



Why God Created The Woman

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FOREWARD

Marriage is divinely ordained and is a perfect gift from God to man. Do you desire to see an end to the cold war between your spouse and you? Do you personally wish to walk before the Lord guiltless in the way you conduct your marital affairs? The salient truths in this book will be the long sought elixir you need. I highly recommend that you read meditatively with the expectation that God who ordained marriage will heal your marriage.

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The book, ‘Why God Created the Woman’, is revelational, educative and impactful in its content. I have read and seen just few books on God’s purpose for creating the woman. This book is more

revealing; has Biblical details on the plan, purpose and the entire ministry of the woman which is first to her family, then Church and finally to the nation as a whole. It is a book every man should read and own a copy.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book first to The Godhead, for creating 'The Woman'. Though grossly misunderstood and misused, yet so 'indispensable' for God's divine purpose both now and in eternity. Thank You for the female-Man! Thank You for the fine-male! Thank You for making me to be a Woman!

I dedicate this to the memory of my late father, Peter Ashikwe Okonji and my late husband, Reverend Dr. John Onyeiweabunachukwu Nnogo, who believed in me and positively impacted my life. My Lord Jesus Christ used them to raise me up above the female gender discrimination that was in my society. I am very grateful.

This book is also dedicated to the female gender, the beautiful work of God's hands. You are special in His agenda.

INTRODUCTION

This is all about THE WOMAN. Who is she? Why was she created? What do you think of the woman in your life? There are various perceptions of

who the woman is. Some think she is an appendage to the man; created to serve him and to attend to his whims and caprices. Some believe the creation of Eve was an after-thought by God. Others see her as being a weak and insipid creature, without 'brain'. Worse still she is seen as a thing to be acquired, used and discarded at will. Some believe the world would have been a better place without the complication of this being, 'the woman'. The irony is that some people generally respect their mothers, yet disparage womanhood! Some do not believe in the value of the woman.

The general picture of her as shown through the centuries has not been complimentary. This write up is not for the defense of the woman. It is not about Women Liberation; Jesus has already done that. The reason for her creation will be given in this write-up. Though not recognized by many, her existence impacts every life.

My attention was brought to this fact that humanity was missing out on something very great and glorious that God gave for the benefit of mankind. This has to be brought to the attention of The Church this End-Time, so attitudes can change and benefits derived, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

This message is for 'The Male-Man', whose wrong perception of The Woman stands to be corrected. He should perceive her as God does and value her as such. It is for the one who may not understand her value in the home, the society and The Church; it is for the one who needs to know that he is intrinsically connected to her. It is especially for the married man so it could help him to know her value and treat her as God expects him to, so he in turn can be blessed to the fullest. There is an added plus for the man who cares for and treats his woman according to Bible standards.

To help discourage the sex war within and outside the marital relationship, this write-up includes sections on marital counsel, even though the main intention is to show the reasons for her creation. Rather

than dispensing energy on irrelevant matters about the female gender, we should be encouraged to focus our passion, resources and time in doing the Lord's will; because Jesus is coming sooner than expected! If we love Him, it's imperative to live in love, peace and unity while watching, waiting and yet being 'occupied; till He comes.

This is also for the parents of the girl-child who has been put into their care; to cherish and to hold dear this lovely creation of God. They should bring her up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, so in due time, she can fulfill purpose. They will be blessed and God will be glorified.

This message is to help the Woman HERSELF, to know her purpose in Creation, in relation to the Church, the Body of Christ. This will help her to appreciate herself for who she is and in this understanding, to begin to fulfill her role as mandated by God. Many women do not understand themselves. They despise their person and prefer to be 'Men'. Knowing why they were created would definitely change their attitude.

In fact, this message is for anyone searching to understand the reason for this creation of God; this mystery person, who has HELPED, according to how her influence is employed, to build or to destroy families, societies and even nations. It is important to know the reason for her being. Let there be healing in hearts and change of attitude for good, especially in family relationships.

The final point is for all to come together to accept the value placed on this work of God's hands. Rather than indirectly despising Him by depreciating the value of Eve and her daughters, we can appreciate His wisdom and love in His creation, whose purpose is from all eternity and manifested in time and history. It will also go back to glory and will continue there, forever. Hallelujah! The purpose of the creation of The Woman, who is an enigma to Man, is about to be unraveled. We need to know and fall in line with all of God's plans, especially this End Time.

Please read with an unbiased mind. You will be absolutely blessed when you catch the revelation. Your life will never remain the same again, as healing comes to the family, the church and the society.

PREFACE

When you read through this book, parts of it contain admonitions for married couples; but more so for the men because of their leadership role in the family, community and nation. It is not prejudicial. In discussing this subject it is inevitable that marital issues will arise; and what better opportunity than this to chip in a word or two that will be of benefit to the reader.

A repeated occurrence I have observed in Christian homes over the years, is that of peace and prosperity reigning between couples who have a healthy marital relationship. It is usually quite the opposite for those who do not. Husbands who love their wives according to Bible standards are usually favoured and it goes well with them. Those who are oppressive and controlling usually face difficult times, not just financially but sometimes psychologically and spiritually. The irony is that many are oblivious of the source or cause of their problems. They may attribute it to other extraneous causes; but when they do to their wives and treat them the worse for it, this further exacerbates their problem.

The Lord is coming back sooner than expected. As a man you are obliged to put your home in order. The next relationship after you and your Creator is that between you and your spouse. If that is in order, every other thing will fall in place. Too many men are struggling and do not realize that it is due to the ill-treatment of their spouses. She does not

have to open her mouth to curse; especially if she is God fearing. Her tears are powerful weapons against you!

If you are a woman reading this, you should remain in the place of the Virtuous Woman - not gloat over your husband's failures, weaknesses or struggles. Doing your bit will make it easier for him and all will be well with you and your family. Whatever you sow you will reap! The Lord is coming soon. Remember Lot's wife!

CHAPTER ONE

CASE PRESENTED

Just as the popular story of the three blind men goes (some say six); from their touch, they had different perspectives of what an elephant looked like. One touched the ear; another the tail; the other, the trunk. Each described the elephant from what he touched and felt. They argued among themselves, each believing he was right, until a wise man who was passing by settled the issue for them. So it is in the case of the woman. We will examine the different perspectives from which she is perceived; then look at her through the value God placed on her; give some exhortation to the married, especially the man, because he is the head of the home, before finally zeroing in to know why she was created. So please, let us patiently examine the panorama and then we can have a better understanding of who she is and the reason for her being. I believe she will be better appreciated at the end of the day.

The Woman – Who is she?

According to The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary definition, a woman is 'an adult female human being.'

In certain cultures and traditions, she is a nonentity who is:

- To be seen but not heard.
- A man's toy to be used, abused, dumped or trashed.
- Inferior to the man, therefore having no equal rights.

This sounds harsh, but in a nut shell, that is the grim reality. Each culture has its norms for relating with The Woman. Generally speaking, only a few cultures honour The Woman or Womanhood. But these are few and far between. For example, the Vedic Culture and ancient Egypt did.

BUT, according to God's Word, the Bible, a woman is

- A human being made in God's image. Genesis 1:27.
- A female version of the male Man. [She is "A Man with a womb", "A Fine-Male", "a Female Man".]
- Filled, with The Spirit of Man, which is of the same essence as The Man.
- Yet, different and complementary.
- A living soul, with the breath of life, living in a physical body.
- Neither superior nor inferior; but has equal rights as an entity.
- Had the same Mandate as the 'Male-Man' - that of Fruitfulness, Multiplication, Filling the earth, Subduing and Dominating over the three realms or spheres of the earth given to them by God. Gen 1:27-28.
- Same mandate, but to be carried out differently because of her unique design and purpose.
- Given as a 'Helpmeet' for Adam. Only her complementary nature alone could fulfill Adam's desire for companionship. Gen 2:18-25.

More about the First Woman

Eve was the Mother of all living; the first woman made by God Almighty and made in His image; the one whose molding was done in secret. Adam was present but deep in his God induced sleep. Adam was 'created' from the red earth, a tough, rugged man; while his wife was 'made' from his rib, soft, sensitive and pliable; a refined version of him. Her spectacular presentation to Adam is still a topic for sermons at weddings and marriage seminars today. She was the "missing link" in Adam's life. He needed her; he could not live without her and, society today still cannot do without her. Under normal circumstances, children need their mothers and husbands need their wives. The society still cannot be complete without them.

She was his “help meet”. She complemented him physically, mentally emotionally. They fitted each other so well; each strengthened the other, that as one, they became whole, strong and excellent. She was everything else he wasn’t; so he wanted, desired, accepted, loved and pampered her. He even went to the extent of laying down his life in a way that negatively impacted the world. How? He did so when he listened to her, accepted her offer of the forbidden fruit and ate it, contrary to the instructions given to him by God. He loved her but failed to exercise the responsibility attached to his God given leadership role as a husband, and that unfortunately, plunged the world into darkness and chaos.

At this point, some might question the wisdom of God in creating someone who would come in to ruin His work. Please be reminded that God is sovereign. He knows best. He is omniscient too. He knows the end from the beginning. Though not specifically written in The Bible, I believe that, God being Omniscient knew that the serpent would deceive Eve just to try to destroy His plan. But God had a plan “B” which started unfolding right in Eden and through history. Thank God for the Sacrifice on The Cross; for Jesus laid down His life in a way that positively impacted the world! He changed everything! And the plan is still on course. God’s purpose is still being fulfilled.

So, due to The Fall in the Garden of Eden, The Woman lost her position; though some do not believe she ever shared any equality with her husband. Her punishment was for her husband to take the lead while she looked up to him. She was also to bear children in pain. Did that in anyway reduce her worth? Definitely not! But she had to bear the brunt for her wrong doing!

Adam had his fair share of punishment too, because he disobeyed God by listening to his wife and partook of the forbidden fruit. He joined her in the Great Transgression. He was supposed to know better since he was created first and the instruction about The Tree of Knowledge of Good

and Evil was given to him then. So he was held responsible for what happened. Did that reduce his worth either? Not at all!

SALVATION PLAN

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him will not perish; but will have everlasting life.”
John 3.16.

This plan of the salvation of Man was made before the foundation of the world, but the process was ‘activated’ at the Fall of Man, when God pronounced judgment on the serpent.

“And the Lord God said unto the serpent:

Because you have done this,

You are cursed more than all cattle,

And more than every beast in the field;

On your belly you shall go,

And you shall eat dust

All the days of your life.

And I will put enmity

Between you and The Woman

And between your seed and her Seed;

He shall bruise your head,

And you shall bruise His heel.’ **Gen 3.14.-5**

Did the fall of Adam and Eve reduce their worth before their Creator? Not at all! Rather, they both suffered the punishment at the same time. They were expelled from the garden. But God did not abandon them. He clothed them in animal skins. Spilling the animal blood as He took the skin for them provided a covering for their sin. God gave a solution to the problem. The Seed of The Woman would bruise satan’s head....Genesis 3.15, and Jesus did just that! He shed His blood for humanity, and broke the power of death and hell!

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly”. Romans 5:6.

THE PROBLEM

Generally, the typical man does not understand his woman – whether as a sister, a wife or even as a mother. She is an enigma to him, a mystery. Thank God for men who know and understand the women in their lives and who relate to them accordingly. Many men think she is a complex creature and relate with her as such. This problem or gap in knowledge arose due to the fact that Adam was put to sleep before the creation of Eve. So he knew nothing about her. But when for the first time, God presented her to Him, he automatically knew and understood her person. Why? This was so because, that was before The Fall, when Man was in a state of perfection. He knew she was like him and was not like any of the animals. While recognizing her for who she was, he acknowledged she was of the same essence as he, yet different. He accepted her person, celebrated her and immediately named her ‘Woman’ after that fact. He related with her equally as ‘bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh.’

But after The Fall, Man became imperfect and needed to know, learn, and understand many things. What came automatically to Adam was not so to him anymore and still remains the same till today. Many men do not know how to relate with their women; except for those who acquire the necessary knowledge or those to whom The Holy Spirit gives the revelation on what to do.

AN ASIDE

Just to chip in something of interest here. Adam had the opportunity to select any of the animals, male or female, as a partner or wife. But he did not. He could have chosen the graceful gazelle, the long necked, long limbed giraffe; the well designed Siberian Tiger; or any other animal of his choice, but he did not! He simply looked at all of them; maybe patted the frisky dog on its head, or even cuddled the cat. But he just named them and let them go. He knew they were in a different class from him; that

they had a different nature from him. He could not relate with any of them as an intimate marital partner. But fallen man descended to bestiality. That was why in the Old Testament, the death sentence was mandatory for anyone who practiced such an abomination. Unfortunately, this End Time, the iniquity has increased to the extent that it is legalized in some parts. People wed animals.

According to reports, the first ever legal Man-Animal wedding took place in 2014 in California, in the United States of America, where a man wedded his male dog! From other parts of the world, there have been reports of such unholy, bizarre and abominable unions to dogs, cats, horses, goats, fish and even frogs! In certain cultures, such acts are purportedly carried out as acceptable cleansing communal rites! Quite a few have married animals because they claim human relationships failed them. They believe in the loyalty and love of their bestial mate! What height of perversion and rebellion against God's holy and sacred institution, which is exclusively reserved for the zenith of His creation! Weddings have gone to the dogs! Humanity that should get married to each other now not only wed their pets but also organizes wedding ceremonies between animals! Anyway, we are grateful that Adam made the right choice and did the right thing. He saw Eve and instantly recognized, accepted and married her – 'the bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh', because she was a part of him. God made a woman from Adam. Adam married Eve; not a Ewe!

Problems Continued.....

