jesus), who would rule the earth forever. (1 Sam. 1:1-2:11)
9. Esther – God’s chosen individual to save all His people from destruction through her wisdom, obedience, and bravery. She is the first biblical example of willingness to die for the salvation of her nation. (Esther)
10. Mary – The Lord saw fit to trust a young teenage girl with His most precious possession and secret. Mary was entrusted with the responsibility of caring for, and raising our incarnate Lord and Savior. She remained a picture of lifetime faithfulness and unwavering character in the face of intense persecution and suffering. (Luke 1:28,30,42)
11. Mary (Sister of Lazarus)- The pinnacle example of worship and whole hearted Love that is to be primary for every believer. (Mark 14:4-9, Lk 10:39-42, Jhn 11:1-2)
12. Mary Magdalene – Clearly the most dedicated and fearless of all the disciples of Jesus. She was the last one at the cross and the first one to the tomb. Mary holds the honor of being the first person that the Lord appeared to after His resurrection. (Luke 8:2, John 19:25, 20:1-18)

III. Lies and the Strategy of the Enemy

- A. God established women as the key of His plan to redeem the earth and eventually destroy Satan entirely. He prophesied that there would be a deep hatred harbored in the heart of Satan towards women through the entirety of the redemptive narrative. (Gen. 3:15)
 - Depressive disorders account for close to 41.9% of the disability from neuropsychiatric disorders among women compared to 29.3% among men.

- Leading mental health problems of the older adults are depression, organic brain syndromes and dementias. A majority are women.
 - Women are 46% more likely to suffer from sickness than men resulting in loss of work and productivity.
 - An estimated 80% of 50 million people affected by violent conflicts, civil wars, disasters, and displacement are women and children.
 - Lifetime prevalence rate of violence against women ranges from 16% to 50%. Compared to men at 4% to 19%
 - Of the 120 million adolescent girls in the world about 1 in 10 have been victims of rape or forced sexual acts.
- B. With hypersexualized models of femininity constantly being perpetuated in the media, negative implications are affecting the mental, emotional and physical wellness of girls. Many women and girls are affected on a global scale. Consequences include anxiety about appearance, feelings of shame, eating disorders, lower self-esteem, depression, substance abuse, and suicide.
- C. This constant assault on the great worth of women has resulted with worldwide exploitation, violence, and abuse of God's most cherished creation. Crimes against women are often viewed as trivial and women as a whole in our society are often reduced to sub human objects.

IV. A Culture of Dishonor (Fallen Man's Lens)

- A. It is incredibly clear as we look at church history as a whole that there has been a clear dishonor and low view of women across the denominational landscape. At first glance we could say it was because of religious conviction. However, a little deeper look will reveal that many religious men have held a low view and a rejection of women that was not found in the Word. It becomes clear that Satan's strategy of lies, deception, and attack of women has infiltrated the men who were called to uphold the truth of their God given great value.

In pain shall you bring forth children, woman, and you shall turn to your husband and he shall rule over you. And do you not know that you are Eve? God's sentence hangs still over all your fellow women and His punishment weighs down upon you. You are the devil's gateway; you are she who first violated the forbidden tree and broke the law of God. It was you who coaxed your way around him whom the devil had not the force to attack. With what ease you shattered that image of God: Man! Because of the death you merited, even the Son of God had to die... Woman, you are the gate to hell. –Tertullian

Woman does not possess the image of God in herself but only when taken together with the male who is her head, so that the whole substance is one image. But when she is assigned the role as helpmate, a function that pertains to her alone, then she is not the image of God. But as far as the man is concerned, he is by himself alone the image of God just as fully and completely as when he and the woman are joined together into one. –Saint Augustine

The word and works of God is quite clear, that women were made either to be wives or prostitutes..... No gown worse becomes a woman than the desire to be wise..... Men have broad and large chests, and small narrow hips, and more understanding than women, who have but small and narrow breasts, and broad hips, to the end they should remain at home, sit still, keep house, and bear and bring up children. – Martin Luther

"Thus the woman, who had perversely exceeded her proper bounds, is forced back to her own position. She had, indeed, previously been subject to her husband, but that was a liberal and gentle subjection; now, however, she is cast into servitude." – John Calvin

- B. In light of statistics and fallen opinion we must ask ourselves some questions. Where are their protectors? Where are the guardians of the beautiful identity and heart of God's most precious daughters? Satan has turned the heart of men against women, both inside and outside the walls of religion. It's time for the men of God to arise and allow the Holy Spirit to break off lies and deception from us and to begin to love, honor, value, and protect women in the way that God intended.

V. As Christ Loves His Bride

- A. Men are called to love and honor women so fiercely that we would literally be willing to give their honor, comforts, and even their life in order that she might be all she was created to be.
- B. Examining (Eph. 5:25-33)
1. Love as Christ loved his church. (Gave up all and died for her)
 2. A man's mission as a leader is to sanctify and wash women with truth.
 3. The fullness of women's beauty and identity, are revealed when men love her rightly.
 4. Value and make a priority of woman, as much as men.
 5. Men are to make a priority of nourishing and cherishing women.
 6. This was God's intention from the beginning. (On earth as it is in Heaven)