

How does the Bible view women?

There are many different understandings concerning the status of women in the Bible. Some people understand that women are to be nothing more than slaves to men. Others understand that women are to dominate and control the man. Others understand that women are equal to men in every aspect. Others understand women are to function as partners with men having a “headship” position.

1. Why did God originally make the woman?
Genesis 2:18-24

After God created man (Genesis 2:7) on the sixth day of creation, God noted that when man is alone that something is missing. In order to fill that void in the life of the man (though he was unaware at that point of his solitude), God first created all of the land animals to make man aware of his solitude and uniqueness. Once the man understood that he was in solitude, God made (or constructed) the woman. There are several things to take note of in these few verses. When God proclaimed the need to construct the woman, God declared that he would make the man a 'helper that is according to his complement'. Men and women were never created to be in competition with one another but to function as complements to one another. This means that a man has strengths and weaknesses that are different than the strengths and weaknesses of the woman. It is interesting that while God formed man (Genesis 2:7) from the dust of the earth, God constructed the woman from the side of the man. They truly were of the same flesh and bone. Notice also that it was God who then brought the woman to the man who received her.

Numbers 30:2-5
1 Peter 3:7

Ephesians 5:23-26

Part of the ramifications of this special creation of the woman is that she is under the responsibility of the man. When she makes a decision, the man (father or husband) is viewed as being the party that is responsible for its outcome. It also means that the woman was constructed as a fine piece of pottery that is delicate and with great care.

2. What is meant by 'help meet' (ezer)?
Genesis 49:25
Deuteronomy 33:7
1 Chronicles 5:19-20; 12:1; 22:17

Exodus 18:4
Joshua 10:3-6
2 Chronicles 14:11

It is most often used of God as the helper of mankind. It also is used to describe assistance in military endeavors and as a counselor.

Proverbs 5:18-19
Amos 3:3

Song of Solomon 1:9

It is wise for the man to pursue and receive counsel from his wife. God has created her with wisdom and knowledge in many things. But the final decision and answer is to rest with the man since he is held responsible for the outcome.

3. What about the call for women to submit to the man?

Ephesians **5:22-26**

Galatians **3:28-29**

Hebrews **13:17**

1 Timothy **2:9-14**

The woman is called to submit to the man “as unto the Lord” because of his God given position of responsibility. His command from God is to love his wife, even as Christ loved the church. The man is to care for his wife in such a way that she knows she is protected and cared for; that he has her best interests and needs at heart. In the scriptures the man is in no way superior to the woman (in God's eyes) but they do have different roles and responsibilities. God upholds woman with great honor but places them in a position of protection with the man. She submits so that things will be done properly and orderly. She is not to subvert the God given position of the man nor usurp his authority.