The gender differences that should have engendered a bonding between the sexes unfortunately became a dichotomy or should I say a demarcation that created a gulf in the male and female interpersonal relationship, resulting in conflicts, degradation and abuse of the woman over time. A renowned author and motivational speaker, Dr. Myles

Munroe, in his wonderful book, 'Understanding The Purpose and Power of Woman', in discussing the reason why the woman has been abused all through the centuries said that, man does not understand her and has distorted views of her unique design, nature and purpose. He said that, "Culture and tradition had then contributed to the problem by perpetuating these distortions" Page 22. Due to these reasons, according to him, "When purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable" Page 43.

This lack of knowledge created the misunderstanding that has literarily shortchanged Man. Over the centuries, degenerate Man, through the norms and traditions of men, began to dominate the sea, the sky, the land AND THE WOMAN! They went beyond the given mandate.

While quite a good number of men see the women folk as being invaluable in the home and society, many today do not appreciate the value of the female gender. Some think they have 'chicken brain, don't reason well and are too emotional'. They believe the world will be a better place without them. Even now, violence against the female gender is on the increase, from the womb to the grave. So these turn to violating their rights, discriminating, using or abusing them. The sex trade involving women and vulnerable children is no longer news. She is exploited at every turn. For example, in war time, she is violated and faces other indignations during troubled periods. In family inheritance, she is deprived of her rights. In some work places, she experiences job discrimination and is sometimes rated lower than her male counterpart even when they have the same qualifications and job experience. In value, a male child is rated higher in some cultures. As a wife, she is seen as a baby factory. In the family circle, she is the glorified cook, steward, laundry woman, bed partner and whatever other role is carved out for her, even when she is a working mother or wife. In some societies, female infanticide, killing of girl children below the age of five years through intentional neglect, forced female fetal abortions are all atrocities carried

out against the female gender. Child Bride practice is a common practice in several cultures.

At this point, I would like to point out that, but for my late father, Peter Ashikwe Okonji, an astute believer in giving everyone of us his children a fair chance of going to school, whether male or female; I would not have had the privilege of receiving Western Education. In those days in our culture, there was discrimination against the education of the girl child. My father gave me the opportunity to go to school. Pressure was mounted against him for that decision. They tried to convince him against sending me to school; that it meant that another family will be benefited since I would be married away anyway. Girls were given away in early marriages those days.

Since some girl children got pregnant and never finished school, they believed he was taking a risk by allowing me, a female child to go to school. “Why not concentrate on your male children?” they asked him. One day, he sat me down and explained to me all the oppositions he had to face from skeptics of female gender education. He told me he had given me my opportunity and I had to make good use of it. ‘The ball was now in my court,’ he concluded. Well, by the grace of God, I successfully went through my secondary school course. Tragically, in my final year in the grammar school, he was massacred during the Nigerian/Biafra Civil War.

According to divine providence, I got married to a man who also believed in female education. Against all opposition, my beloved late husband, Rev. Dr. John Onyeiwe Nnogo, gave me the opportunity to continue and to further my education, even encouraging me to do a doctorate, after I completed my Master’s degree at the University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos Nigeria. But I chose to do theological studies at this point, having had all my children in between programmes! At the end, we became a role model, a pace setter for others, who saw the need of having an educated

wife. They began to send their wives to school and even to the university!

God used these two men who loved me so much, to beat the discrimination that was leveled against me as a child, a young girl and later as a married woman. Am glad to say that, that society has changed its attitude towards the education of the girl child. The result of that is what you are experiencing right now. If I had not had the opportunities divinely opened to me in an era of negative societal values and opposition against the female gender education, the message in this book as well as in others I have been privileged to write, would have been lost forever. So I am grateful to God for His good hand leading and steering the ship of my destiny to fulfill purpose. The oppositions of culture and tradition could not stop the fulfillment of His plan, in using me to initiate a positive change among my people. Is it by chance then that am given the mandate to write this very topic? No, it isn't. I believe it is His perfect will. To God be the glory!

Why is this war being waged against the female gender?

SATANIC ATTACK

Lucifer was cast out from heaven after he rebelled against God. He continued his rebellious act in the garden by trying to subvert man's relationship with God. He used Eve as a pawn. The question is why did he choose to use Eve and not Adam? Was he jealous of God's attention on His creation and so decided to use her against Him? Just a thought! Only God knows! Unfortunately, Adam deliberately disobeyed by listening to his wife and eating the forbidden fruit. Gen. 3:17. Through this disobedience, God's beautiful creation was plunged into chaos and darkness. The equilibrium or state of balance between the man and the woman was destabilized. The woman was to look up to her husband. He was to lead her.

Unfortunately, overtime, the male in his fallen state dominated her, attacking her personhood and enslaving her physically, psychologically and otherwise. Since then, the attack has not ceased on the daughters of Eve! Satan the devil hates the woman and has instigated and fueled this hatred and downgrading of the female gender. Thank God that victory has been given through the shed blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who died and rose again that we might live. Hallelujah! Marriage, the Bible way, for Spirit controlled couples, can be beautiful. There is no form of domination on either side.

Some do not understand their women despite long years of co-habitation as marriage partners. This creates a lot of conflicts and frustration which sometimes lead to separation and divorce. The picture marriage paints today is very negative. The young ones experience no peace in their families. When they get older and get married, they begin to live out what they saw and learnt from their parents. Some prefer single parenthood to any marital commitment. They are afraid of marriage! They see it as a pain rather than pleasure!

From this evolved over time and more so, in modern times, two major positions of The Woman:-

‘FIGHT’ AND ‘SUBJECTION’

- Those who fight back, trying to prove “the superiority” of womanhood, through various endeavours.
- Those who are resigned to the situation, in which they find themselves, become subservient to the man. They are subjugated mentally, emotionally, physically and otherwise. They are subdued through the indoctrinations of the culture or tradition in which they live; most often having their self-esteem or self-perception destroyed and mindset enslaved to the system.

There is a classic case of such gender discrimination in the Bible. The Law of Moses stipulated the death sentence through stoning for anyone caught in adultery. It clearly stated ‘adulterer and adulteress’. Leviticus 20.10. But according to the account given in John 8.1-11, the Scribes and Pharisees, who should know and apply the law correctly and justly, brought to Jesus a woman caught in adultery. In trying to test Him through this case, they unconsciously showed up their prejudice. Truly, she was caught in adultery, ‘in the very act’, they said. John 8.4. The question is, “Where was her sin partner? Was the man not equally guilty? Why did they let him go? Why did they arrest only the woman presenting her as a horrible sinner; as an adulteress? Where was the adulterer? It takes two to tango. Why was The Law not equally applied?” Thank God that she was presented to her Creator, whose mercy prevailed over her. Jesus asked for anyone among the mob who had no sin to cast the first stone at her. Of course none of them was devoid of sin. One by one they disappeared. When Jesus saw that they all had gone, He asked her of her accusers. She answered Him that they had ‘all gone’. Then Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more”, she was told. Did Jesus condone her sin? No! Not at all. I believe His response to her dilemma showed up their hypocrisy. They expected a different reaction or response from The Lord, but they were caught in their own web of lies and unfairness. They themselves were not devoid of sin and here they were, sitting in accusation and unjust judgement over another! Has the attitude yet changed? Not really. Today, in some cultures, a man caught in adultery can be excused and gets off more lightly than a woman.

WORLDLY PERCEPTION

Unfortunately, the world sees the woman as an ‘object of pleasure’. For instance, in advertising, business, or even in the movie industry, her image is used extensively to allure, attract and tantalize. Concerning the male-female relationship, they have gone as far as making female robots

for sexual pleasure. The current model has been produced for male entertainment, and of course, these days, for any interested female. It is created to have artificial intelligence, and customized to suit the whims and caprices of the interested customer. It is able to converse and behave, almost like a real person. A comment from a certain website stated that 'she sure could chatter in her creepy disembodied voices while we gazed into her dead eyes'. Isn't that eerie? Another gentleman commented that it was cheaper to own it than to have a wife! Can you imagine that? The perverse mind prefers an inanimate object to the 'real deal'. Possibly this is an unconscious way of controlling and abusing the female gender. While it can converse, can it give godly advice? No! Can it give birth to children? No! Has it a soul? Of course not! **Womanhood has been reduced to 'a thing that can be bought, used and discarded at will'.**

Man's depraved nature powered by satan, has gone to abominable depths of evil, to create bizarre imaginations of his mind. God's noble creation is being desecrated. Of course, their 'creation', in the final analysis, is nothing but a pornographic object! **Directly or indirectly, this is making a caricature of God's noble purpose in creating the woman.** While some do not care about marriage and couldn't be bothered about a wife, others use it to replace and fulfill the emotional highs that should naturally occur in a normal healthy heterosexual marital relationship. So, that is how the world sees the woman; nothing but a sex toy!

NOT UNDERSTANDING THE WOMAN'S NATURE

There are just too many dysfunctional families to speak well for the institution of marriage. I once had a man comment in response to a question about his wife during one of my marriage seminars. He said he did not understand his wife. As at that time, he had been married for twenty years! This was supposed to be a gathering of believers, Christians! Another gentleman married for five years, in a violent

outburst when he was asked to make his comment about “the woman”, said, ‘Women are snakes!’ ‘Shocking!’ you will say. Well, we can’t judge him for we do not know what his experience was with women or even with his wife. Even in Christian leadership, a certain Man of God said he did not understand his wife after ten years of marriage! If he, who is supposed to be a teacher, did not know, then there is a problem!

Even the female gender is not exempt from this imbibed negative mindset about herself. She has an inferiority complex and believes in male superiority. Since females do not understand themselves they would rather relate with the opposite gender. Protection and security is supposed to come with marriage and this concept is transferred to the work place relationship. Many believe that working with the opposite gender is better and less troublesome. They feel that a working relationship with a male was easier than working with a peer of the same gender. I have heard young girls say, ‘They wished they were boys’. That, ‘If it were possible to come back to earth a second time, they would prefer to come as boys’. They believed they were so privileged! Others hated their biological function of menstruation, seeing it as being bothersome. They envied the independence, authority and respect men have.

In watching a certain documentary, the above concept was further highlighted. It was focused on a certain European community, which gave any female, who desired a status change from being female to male, the right to do so. But this came under certain conditions. As long as she was willing to pay the price of living celibate, she would be accorded the full rights given to any man. She could be addressed as a man, sit at meetings with men, smoke a pipe like a man and even wear men’s clothes! She would be allowed to wield full authority like any other man in the society! And this privilege was for life. What length can some people go, rejecting the perceived notion of themselves, to taking up another ‘superior

image'! While not judging the personality caught in the trap, it simply highlights the warped thinking shaped by society.

Was the creation of Eve an afterthought?

Was it a mistake? Eve's separation from Adam, was it necessary? Could Adam not have functioned any other way? Couldn't The Almighty God carry out His plan without bringing in another entity? These and other questions will be answered when we get to know *why God created The Woman*.

CHAPTER TWO

HOW VALUABLE IS SHE?

A conversation ensued in a certain office, from a small waiting group of men and women I happened to be a part of. The discussion centered on the need to treat the woman with love and tenderness in order for the man to get the best out of her. The discuss fell on the deaf ears of an elderly gentleman in our midst. He did not hide his feelings. He was prejudiced against women. He already had his preconceived notion of who a woman is and how she should be treated. He stated it. He even had an attitude, telling all who cared to listen that, "Women were inferior to men. Only they wouldn't accept that fact. They would rather argue".

He looked around him with mirth in his eyes. He then laughed heartily, clapping his hands while lifting up both legs in the air, in raucous mirth. There was another lady in our midst. We both simply exchanged glances with knowing smiles. How do you go about trying to convince a prejudiced seventy-year old man? There was no need. We felt sorry for whosoever his wife was.

And that is the problem. Such negative attitudes and habits have been imbibed and passed down in families. Only those who have teachable spirits would be able to, with time, learn and utilize the right attitudes.

The Question at Hand

The question now is not about inferiority or superiority, for God created Man equal – with equal rights and values. There is no attempt here to come to the woman's defense, but to present the truth of God's purpose in His Word concerning "The Woman", so that all could understand and have the right perspective on the Creation of The Woman, her place and purpose in a man's life and in God's eternal plan, so she can be appreciated and be valued; and in so doing, she becomes a blessing to all.

What is the Value and Purpose of the Woman to Her Husband?

God instituted marriage. Earlier on, He had brought all the animals to Adam to name them and possibly make the choice of a mate. I believe this is to teach us a very big lesson. Is it that God did not know that none of those animals would be an appropriate mate for Adam? Of course, being omniscient, He knew. But He had to allow man of his own freewill to make the choice of a partner. Adam was wise enough to know that none of those was a match for him. God created male and female animals, separate from each other; but not like Man. In creating the human being, He made one person, and then separated him into two –

one male, the other female. No animal had that privilege of being one and yet complementary. So, Adam named them all, but rejected them for a mate. **Gen 2:20**

He needed a human companion; someone like him with whom he could communicate at the same level. For God's mandate of fruitfulness and multiplication to start functioning, He had to bring forth Adam's companion in grand style. God said that it was not good for a man to be alone. He made him a helpmeet. Adam's mental, emotional and physical needs were met in Eve. She complemented him in his very being. He received her with joy. He received her to himself. He accepted her and placed her where she belonged. He serenaded Eve with his words, calling her

"The bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" and named her instantly.

One could only imagine the delight of God the Father, looking on at Adam, expressing his extreme pleasure in response to Eve, as He brought her to him in this very first wedding, in the Garden of Eden. God made her so invaluable to him – a help meet for life! A true companion! Adam's desire indeed!

LESSON: Indeed, every wife ought to be a help meet for her husband. She is to make his life a pleasure. If you are a married woman reading this, please find out ways of doing that physically, psychologically and even spiritually. Study the Bible. Get resources that will help you enrich your relationship. Attend conferences for marriage. Make yourself available to your husband. Pray for yourself. Pray for him and pray for your marriage. Make yourself indispensable to him. You are meant to do him good all the days of your life according to Proverbs 31.12. Indeed, that should be your life goal. If you do not, it means you are not fulfilling your mandate! Instead of being a blessing, you become a curse! So please reconsider your attitude towards your husband, especially if he is not saved.

