

# Both/And

## Both/And Genesis

### Past Influences

Can you recount a woman that shaped your life in a significant way? What is it about her that enabled her to have such an impression on your heart?

Did she make you long to know Christ better? Have you ever thanked her for her ministry in your life?

Mark mentioned that the role of women in ministry is a secondary issue and not core to our salvation. Why do you think that Christians have so much conflict over the secondary issues? Were you surprised by how extensively CCC uses women in leadership roles in our church? How do you think this affects the ministry?

### Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures moving along the ground. 27 So God created mankind in his own image in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

### Genesis 2:7

Then Yahweh God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

### Genesis 2:18-25

Then Yahweh God said "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now Yahweh God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam, no suitable helper was found. So, Yahweh God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then Yahweh God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and brought her to the man. The man said "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman', for she was taken out of man." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

### Genesis 3:16

To the woman he said "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

1. The creation story in Genesis 1 says that male and female were both created in the image of God. What do you think the image of God looks like in a woman and in a man?
2. As we look at the verses in Genesis 1, what is the hierarchy God set for men and women that Mark shared in his message? How does this change after the fall in Genesis 3?
3. What was the original mandate God gave to Adam and Eve? Does it seem like they were given the same responsibility prior to the fall?
4. Mark indicated that the Hebrew word for helper (2:18), 'ezer', connotes a person coming from a position of strength not weakness. What has been your understanding of the meaning of "helper"?
5. Pastor Mark said Adam's aloneness was NOT good because he needed community. Does this apparent priority of God's alter your understanding of a quality marriage in any way? What modifications can you make to begin to re-shape that very important relationship?
6. How has the curse of "man's rule" over women been manifested in this world? Both in our country and internationally? Do you know what resources are available in your community to help victims of various kinds of abuse?
7. Gal. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ. Discuss this great oneness in Christ, its apparent equality and impact – not only on our topic but on our personal lives.