

1. You Were Designed in the of God. Genesis 1:26-27

It's a breathtaking challenge to go about the business of daily life and all the while reflect the image of God.

As an image bearer of God, you can't know who you are or what your purpose is if you don't know the One you're supposed to be becoming like. There's a studied passivity that we get into when we believe that God has called only men They may take a lot of different forms, but oh my goodness, what a big deal that is." —Carolyn James

2. You Were Designed to be Twice Removed from _____

Genesis 2:7

"Of the dust of the ground" implies that there is nothing fancy about the chemical elements from which we are made. The body is a lifeless shell until God brings it alive with His "breath of life." When God removes His life-giving breath, what happens?

| Therefore, | our li | fe an | d worth | n come | from |
|------------|--------|-------|---------|--------|------|
| God's | | | | | |

When God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone," he added, "I will make him an *help meet*." That word is actually the Hebrew word *ezer*.

Ill.: ___occurrences of the word *ezer* in the Old Testament (used ___ times for the woman; ___times for nations Israel turned to for military assistance; and ____times to describe God as Israel's helper.

Think about it . . .

Was there was an enemy planning an attack in the Garden of Eden—even before the fall? Adam was commanded to "have dominion" over the garden. That's military language.

When God said it wasn't good for the man to be alone, that was a blanket statement and not just about marriage. Genesis 1 and 2 are passages about God's vision for the world, for humanity.

God created the woman to come alongside him in this battle. She watches his back; he watches her back. They're supposed to be in this battle together.

Well, she can't come along as a dependent because then she's not a help; she's more work if he has to think for her and take care of her. You can't watch somebody's back if you're

"This depreciation of male and female personhood is a great loss. It is taking a tremendous toll on generations of young men and women who do not know what it means to be a man or a woman." —John Piper'

In an attempt to promote the equality of men and women, our society has produced a whole generation that has little if any sense of the beauty, value, and meaning of their manhood or womanhood.

4. You Were Designed to be but

This story took place in the Middle East. The way women were viewed, when you come to the book of Ruth in the Bible, it ought to shock you that it's there. I mean, it's a story about—and named after—a Gentile woman in a very manly Jewish book—the Bible.

So you have this story of these two women who didn't have any men in their lives. They were trying to survive. Ruth was scavenging.

It looks like Naomi and Ruth were doing insignificant things. Nobody would have noticed these two women and what was going on in their lives. But that's where God's purposes were moving forward, and the battles that they were fighting were for the kingdom. It wasn't just for Naomi's family; it was for the line of Christ.

You're on a mission for Him, and as His image bearer you represent Him. You speak for Him. You are His voice, His eyes, His ears, His hands. It makes every woman's life significant—wherever you find yourself today.

What Say You?

Where do you find it hardest to be an "ezer" Home? Work? Church? World?

Why would God place a tree in the garden and then forbid them to eat from it?

How would you complete this statement:
God gives life to man.
Man gives life to woman.
Woman gives life to