Ephesians 5.22-24 talks about submission. When you are submitted to your own husband, as 'unto the Lord', you are a wise woman, who is building her home and would not want to tear it down with her own hands. Your submission is not based on his perfection but in obedience to God's word. Renew your mind with the Word and be a doer of it. You will make the home 'governable' by so doing. 1st Peter 3.1-6 breaks it down further. It is not just about external beauty only; the internal beauty is of inestimable value before God. If it is that precious to Him, you should ask for grace to die to self so Christ can increase. You can by so doing please your Lord and Master and thereby please your husband.

Here is a brief testimony concerning the above. This is just to share a little bit of my life experience. I got born again before my husband. We were not saved before our marriage. All my carnal attempts to get him 'saved' failed. Not until I changed my attitude after reading 'Total Joy' by Marabel Morgan, did he become saved. The book teaches the Biblical principle of Submission. I got to understand that it was not subjection or subservience. By God's grace, I followed the principles, practically working it out in my life. I became more prayerful, respectful, caring and controlled my tongue. I stopped arguing. I waited on The Lord for him. Was it easy? No. Was it that we never offended each other? Of course as humans, we did. My response to him was that of love, forgiveness and a submissive, godly approach to our relationship. I am not perfect but The Holy Spirit helped me to yield to His leading. By God's grace, after two years there was a change! The Lord intervened. He saved him. When I stopped trying to do it my own way and obediently followed Biblical principles, this allowed the Holy Spirit access to his heart. He got convicted and surrendered his life to the Lord. I never knew my godly attitude positively and powerfully impacted him, until he shared this with me after he got born again. Did we have a good relationship? We sure did! God alone takes the glory for his salvation, for by works no man can be saved.

If you are married to an unsaved husband, just follow the guidelines given in 1st Peter 3.1-2. Walk in obedience and leave the rest to God. Verses 1-6 cover an admonition for every married woman. A wise woman builds her house while the foolish tears it down with her hands. Doing it God's way is wisdom. When you do so, you receive joy! That made me fulfilled as a wife and a mother when my husband and my children began to bless and praise me to God's glory. It was not just a one day affair. In all humility, I say that I was privileged to receive the blessing that follows a virtuous woman as shown in Proverbs 31.28. Whatever you sow, in due time you will reap. If you can impact your family to the extent of receiving such, then I believe heaven has taken notice too! I was grateful to God for not every wife or mother has that privilege. I had vowed to do him good all the days of my life. The Lord helped me to the very end of our marriage. He was deeply involved in the Lord's work not only as a Reverend Minister in the church but had a passion for souls and was involved in missions. He loved the Lord and was a caring, responsible, supportive, loving father and husband till he went to be with the Lord.

Why am I sharing this? I want to encourage you as a woman to follow the way of God so you can be blessed and become a blessing too. Discountenance the attitude of the women in the world who think submission is old fashioned and is a form of slavery. Rather, it is supposed to be a covering; a position of security for you. So if you are yet to experience this shower of blessing, I pray for you to receive yours in due time, in Jesus' name. Amen.

'Her children rise up and call her blessed;

Her husband also, and he praises her.' Proverbs 31.28.

'What if the man is abusive; how can I submit to him?' What does the Word say? Please follow it. But if your life is in danger in any way, seek for help from appropriate legitimate quarters. Also, prayerfully seek counsel

from mature spiritual authority. Besides that, The Holy Spirit is your guide. It will be a deviation to go into details at this point.

It is also necessary for the man, with the help of God, to look for a suitable companion for life, a wife who will bring value to your life, making your life complete. A companion, that together, you would be fulfilled as you walk through life, having God as your guide. Adam did not choose any animal for himself. He received a suitable companion. Please prayerfully look for a suitable female companion as a wife for yourself – spiritually, psychologically and physically. Is it a tall order? No! I believe if you follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you cannot make a mistake. I believe there is someone special for everyone. There will always be the most suitable companion, for anyone who would diligently seek. “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favour from the Lord” **Proverb 18:22**.

PLEASE NOTE - As a man, when you find A WIFE – there is an anointing attached to it! What is it? It is called ‘FAVOUR’, and it can only come from the Lord! Why should favour be released to you? It is released because the woman is of inestimable value to God. When you choose her and make her your wife AND treat her well - boom! Favour must be released upon your life. She is like a perfume bottle given as a gift to you. The fragrance will not be released until you do the right thing – open it and apply it to yourself. Your obedience to God’s will, serves as a key to that open door. It operates just as the Law of Cause and Effect and also as the Law of Sowing and Reaping **Galatians 6:7-8**. It is both a universal and a spiritual law. It is unchangeable. You cannot escape it. If you do not obey it, things could be tough for you in some or all the aspects of your life. For some, it could be financial difficulties; for others it could be psychological; they are never happy, they are stressed out, because they have no peace. Emotionally they are drained. Spiritually, they shortchange themselves. Not understanding the reason for what they are going through, they may begin to blame her for the problems or misfortunes they are experiencing; whereas they are the architect of them all. So, please love that creation of God, given on loan to you. You

may be her husband, but the ultimate owner and Lord, is God. Please, value her.

Should her value to you depend on her behaviour? On the face value one can say yes. But here we are discussing Biblical standards. Does a gardener abandon and walk away from his garden because he has some challenges there? No! He tries to salvage it to make it more productive. How much more a marital relationship? Walking away from this one does not guarantee you another stress free one as some believe! This is where commitment comes in to play. Just love her unconditionally, her imperfections and all. Relate to her according to God's word and see what happens. Love her, pray for her, serenade her, pamper her and she will begin to release the goodies within.

Of course in doing this I do not encourage you to worship or fear her. That would be idolatrous. Be the head and lead, not abdicating your position or responsibilities. Just be available. Unfortunately, Adam walked away from his responsibility by not being there with her when it really mattered.. He may not have walked away physically. He may have been around and was acquiesced to her move. Indirectly he walked away because he did not exercise his God given authority to intervene. He was silent. The enemy seized the loophole to cause trouble; just as it is in some homes today, having unavailable or irresponsible husbands, who do not stand up to their duties! Thank God for our Lord Jesus Christ's intervention. Please make yourself available and do not get carried away with tending your garden; that is, focusing on your work or career, to the detriment of your marital relationship.

Moreover, "a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife and the two become one flesh". They not only become "one flesh", they also "become naked" before each other. The Lord gave that guideline, for the man "to leave" ... and "to cleave" to his wife. Oh what a glory – two lives fuzzing into one; distinct yet united; different, yet complementary; in

unity, as one, towards one goal. That is God's eternal purpose and glory. That is another topic for discussion!

If you are a married man reading this, please realize that the answers to your prayers depend on the way you treat your wife. It is hinged to your prayer being heard or being hindered. You need to view her from the Biblical perspective, and treat her accordingly. Is she invaluable or cheap; precious or ordinary to you? There is an admonition from both The Old and The New Testament on this point. Please see 1st Peter 3.7. and Malachi 2.13-15.

.....You cover the altar of the Lord with tears,
With weeping and crying;
So He does not regard the offering anymore,
Nor receive it with goodwill
From your hands.

v.14 yet you say 'For what reason?
Because The Lord has been witness
Between you and the wife of your youth
With whom you have dealt treacherously;
Yet she is your companion
And your wife by covenant

v.15a But did he not make them one
Having a remnant of the Spirit? Malachi 2.13-15a

Husbands, likewise dwell with them with understanding; giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered, 1st Peter 3.7

There is need to focus a little bit on this point. Both verses agree on honouring the wife as both being of one spirit with the husband. If they are of the same essence then, they both belong to God. She is equally valuable, since they are both heirs of salvation. And together, they carry out the godly mandate of producing godly children [fruitfulness and multiplication]. So any ill-treatment or abuse of her will carry serious consequences – The Lord will not answer your prayers! The Male-Man was created in God's image and was positioned in the place of power and authority. He has to lead his home and take good care of his spouse, his partner, his helpmeet through this journey of life, if he has to make a success of it! Unfortunately, many have missed the mark. God created the family and gave the marriage principles to follow. Unfortunately, the customs and traditions of men have interfered with it and influenced the position and attitude of some men. They follow what their fathers did, or what culture or tradition dictates, not what God's Word says. No matter the level of success a man achieves in life, he can still rise higher if he 'keys in to the flow'. Your wife may not be perfect, but your positive image of "who The Woman is" would help you relate better to her.

Some have given up on their wives – "Too difficult, too stubborn, too troublesome, and too emotional! Too this, too that..." they complain! You can fill in the gap for yourself. Please do not abandon the unkempt garden or farm land. It only needs attention. I happened to be at a marriage seminar for men of which I was the main speaker. One of the speakers focused on the need to 'love your wife', emphasizing the fact that there was no need to 'understand her'. That, a man could never understand his wife; that all he was commanded to do was to 'love her'. I had a divergent point of view and still do.

Please love your wife; but I believe you need to understand her as well. In creation, God the Father used wisdom, understanding and knowledge. **Proverbs 3.19-20.** If He did, I believe you need to do the same. In building your home or your life you need wisdom to do it, understanding to establish it and knowledge to fill up your life with good things. **Proverbs 24.3-4.** According to Dr. Myles Munroe, “If the purpose of a thing is not known, abuse is inevitable”. So that’s why this is being made available to you now. You may not fathom her absolutely. But there are some basic things you need to understand about her to help you have a smooth relationship. If you can understand the person of your boss or colleague at work, your business partner, your friend or close associate, or even a family member, you should work at having a basic understanding of the most intimate relationship in your life. There is need to observe, study and discuss issues with her. Pray and ask for the Holy Spirit’s guidance. You need to patiently work at some things as guided. A good marriage just does not happen. Really, you have to work at it. Where there is a will, there is a way. As a human you cannot know your spouse completely. But I believe you can understand her to a large extent. If you have any misunderstanding, please work it out. It will help to close the door against conflict, separation and divorce. Please read up on Conflict Resolution in Marriage.

On another occasion, I happened to be watching a Christian marriage programme on television. The speaker, Pastor John Hagee of John Hagee Ministries, said that women were not to be seen as being ‘complicated’; rather they were to be seen as ‘being complex’. He went on to explain how a wife would want her husband to be ‘tender, loving and sensitive’ towards her, and at the same time, wants him to be a man who can be ‘tough and decisive’! ‘How do you explain that’, he asked? And at the previously mentioned seminar, some men complained about how a woman could be nice and sweet one day and becomes moody, bitter and withdrawn the next. It was quite perplexing and they wanted to know why. And this is what some men do not comprehend about their wives;

they are different from them. Please study the Gender Differences; it will help your understanding on this issue and make you to be the best spouse you can ever be.

Beloved, it's imperative for you to study, observe and know your wife. You need to live with her 'with understanding'. When you begin to understand her complex nature and therefore her purpose, [remember she was made in secret], then you can begin to enjoy her as you unravel her. To the typical man, the Woman is still an enigma, a mystery. How do you handle this fragile, sensitive complex creature? Some can't and would rather subjugate her in order to be able to 'control' her. You can unravel her if you prayerfully follow the God given guidelines or principles for marriage. Is it easy? No, it is not. It is hard work. This is where unconditional love and acceptance come in. She's more costly than your most expensive car. She's more valuable than all your treasures on earth. If you can spend time and money to acquire the knowledge that gave you power, prestige and possibly wealth, then you should be able to invest time and money and any other needed resources to help you understand the 'helpmeet' God gave you. She is God's gift to you. When you unravel her through loving her unconditionally, and knowing how to relate with her person, you can then begin to enjoy and rejoice in 'the wife of your youth'. You will begin to have a 'heaven-on-earth' marital experience!

If you are a female reading this, please acknowledge the fact of your importance to God. Don't disparage yourself. Don't put yourself down. Reject the notion that you are less important because of your gender or because of what your culture dictates. While acknowledging the fact that you are 'SOMEBODY' because you are Blood bought, Blood washed, made in God's image and complete in Christ just as the man is, you should do so with a humble attitude and not allow your heart to be lifted up in pride. You are not superior to him. You are made of the same essence as he, "the spirit of man". Acknowledge who you are in Christ with gratitude. Avoid the temptation of trying to prove yourself through competition.

Please do not allow the abuse of your body by anyone because you are seeking for love. You should know that God loves you. You are specially packaged. Allow your soul to settle and be at peace with God. He will lead and guide you all the days of your life.

While it is quite difficult for some men to love their wives as they should, it is equally hard for some women too, to submit from their hearts to their husbands. Beloved, submission is not subjugation and it is not inferiority. It is simply an action taken in obedience to God's will; just as Jesus was in submission to God the Father. It is an act of humility. Willingly putting down your own will is a powerful thing. Fear of being subjugated keeps the typical woman from wanting to allow her person to be a 'door mat' to her husband, resulting in strained relationships or sometimes, outright conflict.

'A foolish woman tears down her home with her hands'. Proverbs 14.1.

Rather, endeavor to become an excellent wife in all ramification. Proverb 12.4 says that

"An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones".

Which would you rather be; the excellent wife or the one that causes shame? Of course, I believe you would rather choose to be the excellent wife, the crown of your husband. Do you see the glory God has placed on you as a wife? You are your husband's crown! You know the value that is placed on a crown – honour, dignity, respect, and worth. It is royalty. As a wife, you are elevated. So, please, respect the position in which you have been placed. Give him the due respect. He is not perfect, neither are you. Do study the Gender Differences too, so you can have a better understanding of yourselves. **Your life goal should be "to pleasure" your husband in all aspects and he in turn will "treasure" you.** Like the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31:12, be willing to "do him good and not evil all the days of your life. "Amen", I say to that!

For the husband, you can see the two options for your wife. Help her to be the best she can be. As your crown, you'll be proud to have her. She is bearing your name – in shame or in fame? Help her to be your crown “in fame” indeed. Those who have been able to “demystify the woman” or “womanhood” have been blessed by the gifts placed within her. They experience being lifted to unimaginable heights of pleasure and prosperity.

Men of God like T.D Jakes and Dr. Myles Munroe literarily understand the female gender better than the females understand themselves. They have taught and written books that have positively impacted lives. If you are a woman reading this, do endeavor to discover yourself, so you can know your value and the purpose of your being, so you can positively impact your world. Since my focus is not on ‘Womanhood’ per se, but on ‘the reason for her ever coming into existence through Eve, the mother of all living’, I would advise that you make a research on that topic and get to know who you really are, so you can better appreciate yourself as a person.

There is this wonderful man of God, who has been such a blessing to my family and I, who shared with me the teaching he gave during a marriage seminar. Within the teaching he had a poem. It was so explicit and so interesting that I asked his permission to include it in my writing. He graciously agreed. Here it is:

THE POWER OF A WOMAN

She is the power of love.

She is the trigger of industrialization.

She is management and productivity;

She is the spice of beauty, decoration and embellishment. She understands colours;

She is the rhythm of life and harmony,

Without her, there is a total disorder and heart attack.

Can you imagine the world without a woman? Then there would be war continually.

Suppress a woman, you suppress a nation;

Cripple a woman, you cripple a nation;

Intimidate a woman, you intimidate a nation;

Dwarf a woman, you dwarf a nation;

Hurt a woman, you hurt a nation;

Enslave a woman, you enslave a nation;

Stop the vision of a woman, the nation would slide back;

Don't love the woman, you just hated yourself.

Courtesy - **Bishop Charly-Kasi Azike.**
Jesus Power Ministries

Wow! The last line threw such a heavy punch for a man, to express himself with such strong feelings. It is Biblical and a summary description of the truth. 'Don't love the woman, you just hated yourself'! Indeed, the husband is to love his wife as his own body. If he does not, he indeed hates himself without knowing it. Am glad to say that, this Bishop, the husband of one beautiful and virtuous woman, has a successful marriage that has lasted for decades and is still going strong.

The Church

If the general attitude of people in the world is negative towards The Woman, what about the local assembly? I mean church folk – leader and laity. Does the woman receive the kind of honor that is due her? There is no need to go into the placement of the woman in the church. If the secular world could declare human rights and justice for all, irrespective of the gender differences, how much more should the church indeed be a leading and a better example?

In some denominations, the woman is considered to be inferior to the man. She is a silent worker. In some places she can be seen but not heard. She is limited in what she can say or do as a woman. In fact, she is prohibited in some quarters from carrying out certain activities on HIS Majesty's Service. Church dogmas, laws and doctrines limit what she can do as a woman in the service of her Lord! Thank God that the salvation of the soul does not rest in the hands of any man, otherwise, the women would have had no chance of going to heaven. Salvation would have been reserved FOR MEN ONLY!

There is no need to get into any controversy here because there are different positions taken concerning the place of the woman in the Body. If her purpose were well understood, there would have been no need for any varied positions or negative attitudes. If in The Church, she is not understood, what chance has she outside? Thank God that the following Pidgin English song says it all. It was popular when I was growing up as a child. Unfortunately, I do not know the singer or author of it. It may not be known today, but has the attitude changed? Not really.

“God create Man
Woman create the devil
If you no be careful
Woman short your life
Fire, fire, fire, fire, fire, down below /2ce

What a negative connotation about Eve and her daughters. My focus on this write up is simply to show reasons why God chose to bring her into the scene. Does it mean that God, The Maker of heaven and earth did not know what He was doing when He made the woman? Is she meant to be a source of pain and sorrow rather than joy? No, not at all!

Was the Creation of Eve an afterthought of the Almighty? That would be an insult indeed on the intelligence of The Almighty; to think that The

Omniscient God would or could make a mistake! How could anyone ever say that 'The Woman' was a mistake? God is Sovereign. He knows all things and CANNOT make a mistake. He planned it and chose to execute it that way. Did He not create the universe for Man and The Garden for Adam's immediate use? He holds everything in place by the Word of His power! Did he not know what He was doing then? Remember, He gave The Garden of Eden to Adam to tend in readiness for his coming Bride, Eve.

Was it not God who created Man as one entity and knew when, where and how to do the separation? He brought her out from the rib of Adam. He first created a tough and rugged version of Man, (the Male-Man) and then from his rib, He made the refined version (the Female-Man), to complement him. Yes, same in essence yet complementary.

AN ASIDE

I read an interesting article titled '***Why Did God Use Adam's Rib to Create Eve?***' by CEO Michael Houdmann on his website <http://www.gotquestions.org>. He said that the Hebrew word '***tsela***' in Genesis 2 should be translated as Adam's 'side', rather than his 'rib'. He stated that 'if the appropriate translation is that God removed Adam's side, how much of his side did God remove? It is quite possible that Eve was constructed literally from half of Adam. This brings new meaning to Adam's declaration that Eve was 'bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh'. She was more than just his bone; she was out of his flesh and bone.

"Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord.

"For as woman came from man, so man also comes through woman, but all things are from God". 1Cor. 11:11-12.

In bringing in Eve, God instituted marriage. Animals pair up and procreate but do not marry. But God had a plan for Himself and for humanity. Adam and Eve would keep each other company in the marriage covenant, fulfill sexual intimacy and procreate in order to bring God's plans and purpose to pass. God knew what He was doing when He brought her into the picture. All the plans were ready before the foundation of the world.

WHY SHE'S SO VALUABLE TO HER FAMILY

There was a heartwarming comment I never forgot, about women, made by a certain Man of God during a seminar in the church. He began his message by affirming womanhood saying that they were 'the flowers of the earth.' He went on to say lovely things about the female gender. Such a person who saw the woman as being valuable will indeed make a loving husband and would take good care of his wife. Is she to be worshipped? No, that is the mistake certain cultures have made, in idolizing womanhood.

Thankfully, in the family circle, *she is built to lead through her influence, while the husband's authority is exercised through his headship as husband and father. His authority is overt while hers is covert. If well exercised, she assists in the proper balancing of the peace and stability in the home; but if otherwise, she could become very dangerous and a destabilizing agent. For example, in child discipline, if the woman is supportive of her husband's leadership style, everyone tends to fall in line with the given authority. But if dissenting to his ways or his opinions, her negative influence or manipulation would wipe away and subvert his rule or authority, thereby creating conflicts and squabbles in the home.*

Dr. Myles Munroe wrote extensively about the woman, in his popular book, 'Understanding the Power and Purpose of a Woman'. In summary, she is built to be an enhancer. She enhances her husband's life and any other around her. She is not just an enhancer; she is also a nurturer of life.

She nurtures not only the life in her womb, but all life around her. I would add that she does it with her voice, her eyes, her hands, her life and even her sexuality.

She is built to be a reflector – just like the moon does the sun. That is why the husband needs to love her unconditionally. She reflects back to him his input! I dare say that when this is done, she becomes like a well-tended garden, reflecting the care of the gardener. An unkempt garden says a lot too about how much attention is lacking.

By the same token, in tuning a radio, the reception comes loud and clear as against an unclear tuning, that is full of static noise, giving a poor reception. Who does the work of tuning? The husband of course! And what about the wife? She is like the radio, reflecting the effort of the tuner. So there is a need to know how to live with her with understanding so the best can be experienced in the relationship.

Again, she is the emotional and physical prop of the family. She is the cook, the steward, the laundry woman, the judge, the jury, the lover and so on and so forth. You name it. She is there for everyone.

In The Society

She serves as the oil that greases every relationship. Everyone comes from a family. She takes care of the needs and life can move on despite challenges. When she fails, a big gap is left, a gaping hole in the heart of the nation.

CHAPTER THREE

Indicators of How Valuable Eve was To God.

Now to share with you the trouble God took in order to bring her into existence, kept her daughters and eventually saved her. To God, her Creator, she's invaluable, she's special to Him. As you read, please – see her through HIS eyes; love and accept and treat her as He does.

[a] The Preparation for Eve's Arrival

When a dignitary is to pay a visit somewhere, extra care is usually taken to make sure everything is in place for his reception. So it was with the zenith of God's creation, Man. God made sure everything was in place for him. The three realms of the earth, land, sea and sky, with its treasures and pleasures, were prepared and packaged for his enjoyment. In this case Eve's arrival was due. God made a garden, a plush nook for the couple to enjoy. Adam, the rugged masculine one, appeared on the scene first. He was then given the piece of exotic property to tend, The Garden of Eden, pending the arrival of his love, his bride, Eve.

God's appreciation of the work of His hand made Him go the extra mile in making the place ready before her arrival. For Adam, as the Male-Man, it was his duty to take care of his family. So he was given that work; not a punishment, but an empowerment, a provision for him, so he could share the joy and riches of it with his other half, Eve. Gen 2:8-10. She was later presented to Adam by her Maker, and they both shared the joy and pleasure of each other's company, the beauty of Eden and also the fellowship with God. These privileges and pleasures were not exclusive to Adam alone. If she was considered to be less valuable or less privileged, she would not have been made a partaker with Adam.

LESSON: Excluding all other variables, as the head of the home, it is your duty to create a secure environment for your family – your wife first, then, your children, if you are blessed with any. A good accommodation,

with a good source of income, is necessary, so as to be able to meet basic needs. The man who values his wife would want a comfortable life for his family.

[b] She Was Created in God's Image.

God put a special value on Man. He made them male and female. They were created in His image. If He valued Eve less, she would not have been a partaker of that honour. No animal was given that privilege even though God created them first. They were in a different and lower class than Man. Adam named them but found no suitable partner. Eve could have turned out to be an inferior creation besides her husband if she had not been a partaker of that glory. So, God placed value on Eve by making her the partaker of His image, just as He did Adam. Gen 1:27.

In an article titled, 'Eve and the Identity of Women', written by Christopher L.C.E. Witcombe, <http://witcombe.sbc.edu/eve-women/eveidentity.html>, in his focus on Eve's Identity, he cited Saint Bernard of Clair Vaux in the Middle Ages, as claiming in his sermons that 'Eve was the original cause of evil, whose disgrace has come down to all women.' Whereas, Phyllis Tribble, Professor of Sacred Literature at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, in his counter view said that, 'Eve should be seen as 'God's ultimate creation'. Unfortunately, this controversy of Eve and what happened in the Garden and who is to blame will continue to rage till Jesus comes again. Then and only then will it be put to a stop. Let us not forget that no matter what happened, Eve was made in the image of God. I close this point with the following quotation by Tyler Blanski, in his article, 'Why Did God Make Eve?' in the Crisis Magazine, 2014.

'Eve was God's idea, made for God's glory,'

[c] The Shared Mandate

Both of them received the same mandate, “To be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the earth” Gen 1:28.

This was a shared mandate, but it was to be carried out differently because of their design and purpose. For example, in reproduction, the man is the carrier and depositor of the seed of life, while the woman is the receptor and nurturer of the seed, bringing forth the life from the loins of the man.

LESSON: There was no question of complex at the creation. Adam, who made his appearance, first, was not considered superior to Eve, who made a latter appearance. Though some have made a dogma of this, claiming that since Adam appeared first on the scene, that made him the superior one.

God created both in His image and breathed into Man the breath of life. They shared the same thing in common – none better than the other. When Man was created, both the male and female were encompassed as one, until God separated them. They were equals as entities before The Fall. But after that, in the marital relationship, one had to take the lead, as ordered by God, while still not depreciating the value of the one following. In the family setting, the man has the leadership of the home; he is the captain and his wife the co-pilot. For the purpose of law and order, the leader makes the final decisions and takes total responsibilities for his decisions. Does this factor in any way make him superior? Yes, according to some opinion, as earlier stated. But in reality, it is a team work. There will always be a team leader in any group. The man cannot do without the support of his wife. While she submits to his leadership as is fitting in the Lord, he loves her as Christ loves the church.

There was an expression I heard from Pastor John Hagee one day on television, in his teaching on marriage, which very well described the relationship as in the book of Ephesian 5.22-33 – He said, “The husband submitting to his wife’s emotional and love needs, and not his spiritual authority, and the wife submitting to his leadership and making herself beautiful and available”. He went further to explain in detail about mutual submission. This is a secret many do not know. It helps to bring about and to maintain the peace and stability in the home. Some call it ‘patience’. In actual fact, it is mutual submission in action!

You will discover that, in the home where the husband sees his wife as being the more delicate and sensitive part of him, he treats her with love and honours her person. This in turn helps her to project her attitude towards appreciation and respect for him. Submission would then be a natural response; one without compulsion. Love and peace naturally would dominate in such an environment. But where the woman is put down, debased and dishonoured, a lot of problems are created and encountered in the interpersonal relationship. Anyway, it is a distraction from the purpose of this discourse to try to argue in favour of one or the other. It is not my purpose to go into all the arguments for the positive or negative handling of the woman, or the superiority of the man. The focus here is to show that God values the woman and His reasons for it. Without her, the man is incomplete. ‘It is not good for a man to be alone....Genesis 2.18

[d] Different, Yet Same in Essence.

They were human beings; made in God’s image; sharing the same essence; yet different in the mode of creation. For Adam;

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathe into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”. Gen 2:7.

And for Eve;

The Lord put Adam into sleep and took a rib from His side and closed up the flesh in its place.

“With the rib God made a woman and He brought her to the man”.Gen 2:21-22.

Though different in the mode of creation and gender, they were both made of the same essence – The Spirit of Man. He created them male and female. Gen 1:27. They had the breath of life, were living souls, living in physical bodies. In reality, none was inferior or superior. They were equal. Of course we understand that at The Fall, Eve was given a deferred position due to her role in the whole process. But that did not diminish her worth before God. God took out time to make her Adam’s refined version; different, yet the same – human beings! God’s value on the woman is in no way less.

Some have proposed that God the Father is projected in the male gender, yet He has the feminine side of Him as shown through the creation of Eve. He is not a man. He is Spirit. Yet both genders came from Him, made in His image. Should not man value what the Trinity values?

[e] Her Complementary Nature

“With the rib God made a woman and He brought her to the man”.Gen 2:21-22.

God made them through different modes because He had a purpose for each of them. He took care to reproduce a refined, delicate but complementary version of Adam. If the Lord God had no use for the female version of humanity He would not have gone into all the trouble of making her. He could as well have continued and completed His programme with His macho man, Adam. But God took His time and made

her to be a special pleasing version of Adam, who was so delighted to have her.

The heart of The Father so loved His creation that it gave Him pleasure to not only create them, but to see them in love with each other. Adam was excited over his wife. I believe she would have been so beautiful, so lovely then, since it was before The Fall. She, being such a beauty that, till date, Hollywood, fashion and the cosmetic world have been trying to copy or recreate. There was no one like her. She was given to her equally stunningly handsome husband, Adam. For all that God created was very good!

Please be aware that God's ways are not men's and His thoughts not like ours. I can hear in my spirit man someone saying, 'Well, car manufactures bring out improved versions of their vehicles yearly or periodically'. If so, that means that there are shortcomings which make the previous productions less superior. That is why the shortfall is usually addressed in the latest models!' Well, God's ways as earlier stated are not like ours. In making Eve, He wasn't trying to improve on an inferior Adam. No; they were the same in their humanity. Everything He made was pronounced to be 'good'. He only had to separate the female gender that was encased in the male Adam. That was why they were complementary. If it was just to 'reproduce' an improved version of Man, He would have had to create another Adam with some extra features different from the previous production, just as the practice is in the car manufacturing industry. Rather, He separated Eve from Adam. Though separated, yet complementary, and with the same essence – spirit, soul and body, same; God didn't make her less.

If a mere mortal like Michael Angelo could spend time, to capture on canvass, the beauty of "Mona Lisa", a worldwide famous portrait that is so valued today, how much more do you suppose the Creator of Mankind would have esteemed His creation – Eve? He was incomplete without her. God himself said so....'...not good for man to be alone...'

If she were a motor car spare part, one would have said 'Eve was a necessary component. She was so invaluable to the continued existence of Adam that God had to carry out a special surgery to separate her from him and bring her into existence. She was indispensable to him. Life was incomplete without her. She was literally his other half. She complemented him physically and psychologically. The male and female reproductive organs and systems are a clear example of this. Her complementary nature made her not just a suitable companion but also made her to be indispensable for human procreation. The woman is to make the man complete so that the mandate given to them can be fulfilled. It can only be carried out together. If it were possible for the man's seed to grow alone, God would have made it so. But He brought in the woman, in her complementary nature, to fulfil the shared mandate of reproduction. He gives out life, she receives it, nurtures and brings it forth. She is invaluable to God's plan even in the physical realm.

Please Note

Any woman, who feels she has a right to her body and therefore commits abortion at will or as of right, is actually going against her nature and purpose. She is rejecting the value God placed upon womanhood – the power to receive the seed of life, nurture and bring it to fruition; thus continuing the given mandate of being a mother, and therefore participating in God's design for the human race. When man does not reproduce, who will populate the earth and invariably, heaven and tragically, hell? Anyway, no one owns his body. It is given by God and it is His temple. Anyone who tries to destroy it God will destroy. 1Cor. 3:16-17. But God is a merciful God. When we turn to Him for mercy, He forgives us and gives us the grace to live for Him.

Any further studies needed in that area can be carried out through reading many good and valuable books on the topic. But suffice it to say

that, if a couple works in unity, they will experience better fulfillment in their marital relationship; but if they work diametrically opposed to each other, what was meant for fulfillment would unfortunately create conflict and challenges; dissatisfaction will ultimately set in. What was meant to complement would then become a source of competition. But the all-knowing God had the best plan for Man. A good study of this subject will reveal further the invaluable role a woman plays in the life of a man. So, Eve was a very special being meant to spice up life for Adam and he in turn was to make life lovely through his love for her. But what is happening today?

LESSON: Every husband should see his wife, though different, as a necessary part of him. There should be no need for any competition to know who is more important. Scientifically, it has been proved that gender differences are complementary. While the man is more rational because of his leadership instincts, the woman is more emotional and operates intuitively, serving as radar to the man who must go forth into the “battle field”. The wiring of their brains is also complementary. If their relationship is well managed, it will give the best and broadest view on the art of good communication and maintaining a healthy and stable marital relationship.

[g] Her Esteemed Position

In creating Eve, the Lord God took a rib from the side of Adam. The bone of the rib cage is soft and pliable. It is also close to the heart region, the seat of love. God values the woman. She is to be protected and cared for because she is soft, delicate and sensitive.

She is “a weaker vessel” – not in the sense of being inferior, which is a negative connotation; but in the sense of “fragility” or “sensitivity”. She is different, made from a softer, more pliable and refined material. She is not as physically strong as the man and so must be handled with care. She

is emotionally and mentally different and has to be handled with sensitivity, care and understanding. Beside, she's brought out from his love zone – his heart, so the man's duty is to "love his wife as his own self". Ephesians 5.25-31; 1st Peter 3.7.

An excerpt from *"The Clarion Call for Men"* by Veronica Nnogo, page 33 (2007) reads:

"Advocates of women liberation put the woman in front; tradition and culture put her place behind; but the divine positioning puts her beside him".

This is a place of protection for her, a place of security both physically and psychologically; and I dare say, spiritually too! God's concern is for the care and comfort of this specie. She wasn't taken from his head, so she doesn't rule over him, neither was she taken from his feet to be trampled upon. Rather, she was taken from his side, as his partner, for pampering.

There is this testimony about a certain young couple. When newly married, as professionals, they worked apart from each other, each in his area of specialty. After a few years, they came together in their family business. They worked together in ministry as well. They are blessed with children. The husband provided an atmosphere of love and appreciation. Today, the couple serves as a very good example of a healthy Christian marital relationship. The young wife is blooming like a lovely flower planted in a well-tended garden. You can see the peace and contentment radiating from her. She is reflecting the input of her husband into her life. On the other hand, she has literally made her whole life available to him; she is submitted to serve him from her heart.

What was the positive effect of this on the man's life? He kept saying that, apart from salvation, she was the next best thing that ever happened to him. He wondered continually how he could have managed to be without her. When she joined him in his business she worked diligently, bringing in her gifts, talents and strength and the business grew

phenomenally. They are doing very well not only financially but relationally too and are serious in their walk with God. So in loving his wife, he did himself good. If you love your wife, you love yourself, according to God's word. Ephesians 5: 28

LESSON: The wife is expected to be placed in an honourable position. She is 'the queen' of the castle and should be treated as such. There is need to understand this unique handiwork of God in order to benefit from her presence and be blessed as a man. As a husband, seek to protect this "treasure" of God, which is a gift to you. Protect her. Create a secure environment physically, psychologically, financially and spiritually. You will be blessed spirit, soul and body. A good gardener or a good farmer never ceases to reap a good harvest for his labour! Does this entail your taking advantage of her? No. it simply requires your walking in wisdom, understanding and knowledge.

And lady, you being the 'queen' means you should appreciate, value, and respect the 'king' of the castle too and not to take any advantage of him. Value yourself as a person but please avoid the trap of overestimating yourself to the detriment of your relationship with your spouse. Some wives take advantage of their loving husbands. It is ungodly. Remember that whatever you sow, you will reap.

[h] A 'Wife' Is Valuable

Becoming a wife is not just a matter of a woman walking down the aisle on her wedding day, dressed in a lovely gown and being joined to her spouse. It is neither the wearing of a wedding ring nor her having a change of name. It is not just a title. It goes beyond that. To be 'a wife' is to be blessed. It is an honour bestowed on you as a woman. It's a glorious status change; that plants you in another place for you to start a new home; a new family with the love of your life – your husband. It is an exciting and challenging journey. It is a destiny changer. God made it so. Remember He instituted marriage. It is to be taken seriously. A man leaves father and mother and cleaves unto his wife; the two became one,

naked and unashamed. This union changes your status not only physically, but socially, mentally, emotionally, financially, materially and spiritually.

It is mandatory for the man to leave all else and to start a new family with the 'wife'. God made the woman to be an integral part of it. She is so invaluable to the man, to the extent that, though he being the foundation of the family, must still need her to build the home. She becomes a vital part of his life, in order to 'do him good all the days of her life'. Proverbs 31:12. So lady, please cherish your position of honour and pray to be a continual blessing to your husband till the end.

This particular point is taken for further emphasis. Forgive me for dwelling on this point to almost a point of repetition. It is saddening to see some homes ravaged and broken not just physically but emotionally and mentally due to a breach of this principle - that of not valuing the wife. For the man, if you are single, please prayerfully seek for a wife that will be a blessing to you and not be a thorn in your flesh. If you are already married, but have issues in your relationship, work at your marriage and pray she becomes a blessing as you bless her life. Pray for a continual, greater marital bliss if all is going well with you. The word says as earlier stated, that "He who finds a WIFE finds a GOOD THING and obtains FAVOUR from THE LORD". Proverbs 18:22.

Husband, do you know you are set on the path of blessings because of your wife? When you get married and God begins to favour you, then you are made. Please take your time and with the Lord's help, get the best of the lot meant for you as you stay married to your wife. You ought to be totally committed to loving and caring for her till the end. She is a help-meet for you. She helps you fulfill your destiny. In order to do that, there is need to study and get to understand her. Her nature is totally different from yours. For peace and love to reign, the husband has got to know and understand her person. How can he do this? By studying the word of God, reading books on marriage, attending marriage

programmes and having counseling sessions when needed. Moreover, ask for the guidance of The Holy Spirit. He is the best Teacher. He will open your understanding of The Bible. If you are diligent, He will show you how best to relate with her. Pray and seek God's face concerning your marriage. In your prayer closet, pray for her and learn to pray for each other when you come together in prayer. Time invested in building or improving your marriage has impact both here and in eternity. Remember, she is meant to do you good and not evil all the days of your life. Proverbs 31:12.

In the same article quoted earlier by Houdmann, he stated that the Hebrew word, 'azer k'negdo' translates 'power' and 'extensive aid and support'. That **'the word translated 'helpmate' is not synonymous with assistant, servant, minion or subordinate...Woman therefore was created as a complement to man, as an integral part of man and as a powerful and influential companion for man on an equal footing with him'**. Please see her as a gift to you; then you will be able to value and treasure her.

Failure to do all the above and more, will cause misunderstanding. The husband will invariably not give honour to her as his wife. He will not treat her with the love, care and tenderness needed for a delicate being. He will not treat her as an "heir of the grace of life". What will invariably happen? His prayers will be hindered. Why? Because, he never treated her right. If he knew and understood her for whom she was and treated her as such, then he "will obtain favour from the Lord". Please meditate on 1Peter 3:7.

Do you see the link? Your prosperity or success in life is linked to the way you relate to your wife. If things are tough for you, please look inwards. Be humble enough to repent and ask for God's forgiveness and also your wife's when you go wrong. Then start afresh. If you are blessed with material wealth, you could still be blessed the more for doing the right thing. It is a question of sowing and reaping as earlier stated.

There are two very striking cases of this that I know. Two couples very close to me prove that God's word is true; it's 'Yes' and 'Amen'. Both men take very good care of their wives. Not just in physical and financial terms, but emotionally and spiritually. Both women are blooming. Both marriages are blossoming and are fruitful and both husbands are doing very well in life. They not only have a good relationship with their wives, they are prospered financially.

On the other hand, another two men who had wrong attitudes towards their wives are having it rough. There are several other examples around us as far as one can observe – on the negative and positive sides. Obedience to God's words brings rewards whether it has to do with marriage or money or anything else.

But what happens if you have a very difficult or stubborn wife, for indeed some woman can be difficult to relate with? Such women could be 'a pain in the neck', so to say! The answer will be given from what I heard from a man of God, Reverend Uma Ukpai. Several years ago in Lagos Nigeria, during a pre-City Wide Crusade teaching session for counsellors, which was hosted by Reverend Dr. Uma Ukpai, he told the workers that a man should be able to "love his wife into submission." I never forgot that. He said that loving one's wife the Bible way would make 'her eat out of your hands' if possible. Submission will come easier for her. This is the secret many men should be aware of. It is easier for a woman to submit to a man who loves her unconditionally. Abuse of any kind in order to control her shows a great weakness in a man. It is a real man that can truly deal with such issues without dehumanizing his spouse. Resorting to physical, verbal, mental or emotional abuse is mean, wicked and ungodly.

There have been fears expressed by married men that some wives would take advantage of this to abuse their husbands. It is quite true. Some of them would do so. But if a husband is truly Spirit-filled and Spirit-controlled, he will be able to handle his woman aright. He can resort to

prayer. With the help of The Holy Spirit, with love and patience, he will overcome in time. For all you know, her attitude might be a cry for help. There is a need to get to the root of the problem in order to get the solution. People do change. There is a living example of such a woman; a certain female international preacher on television. Many a time she shared her testimony of being sexually abused by her father when she was young, and how she grew up hurting and became a hard, tough controlling person. She said she believed her husband was God sent to her because she was very difficult to relate with; but he patiently took it all. Today, she is changed. She is healed and is a great blessing to the body of Christ, teaching the simple Biblical and practical steps of living and enjoying everyday life. They are still married and are involved in a flourishing international ministry. Never take your spouse for granted or hold her in disdain. She could still change when you do something about it. Do not wait for her to change before you love her. You start the process. You will be rewarded.

Some people go to college, graduate, become a success at their profession but never stagnate! Why is this so? It is because they improve in their knowledge. As professionals get updated, gathering the latest information in their field of studies, in order to become more competent, relevant or knowledgeable, so should couples update themselves on marital issues, in order to achieve the optimum benefits in their relationship.

The woman is naturally built to be able to nurture and maintain relationships. She is a follower. But for the man, it is not so because He is different. He is a leader. He needs to learn how best to maintain a loving and romantic relationship. He has to learn how to maintain a balance between being a leader and yet being a loving husband. Humility is the key. Be humble enough to admit a need and together, seek for the answers. As head, the onus of initiating the move lies on you, the husband.

Gary Smalley, a renowned author and international speaker on marriage issues, on a marriage programme on a certain Christian satellite network, during a marriage programme, admitted that he learnt how to treat his wife better by not “trying” to change her. When he created a safe and secure atmosphere of relational security, she began to change. She began to care for and do those things he had always wanted or demanded of her. Things he had tried to achieve through constant complaints and criticisms began to come through from a willing heart. The struggle ceased. He marveled and had to begin to admit his failure and shared his new found principle. As at that time, he had been married for over thirty-eight years! So, the point is, it is never too late to learn something new and to apply it. Moreover, the humility to own up a mistake is a great virtue. He himself had grace to overcome certain weaknesses he had struggled with for years. He learnt some things from his grown up son and began to apply them. Having a teachable spirit is a great virtue and it is to your advantage eventually.

In short, your wife knows you are the head of the home. Ramming it down her throat each time you have an argument borders on insecurity. No understanding wife will contend her husband’s headship. And as such, you just have to look for proper ways of communicating with her or getting the best out of her. When you do, your life will not be the same again.

Dr. Myles Munroe, during a certain men’s conference with T.D Jake’s Ministry, admonished the men on the need to accept their women and to treat them right. In summary, he said that some felt threatened when the woman is gifted, prosperous or highly connected. He told them that instead of feeling threatened or insecure and then try to be in control by putting them down, devaluing them and letting them know who is in control at the least opportunity, they should simply thank God and accept His gift to them, knowing that every woman is a total package for her husband, a gift to be unwrapped. So beloved, please, accept your

precious gift, unwrap it and be blessed by it! I repeat, God's value upon the woman is so high that the way you treat her determines the answer to your prayers. 1Peter 3.7. So, please be careful!

Invariably, I had the opportunity to talk with a relative who happened to pay me a visit during the period this book was being written. We got into a conversation concerning the treatment of the wife of the home by the husband. He said he'd learnt that long ago; that loving his wife unconditionally brought blessings to his life. He has learnt to be her husband, leader and lover. Great doors of opportunities were opened to him severally, he shared. Other neighbours tried to emulate them. Some of the women, after seeing how he related with his wife, complained bitterly to their husbands about being short changed in their marriage. They became a family role model to their neighbors. He had such a peaceful relationship with his wife and still does.

LESSON: Your wife is invaluable to you. She is your treasure. That is how a certain pastor refers to his wife – “My treasure”. Treasure her and you will be pleased! Knowing her place and purpose in your life matters. In a nutshell, she is meant to make complete your life, so that together, you will be blessed as you both fulfill God's mandate for your lives, individually and as a couple. But when you miss it, that's when you have troubles. Marriage is meant to be a pleasure to your life. Any pressures you experience are meant to bring out the best in you; just as pressure applied to the olive fruit brings out the oil in it. Pressures are meant to make and not break you. Marriage is like a jigsaw puzzle too. You sometimes walk into blind alleys. But if you can successfully manoeuvre and find your way out together, you will accomplish your goal and you will be satisfied. Jigsaw puzzles have guidelines you can follow to lead you to success – The Word of God is your guide concerning marriage. Going through marriage is also like walking through a maze. But in this instance, you are not alone. You have a Guide, The Holy Spirit, to lead you. If the GPS in your car can lead you to your destination (at least

most times), how much more do you think God's Spirit will do for you if you depend on Him?

[i] Marital Commitment

That was how valuable she was. She was the mother of all the living. God made it so. Adam did not divorce her when they were driven out from the Garden of Eden. In fact, the Bible says that 'Adam knew his wife and she conceived....' He stayed with her and continued the romance. That was commitment despite her missing it. That is God's standard and expectation; not like these days people get divorced for the most flimsy reasons.

The man, being the foundation of the family, has to be totally committed to the only one person on earth he can have the closest and most intimate relationship with – his wife. Marriage is the most intimate of all personal relationships on earth. It is a covenant relationship. A man has to "leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife" and "the two become one flesh", "and not be ashamed". Only "a wife" who is a woman, can be in that kind of relationship that makes the man to leave everyone else, and to cleave to her. Remember, the focus here is the ideal Christian family and not any other family type.

LESSON: A man's commitment should be strong and permanent. There is no less a requirement for the woman too!

[j] GOD VALUED THE FEMININITY OF WOMANHOOD

God made Man male and female. He prepared 'a body' for Himself and a vessel to carry the Body. He valued the womb that housed Him prior to His birth. He created it. He knew that someday, sometime, He would have

to come into this world. He passed through the normal process of growth and development in the womb till the very day He was delivered, just like any other. He was born small and weak, just as any new born baby. He was nurtured at the breasts of a woman like any other baby. He was cared for till he matured and gained independence. The point is that our Lord and Saviour came into this planet through A WOMAN, whose picture or image many despise.

If He was nurtured by the paps and laps of the Virgin Mary, “a mere woman” as some would allude to her, then we should pay attention to what God is doing. If God The Father, The Creator of Mankind, The Maker of the universe, thought it fit to chart and change the course of history by using “an ordinary woman” according to some, we should listen to what He is saying to us. **We ought to value and appreciate what is important to Him; not look down on it.** We should not have Peter’s attitude calling unclean what God has made clean.

It will be necessary to emphasize this bit – that if God The Father, thought it fit to send His only Begotten Son to enter the womb of the so called ‘ordinary woman’ in order to be born into this world for the salvation of mankind, then we ought to endeavour to discover this mystery creature, tender and yet so powerful; weak and yet so influential; different and yet so needful! She should not be described as being weak, insipid, silly and emotional. The reference to the woman as being “the flower of the earth” is an avid description of her. Flowers are tender and should be handled with care. Their lovely fragrance fills the atmosphere just as the gentle but powerful influence of a woman fills and permeates her environment. God made her so. Let them be encouraged and supported to use it for good. If you are a lady reading this, please rejoice at the value your Creator placed on you – a vessel of honour fit for the Master’s use!

[k] The Re-Instatement of Womanhood

The four Gospel accounts of the Resurrection of Christ, in the Books of Mathew, Mark, Luke and John tell us about the great role the women played when they went to the sepulcher. Normally, women can be timid and fearful; more so, considering the circumstances surrounding the crucifixion of Christ; but these were not. They were His disciples. Even before daylight, they went with the intention of anointing the Body of Jesus. Instead, their mourning was turned into joy. They carried the joyous news of the risen Saviour.

The account in St. John's Gospel is so intriguing, so clear. It tells of the personal encounter of Mary Magdalene with the risen Saviour, Jesus Christ. What a story of love and triumph, ***John 20.1-18***. She had the privilege of seeing her Savior face to face, hearing Him talk and passing the Good News directly to her to announce it to the Apostles. In fact, in another account, they disbelieved the women's story. Luke 24.1-11. Why was it so? Could it be because of the attitude of not taking seriously anything that came from a woman? 'Could it be true?' 'What do you know?' they may have said. The Jewish culture rated the female gender to be inferior to the men. But they were proved wrong. When Mary Magdalene told them that Jesus' body was no longer in the tomb, Peter and John ran to the place where Jesus was laid, only to discover it was so. He was no longer there! His grave clothes were neatly folded and placed on the place where He was laid. When they saw this, they believed. Later, Mary Magdalene came and confirmed her personal encounter and delivered the message to them. The Lord chose to pass the Good News "first" through a woman. If He had wanted otherwise, He could have done so easily through the men, who were the Apostles, members of the fivefold ministry. But He chose to do so through "the woman", thus ushering her in as well, symbolically at least, as an Evangelist, into the same fivefold ministry as the men. **In doing this, Jesus gave the woman the due recognition that no other religion accords her. This is the value God placed on His creation.**

In the Garden of Eden, Eve was deceived by the serpent. Her eyes were closed to the truth. She carried the bad news of sin and death from satan

to her husband Adam. The result was death and destruction for humanity. The woman's punishment was that she had to look up to her husband. Her position was now 'demoted', so to say. Immediately after the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, again in a garden environment, in the Garden of Gethsemane precisely, where He met with Mary Magdalene, when her eyes were opened to recognize her Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life! He spoke with her and gave her the greatest news of all times to take to the Apostles. This action is significant because it indicated a reversal process that undid what was done in the Garden of Eden. Both actions were enacted in a garden scenario. The woman this time, rather than being a carrier of evil tidings, which ended tragically, became a carrier of glad tidings that ended triumphantly, giving life. So the process entailed a restoration of that which was lost.

So, meeting with Mary and interacting with her in this Garden was symbolic of the restoration of the dignity of womanhood. The Saviour would not stand by and allow humanity to continue to devalue His precious handiwork and do nothing about it, I believe. She, the daughter of Eve, had the great privilege of receiving the Good News in The Garden first, from The Last Adam, and was the first in the world to have the privilege of sharing The Good News. This cancels out her fall and demotion in The Garden of Eden with Adam. **That was womanhood restored, by her Creator Himself! That was how valuable she was to Him and still is.** When I heard this particular point being expounded in a sermon by Pastor Chris Okotie during the church service at Household of God Church, in Lagos Nigeria, I was astounded!

The Way Jesus Treated Women

The way Jesus related with the women in the Gospel accounts showed His love, care and concern for them. He valued them. He had compassion

on them. They were an underprivileged group in Israel. They received healing, forgiveness, protection, care, compassion, love and lots more from Him wherever He went. Just to mention a few of the encounters He had with women - Mary and Martha in their home and at their brother Lazarus death. He wept with them and then raised him back to life. He defended her from her critics, the woman who was forgiven much and who used her tears to wash his feet and her hair to wipe them in her act of worship. To Mary who broke the alabaster box of perfume and poured the content on His head He set up a memoriam. He showed no prejudice to the Samaritan woman at the well. The widow woman at Nain he had compassion on and raised her son back to life. The woman caught in adultery He saved from her persecutors and forgave her. The woman with the issue of blood He healed and did not condemn her for breaking The Law by touching Him in her uncleanness. There were also female disciples who took care of the needs of the Lord and The Apostles. Even His care and concern about the welfare of His mother Mary while He was on the Cross was phenomenal.

Some argue that if He so cared for the women, why did He not include them in His list of Apostles? Remember that during that era, it was indeed a man's world. Even then, records show He had female disciples among His followers; his mother inclusive, and they moved with Him when He travelled. [Luke 8.1-3; John 2.1-2.] Even at His crucifixion and death, they were there. [John 19.25; Mathew 27.55, 61; Mark 15.40-41; Acts 1.14; Luke 23.49.55; 24.1-10]. And He was protective of them. Men were independent and could travel long distances. Unlike women who would find it difficult to leave their families and travel long and unsafe distances. The explicit reason is not recorded but this is a rational excuse. Besides, He erased the prejudice by passing the first Gospel message after His resurrection through the woman to the men. The implication of this is that ALL are eligible to share the Good News.

After the Resurrection, more women became involved in the work of the Lord. People like Pricilla and others were involved in Paul's ministry. Today's world, though not totally fair to the female gender, is definitely more receptive compared to the past. There are women in the fivefold ministry, in the mission fields and many other areas, working alongside the men. Does that erase the fact that when there is a need the men should not be supportive or protective of their female colleagues or peers? No please! In all spheres of life, the man is expected to be supportive and protective.

LESSON: If you take care of a woman, single or married, she will take care of you. She is to be seen in a new light in this dispensation of grace and be allowed to play her part in the preaching of the Gospel. She should be encouraged and allowed to exercise her gifts. Thank God that she has greater freedom in some certain denominational circles.

[I] The Church as a Woman

The Church of Jesus Christ consists of the Blood washed, redeemed, believers in Christ. They are the spiritual Body of Christ – world-wide. They are the church universal. They are represented by a female figure. Surely, that could not have been a mistake by The Lord – creating a feminine image for The Church! Remember that this consists of both male and female coming into Him. When they do, there's no more gender distinction. All become one in Christ; yet, the symbolism of the church of Jesus Christ is feminine. Why of all imagery would He use that of the female gender? He has a plan and a purpose. The woman has value before God.

[m] The New Jerusalem – The Bride of Christ

The New Jerusalem is described in its splendor as a resplendent bride in her wedding gown. Revelation 1.2. This is another female figure represented. It cannot be that God the Father is obsessed with His female creation! It is far from that. He knows what He is doing. He has His plans – making The New Jerusalem both as a city and a bride – FEMALE! Anything God does or gives, has value! Hallelujah!

[n] Spouse of God/Bride of Christ – Feminine Gender

In the Old Testament, Israel is espoused by God the Father. Jeremiah 3.14. In The New Testament, The Church is The Bride of Christ. All are in a covenant relationship – Jews and born again Christians. At the Marriage of The Lamb, The Bride becomes The Wife of Christ. **[Revelation 19.7]**. In Christ, both Jews and Gentiles, through The Blood, are reconciled to God. He created in Himself One New Man from the two. From both dispensations, God's chosen people are not only configured in the feminine gender, but will also become the Wife! Wow!

[n] Marriage Only Complete Between Male and Female

The first book of The Bible, Genesis, opens with a marriage between Adam and Eve and closes in the last book, The Revelation of Christ, with The Marriage of The Lamb to His Bride. God instituted marriage and put His signature on it by giving principles and commands. Godly marriage can only be enacted between an adult male and an adult female person. At the beginning, Adam being male got married to Eve who is female. On the other hand, at the end, Christ, The Bridegroom, who represents a male figure will get wedded to His Bride, The Body of Christ, who represents a female figure. **The family matters on earth and in heaven have to do with a feminine figure.**

Please note - In Christ, there is no male or female. In heaven also, there will be no male or female gender; all become The Bride of Christ. There will be The Marriage of The Lamb to His Bride, The Church. All the raptured saints, all that are washed by The Blood of the Lamb, all whose names are written in the Book of Life, will become The Lamb's Wife. In fact, there will be no marriage as is known here on earth because there will be no male or female over there. We will all be like the angels, without gender, because the purpose for the gender differentiation here on earth would have been accomplished; the mandate completed. So there will be no more need for any male or female figure. So, when The Body of Christ is referred to as The Bride of Christ, it refers to their coming together and being in close union with Christ forever. Since there will be no gender, it will be a nonsexual union; for God is a Spirit and does not relate as man.

All, whether male or female will become, 'The Lamb's Wife'. So, being a 'wife' is in no sense derogatory. It is a great honour and privilege to be among the ransomed. So God's value of the woman is depicted in His agenda for the female gender. Should we not hold dear what is very close to the heart of the Father?

CHAPTER FOUR

REASONS FOR THE CREATION OF EVE

In the previous chapter, we examined reasons for showing how valuable the woman is to God, epitomized in Eve. Having gone through that panorama, it is time to find out why she was created in the first place. The reasons for bringing her into existence in summary were to fulfill God's eternal

1 purposes as shown below.

1. THE WOMAN AS A GIFT COMPLETES MAN' S GLORY TO GOD

According to Tyler in an online edition of Crisis Magazine 2014, he concluded in his article on 'Why God Created Eve,' saying that,

“ without Eve, the image of God's own Trinitarian glory in man would be insufficient, lacking…… Man was to bring Him glory as ‘man’ and ‘woman’, together … ‘Eve was made to join Adam in loving God, to help him in bringing God glory....God's gift to Adam was ultimately a gift for God's own exultation... The gift was for enjoying and sharing the beauty of the Lord’ ”

He concluded that Adam's acceptance of her indeed showed that he valued, honoured, cared for and appreciated her. Eve's complementary role made Adam complete and together they were to bring Him glory. Indeed every creation of God is meant to bring Him glory; much more the zenith, Man.

2. THE WOMAN AS A COMPANION COMPLETES ADAM

As earlier discussed, Adam was incomplete without Eve. He had to have in every ramification, a complementary companion. He alone could not fulfill God's eternal purposes. He had to have someone like him who together, would carry out the given mandates as earlier stated. The ultimate purpose of this was to build a genealogy through which ultimately God's plan of salvation on earth will be manifested. The next point explains more.

3. THE SALVATION AND RESTORATION OF HUMANITY

One reason for bringing Eve into existence was for the Trinity to

have a relationship with Man in his human completeness as male and female beings. They reflect the glory of God on earth in their closeness, unity and oneness as man and wife. The Omniscient God, who knew the end from the beginning, that man would fail and this close fellowship with Him will be broken, had made every plan for his salvation and restoration ever before the world began. He LOVED humanity and wanted to redeem him and bring him back to Himself. The only way to achieve this was to remove the image of the beast taken on at the Fall and to restore back His glory; the image of Christ in Man. The life of Jesus Christ had to be given in exchange for the fallen man's.

For the sake of the reader who might not be familiar with the Biblical account of the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden; a brief explanation at this point will clarify the issue. At Creation, as recorded in the Book of Genesis Chapter One, The Godhead had agreed to make Man in their own image and according to their likeness and they did, making them male and female. Before then, God had created the world and everything in it was good. He blessed Adam and Eve and told them to be fruitful, to multiply, and to fill the earth, to subdue and dominate it. He put them in a lush, lovely, peaceful garden. Adam was given the responsibility of tending it. He and his wife enjoyed the bliss of Eden and in the cool of the day. The Lord God came down to have fellowship with them. Tragically, the serpent came and deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit from The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. She gave to her husband Adam and he too ate of it, thus both of them disobeyed God's command. Immediately, concerning the salvation story, He declared the role of the woman in relation to the Christ, but had to drive them out from the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3.15.

He did not reject them. He sent them out from there to keep

them from eating any fruit from the Tree of Life, which indeed would have resulted in perpetuating evil forever. Genesis 3.22-24. The All Knowing God was safe guarding not only the future generations but also His plans for the salvation and restoration of mankind to Himself. Only the loving heart of a caring Father could have gone to such length to secure the future of His children.

God had reached out in love and clothed them in animal skins. Through this gesture, He atoned for them through this sacrifice, as the shed blood served as a covering for their transgression. This was done for their own good. He clothed them because they were naked; having lost the glory of God that covered them. So, He had to restore the broken relationship for the fellowship to continue. Please read the account in Genesis Chapter 3. For this reason God the Father gave Our Lord Jesus Christ to be a propitiation for our sins. He did this in order to share His Love and Life. He died for humanity and rose again. His Blood cleanses us from all sin.

‘For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.’ John 3.16.

He made the WAY to reconnect man back to Himself, Jesus being the Mediator, the Way, the Truth and the Life. One has to be ‘born again’ in order to become God’s child. The Triune God, through the Holy Spirit, is still involved in the salvation of mankind today, making the saved soul an ‘heir of God’ and ‘joint heir with Christ’.

4. GOD’S ENTRY POINT INTO THE WORLD

Every city, village or town has its entry points. So do homes, buildings, cars, buses, airplanes and even space ships! Not minding these days of

scientific breakthrough when babies are grown in the laboratory, for humans, the only normal entry point into this world is to be born through a woman. That is how our Lord Jesus Christ, who is God, entered this planet! He was not born through a caesarean section! He was born through the natural process of normal delivery!

But how could the invisible God who is Spirit, make His appearance in a visible, material world in order to carry out the plan of salvation for humanity? He is a God of order and would not break His laws. He had to take on flesh to become a Man in order to be able to live and fulfill His purpose on earth. Though He is fully God, He had to become fully Man in order to be born and to be able to fulfill His mission on earth. This is called The Incarnation of Christ. What a humble thing to do! The Maker of the universe humbled Himself and took the form of a servant. Below are some scriptures to further expatiate on that point.

[a] 'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire

But a body You have prepared for Me.

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrew 10.5,10.

[b] 'But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.' Galatians 4.4-5

[c] 'Jesus Christ....who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage. 7. rather He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! '

As earlier stated, Our Lord Jesus Christ, being fully Spirit, needed access

into the physical world and so had to take on flesh. **This is where the woman became a catalyst to God's plans. Without her, there would have been no setting in motion of God's plans.** It was His will for it to be so. Surprised? Well, please don't be. In order to establish His plans which were made before the foundations of the world, He had Eve in His plan. Her appearance was needful in the whole process; for after creating Adam, He said 'It was not good for man to live alone....' He had to make him an appropriate companion in order for them to be able to fulfill their given mandate, which would eventually work out God's eternal purposes. He instituted marriage and brought her in with a grand style to Adam. There would have been no entry point into the world for anyone, Jesus inclusive, but for Eve's appearance! There was need for a 'container', a womb for conception and delivery of the generations, for the continuity of the races. The genealogy of Christ gives a clear picture of this. All the generations were born beginning from Adam until it got to the time of Our Lord Jesus Christ. **Eve was created because the female was key to the initiation of the fulfillment of the salvation process planned for man. Her appearance was pivotal!**

30 'Then the angel said to her,
Do not be afraid, Mary, for you
Have found favour with God.
31 And behold, you will conceive
In your womb and bring
Forth a Son, and shall call His
Name Jesus. Luke 1.30-31

As crucial as The Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ is to the salvation of humanity, none of these would have occurred if;

- There had been no female body to implant the Divine Seed. Jesus needed to take on flesh and come as a Man. He needed to be conceived first by the power of The Holy Spirit in order to be born in a family setting. He

respected His institution of marriage by being a part of the traditional family.

- There would have been no Jesus, The Christ, The God/Man, The Saviour and Redeemer, The Last Adam born of a daughter of Eve, because there would have been no opportunity for The Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. He could not have become THE LORD OF ALL, without the fulfillment of His first coming.

- There would have been no prophecies or fulfillment of them concerning His first and Second Coming.

- The world would have remained in perpetual darkness and having no hope.

- There would have been no expectation for New Heavens and a New Earth.

- There would not have been the family of God.

- There would have been no Church, the spotless Bride of the Spotless Lamb that was slain.

- There would have been no precious Blood by which we are cleansed and overcome.

- There would have been nothing but darkness, hopelessness, desperation and death. Just as Genesis 1.2 declared the earth

‘was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep’ .
But thank GOD for the divine intervention at creation; bringing light, life, and beauty.

- We thank God that Jesus came, died for us and rose again. He has overcome for us! And He is coming again with power and glory! So we are

overcomers and more than conquerors! Hallelujah! The devil has been defeated!

Why do you think the devil is fighting the marriage institution so vehemently? It is because he wants to thwart God's plan. Well, it is just too late! He wants to distort the mandate given to man and to frustrate God's eternal plan for humanity. That's why the devil in his rebellion wants to wipe away the traditional marriage as God instituted it and to replace it with his perverted brands - same sex marriage, polygamy, polyandry. That was why he attacked Eve in the garden through deception and through her, reached her husband. That was why God put enmity between her and the serpent. The enemy defaced the feminine gender and rubbished and still rubbishes her image till today. That is why the female has been used as a sex toy, with sexual atrocities being committed against her with impunity. He makes a mockery of her femininity by branding a male sexual partner as 'wife'.

Does that mean that without the female gender God could not have carried out His plans? Let's consider this please. Suppose you have a car, with everything in place – the engine is fine, there's fuel, and the tires are okay. The car is parked in the driveway, ready to go, except for one thing, the ignition key. What do you think would happen? Of course the car cannot be started without it! As small and insignificant as that item seems to be, it is very crucial for that journey; be it a long or short one. So is the significance of the presence of the woman in God's eternal plan; for His name to be glorified.. He is sovereign and wanted her to be a part of it. **She was not an afterthought or an appendage.**

Since God is sovereign, could He not have simply used the male-man alone to achieve His goals? Of course, He could have if He had wanted it so. 'For with God, nothing is impossible'. Even though He used the woman in this special way, the man participated too, for he is His creation as well. Men, being the foundation and carriers of seed of life in their loins, fathered nations. Generations were born; they came and

passed until the set time came for The Saviour to be born through the lineage of David. If there had been no man to father a child, there could have been no generations born that would have led to the time of Our Lord. Both the male and female were used in the salvation story. But the focus now is on the pivotal female; the seemingly weak one that God used.

Just as Jesus had to take on a physical body, in order to make His appearance here on earth, in order to fulfill His purpose, so she had to be separated from Adam, in order to fulfill her purpose as well. That was God's eternal plan. As earlier stated, the natural way of entry into this physical world for humanity is through pregnancy and birth. For Jesus, this was accomplished through the power of The Holy Spirit, since Mary was a virgin. He had no biological father. He travelled the road through which every human being naturally follows. He did not come as a Test-Tube Baby. He chose to come in humility as a baby born in a manger, and grew up in a family setting, [remember He instituted marriage]. He followed the normal process of growth, under the care of His foster father, Joseph, Mary's husband, until the time His ministry began.

5. EVE REPRESENTS THE CHURCH - THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Another reason for creating the woman will be explained. **God used the feminine figure to represent His everlasting purpose. In bringing forth Eve as Adam's wife, He presented His eternal plan of Christ's marriage to the Church, which will be for all eternity - the Triumphant Church, joined in an everlasting Covenant by His Blood!** In Eden, Adam had his wife Eve; but they fell in the Great Transgression.

In the Old Testament, Israel as a nation, represented as a woman, was espoused to God who loved her so dearly; but as a wife they were very stubborn and unfaithful through their idolatrous practices with the heathen nations around them.. They continuously committed spiritual adultery with

them. They were scattered all over the world and suffered tremendously for their sins. But God loves them and still left a remnant for Himself. He has gathered them back to the Land of Israel and they will be saved as a nation. They will worship the only true God; they will worship Him in spirit.

The New Testament records the details of the fulfilled prophecy of the first coming of Jesus. In His birth, death and resurrection, He came to purchase us back to Himself; to redeem us. As the first Adam was put to sleep for him to receive his wife, the Last Adam (Jesus Christ) laid down His life for us that the Church may be born. In this, the wall of separation between the Jews and Gentiles was removed. Do you know what? Christ rose from the dead and is seated at God's right hand in the heavenlies. He is The Head of The Church, which is His Body. This consists of the redeemed through the ages till His return. Jews and Gentiles alike have become One New Man, The Church. Just as a man's wife is a part of him, so will The Believers, The Church, The Bride of Christ, The Lamb's Wife, be a part of Christ through the New Covenant in His precious Blood! She will ultimately sit with Him, ruling, reigning and having the honour and opportunity of worshiping God before the throne. Worship will go on forever to God the Father and to the Lamb; a privilege and opportunity that Lucifer lost when he rebelled against The Most High God wanting to be like Him. He's been dethroned and The Church, The Lamb's Wife, has been enthroned to sit with Christ and to rule and reign with Him forever! Hallelujah! No wonder satan hates The Church and has come against her all these centuries. Thank God for the gates of hell shall not prevail. Please read **Mathew 19.28, Revelation 3.21-22.**

For God uses the foolish things to confound the wise. 1Corinthians 1.27-29. He brought in a woman and used the image of a woman to do wonderful things that would impact the past, the present and the future. That is the wisdom of God!

THAT is why the woman is so important to God.

THAT is why He created her specially.

THAT is why she is to be loved, shielded, sheltered, and cared for in marriage just as Christ loved The Church and gave His life for her.

THAT is why Jesus came through the supposed 'weaker vessel' to confound satan and his cohorts.

THAT is why she is so valued, being an instrument of His love.

THAT is why the restoration of her honour and dignity.

And, that is why satan attacked her right from The Garden of Eden and still has not let off till now; but in Christ, she is victorious! Hallelujah!

God has poured His love upon us that we are now called His sons. Christ has redeemed us and made us to be His sons and daughters; to be a part of Him and to be like Him! **1John 3.1-2.2** Corinthians 3.18; Romans 8.29.

We will not only be like Him when He appears, but we will be with Him!

His wife, the Church will be with Him forever! Hallelujah!

That is why the devil is mad at The Church!

Mad that he has lost it!

Mad at The Woman who represents The Church!

Mad at the female-man that received God's special attention!

Mad at the woman and deceived her in Eden trying to thwart God's purposes which he didn't know for sure! He believed that all he needed to do was to soil her image before God through disobedience. He did, but didn't know that God had other plans to fulfill His purposes. That is the Sovereignty of God! The Great I AM! Had they known they would not have crucified The King of glory indeed! Satan was mad at the woman and tried to thrash her image, abused her and downgraded her through the centuries.

Beloved, please take good care of what God values. You will be absolutely blessed when you do. Woman, if you are reading this, please thank God for making you to be a woman, a treasured one; don't look down on yourself anymore! Place value on your person. The enemy has been vanquished! Thank God for The Last Adam who came and laid down His life for His Bride. He rose again from the dead triumphantly! He is spiritually joined to His Bride. In the end, face to face, The Bride of Christ will be joined to The Bridegroom in The Marriage of The Lamb and there will also be a grand reception at The Marriage Supper of The Lamb! Please keep in mind that in heaven there will be neither male nor female. So, there will be no

sexual union. Rather, Christ the Head will be joined in one perpetual union with His Body the Church, ruling and reigning forever and ever. Amen!

ONE FINAL THOUGHT ABOUT THE WOMAN

Is it not a wonder that God created Adam first as a Man, a male figure? Afterwards, He separated them into male and female genders. When the purpose for this separation is fulfilled, He will bring them together again as one, in the female gender, this time as The Bride of Christ? This should be food for thought. Where there has been abuse, discrimination, prejudice and all negative attitudes towards the female gender, one should reconsider and begin to appreciate the fact that in Christ there is no discrimination or prejudice! There is no male and no female concerning salvation.

Some men and women who believe in male superiority should consider the above fact. There will come a time when gender will not matter anymore. All will become the Bride of Christ and there is going to be a Wedding with The Lamb and the Wife makes herself ready! Revelation 19.7. Remember that this context is spiritual. There is no connotation of inferiority. Rather, it is an honour and a privilege to be a wife either on earth or in heaven. As this marital relationship with Christ is reflected on earth, this provides a good opportunity to value and appreciate God's eternal purposes. Please, let us live by the principles given for the marital relationship, so that we will experience a heaven on earth marriage here on earth.

Moreover, the good Lord prepared a city for His people to inhabit

– The New Jerusalem. It is described in feminine terms as a bride dressed up for her groom for the wedding. The place is described in feminine terms! I believe the Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient and Sovereign God knew what he was doing when He went about the creation of the female gender. And yet, some people believe that they are inferior? Please beloved, let us reconsider our attitude. As we value and treat right our persons or others we relate to, we will be absolutely blessed. I also believe you will be adequately rewarded by the Master, who treated women right. We should follow His example.

CHAPER FIVE

THE ROLE OF MARY IN THE SALVATION STORY

BELOVED, IN DISCUSSING THIS POINT, NO OFFENCE IS MEANT. RATHER, THE PURPOSE IS JUST TO PRESENT THE TRUTH AS PRESENTED IN THE WORD OF GOD. LET THE READER MAKE HIS OWN JUDGEMENT AND DECISIONS. THE WORD SAYS, ‘FOR YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE’. SO PLEASE READ THIS SECTION WITH AN UNBIASED MIND.

HAVING DISCUSSED SO FAR THE ROLE OF ‘THE WOMAN’ IN THE SALVATION STORY AND THE VALUE GOD PLACED ON HER, DOES THAT MAKE HER A SUPERIOR BEING OR AN OBJECT OF WORSHIP AS SOME BELIEVE? SOME HAVE TURNED TO MARY AS MEDIATOR. NO, NOT AT ALL...

God used her as a vessel of honour in the salvation process quite alright. He who created all things humbled Himself {Colossians 1.16}, and came as a Man [*Philippians 2.7-8*], and was born by the Virgin Mary. The detailed account of how Angel Gabriel brought her the good news of her being chosen to be the mother of Jesus is given in The Gospel accounts of

Mathew and Luke.

Unfortunately, in some religious quarters, this has become a doctrine, calling Mary, “The Mother of God”. God in His entity is Eternal. He is Everlasting. He has no beginning and has no ending. Since He is so, He could not have been born, and therefore can have no mother. In essence, He is Spirit. And spirits cannot be born either!

Mary was the mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ in His humanity. He came to this world for a purpose. He had to take on a physical body in order to be born as a Person, which enabled Him to carry out His assignment. His purpose could not have been fulfilled if He was purely Spirit; so came about The Incarnation of Christ. **Hebrew 10.5**. For this phase of His existence, He had to have a ‘biological mother’ but not a biological father. Since His incarnation came through the power of The Holy Spirit, and not through the normal process of human conception, God the Father was His Father. So, in Jesus’ humanity, He had a mother like any other human being born into this world. Mary served that honourable role of being the vessel of honour, the favoured one among women. **Luke 1.28**.

A Mother’s Role

Relating the mediatory role of mothers in the family setting to Mary, the mother of Jesus, is erroneous. These are two different issues. One has to do with family life on earth while the other has to do with spiritual realities – the salvation of man. Jesus alone is The Mediator between God and man according to **1st Timothy 2.5**. Not anyone else! Elevating anybody else to that position is contrary to Scripture. It is idolatry. Besides that, salvation can only come through the Name of Jesus. **Acts 4.12**. When Jesus died and rose again, He became Saviour, Lord and Mediator over all, including Mary, who accepted the call to be the Mother of Jesus. Luke 1.30-38. She gave her body for God’s divine purpose and at last, ‘the contract’ so to say, had to end. His time on earth and Mary’s role over Him as ‘Mother’ had a beginning and had to have an end. It was a passing phase. It was just for a period of time. **Mathew 12.46-50**, states that when He was informed that His mother and siblings came looking for Him, Jesus, He told His disciples

that ‘*Whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother*’. And His use of ‘mother’, verse 50, de-emphasizes Mary’s role as being exclusive.

Besides, when Mary went to Elizabeth, her cousin, after The Annunciation, she referred to her as ‘...mother of my **Lord**...’ ***Luke 1.43***. That was Jesus’ role – He came to give His life to be The **Lord** of all who would receive Him, Mary inclusive. Israel had been expectantly waiting for the coming Messiah, the Redeemer; but unfortunately, as a nation, they did not recognize the time of His visitation. But Elizabeth knew The Saviour had come and referred to Him as such. Truly, Mary was ‘The Mother of Our Lord’, in His capacity as ‘The Deliverer’, because she birthed Him.

Jesus knew that after His death, He would resurrect in divinity. Why? Because at the conclusion of His assignment, He would rise in His resurrection body and get back His glory as 'The Divine'; to that which He shared with The Father before He came to earth. Please read His prayer in John 17, especially verses 1-5, where He asked The Father to glorify Him,

‘Together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.’ verse 5.

He would not need His mother anymore after this. Jesus The Christ, The Second Person of The Trinity, as God Almighty, who has no beginning and no ending; who is from everlasting to everlasting, and who is sovereign, would not need any mother anymore! The assigned purpose for the use of Mary’s body as an entry point into the world and into a family setting, which He instituted, had been completed. The assigned purpose of her motherhood over Him had to end.

Did He dump her unceremoniously because she was no longer needed; the task being over? No! He respected the motherhood of the womanhood He created which was epitomized in Mary! He loved her and cared for her wellbeing. They must have had a close mother and son relationship

because at the critical moment of His suffering and crucifixion, she was there, at Mount Calvary. He knew she would need proper care after His Resurrection and Ascension, when He would no longer be physically available. He had to arrange for her to be cared for. He had other siblings, but he handed her over specifically to John the Beloved. There must have been something special about John for Him to hand her over to him rather than to any other. While He was on the cross, he still sought after her welfare. What a loving Saviour! He said to her,

Woman, behold your son.'

And to Apostle John,

'Behold your mother.' John 20.26-27.

In saying this, He moved her from her role as **His mother**, to Apostle John, who was still on earth. She was still 'mother' to Jesus' other siblings. John took over her welfare, by taking her to his home, as recorded in ***John 20.26-27. So, the era of her motherhood over Jesus ended.***

Sentiment is always stirred up concerning Mary's position in her mediatory role as 'Mother of God', citing the occasion of the wedding feast in Cana, when through Mary's intervention, Jesus turned water into wine. Mary understood and respected Him. He did not respond to her initial request. Instead, He said to her,

"Woman what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not come". John 2:4.

When she saw that He didn't respond to her, she turned to the servants and said to them, "***Whatever He says to you do it***". She did not argue or put any pressure on Him. I believe she knew Him as the Christ. Rather, she turned the attention away from herself and focused it on Jesus, "***Whatever He says...Do it***". Not what she said, but what 'He' said. Jesus then told the servants what to do next. This is significant. If she were the direct mediator, Jesus would have immediately responded to her request; but He

did not. I would call it almost a gentle rebuke for she stepped out of her bounds at that point.

So, she was used as a vessel of honour; just as it pleases God to choose and to use anyone for His divine purposes. Mary indeed was favoured and had a special role in that she carried, birthed and cared for The Saviour. It was a rare privilege and opportunity; but we should not forget that she was as human as any other saint used by God.

The title, 'Blessed Virgin Mary', causes her to be venerated in certain religious circles. She was favoured by God quite alright, but she should not be worshiped or adored or be put on a pedestal with God. That is idolatrous and blasphemous. Placing her in a mediatory role with Jesus, using the argument of the role of an earthly mother's example is a deception. She is in no position to help God as some allude. The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, never faints nor is weary, according to Isaiah 40.28.

After she had Our Lord, she had other children. She was no longer a virgin after she began to have children biologically through her husband, Joseph. Let us search the Scripture for ourselves and get to know the truth that sets free. Please see the following verses;

Matthew 1:24-25, Matthew 13: 55-56

1. 'Then Joseph being aroused
From sleep, did as the angel of
The Lord commanded him and
Took to him his wife.

And did not know her till she
Had brought forth her firstborn
Son. And he called His name
Jesus.

[Mathew 1.24-25]

2. While He was still talking
To the multitudes, behold His
Mother and brothers stood
Outside, seeking to speak with
Him. [Mathew 12.46]

3. ‘Is this not the carpenter’s
Son? Is not His mother called
Mary? And His brothers James,
Josés, Simon and Judas?

And his sisters, are they not
All with us? Where then did this
Man get all these things?’ [Mathew 13.55-56]

Even Paul the Apostle, when he visited Peter in Jerusalem for fifteen days, made mention of his meeting with “*James the brother of Our Lord*”. *Galatians 1: 18 – 20*.

God uses people in different capacities, according to His will and purpose. Mary was used to birth The Saviour; Peter was sent to the Jews, Paul to the Gentiles; Queen Esther was used to intervene for the deliverance of the Jews in exile; Moses led the children of Israel out from Egypt; Joshua led them to the Promised Land; Deborah the Prophetess and Judge, led The Israelites to a victorious battle. These are just a few from those recorded in The Bible. It will be virtually impossible here to begin to list all the people The Lord used in the Old and New Testament. He is still doing the same till now. While Mary is to be appreciated for how she humbled herself to be used by God, we should not allow the doctrines of men to supersede the Word of God.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the man cannot be without the woman and the woman cannot be without the man. God had to bring in the two of them the way He did in order to carry out His wonderful plan of bringing His creation into union with The God Head. Praise God! Place the woman where she belongs in the home, the community, even in the church for the benefit of all. Let all be blessed through her positive influence, gifts and talents, for she makes complete the life of the family, which if in one accord, God gets enthroned in hearts and the family life. Glory!

Father God wants to have a relationship with you as a person. So, if you hear His voice, open the door of your heart and invite Jesus in. He will come in and have fellowship with you. You will become a citizen of heaven, experience the new life not only here on earth but also in the New Jerusalem because there is going to be a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells. There will be no more tears, death, sorrow, crying or pain. Why would that be? It will be so because God's tabernacle will be with men and He will dwell with them, and they shall 'be His people'. Revelation 21.3-4. Repent and be saved. The overcomer will sit with Jesus on His throne, just as Jesus overcame and sat with His Father on His throne. This is fantastic! Revelation 3.21.

Please give your life to The Eternal One if you haven't done so yet. Delay is dangerous. Please come in and be a part of this wonderful blessing of seeing God face to face and living for ever with Him in heaven. This is your time. Do not lose this great opportunity of changing your destiny now. Please do not delay. The Bridegroom is already on His way, coming for His Bride. Be a part of Him by giving Him back the life He gave you. He is your best life assurance.

If you are already saved, please rededicate yourself and your family anew to the Lord for He is coming sooner than expected. Make

yourselves ready for Him. Reach out to others. Meanwhile, enjoy a heaven on earth marriage here as you watch and wait for the Master. SHALOM!