

# WHAT IS A WOMAN?

THE QUESTION OUR WORLD  
IS AFRAID TO ANSWER



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Published by *Revive Our Hearts* Ministries  
P.O. Box 2000, Niles, MI 49120

ISBN: 978-1-959704-26-3

Printed in the United States of America.

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Communications Director: Emily Neal  
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Interior Layout: Austin Collins

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“

When God  
created male  
and female, He  
was telling a  
story—the most  
magnificent story  
ever conceived.

”



# INTRODUCTION

What is a woman?

The question sounds simple.

For most of human history, everyone thought they knew: a woman is an adult female person. But today? That old dictionary definition sounds almost quaint.

Is “woman” just biology—XX chromosomes and female anatomy? A social script we perform? An identity anyone can claim? Or does being a woman mean something deeper—something true and unchanging?

Our culture can't seem to make up its mind.

Hollywood portrays women as gun-toting, karate-kicking warriors who've shed every trace of softness and vulnerability. Its heroines are functionally male, distinguished only by sexy, curve-hugging outfits and stiletto heels.

Universities teach that gender is just a social construct, that biology is irrelevant, that anyone can be a woman simply by identifying as one.

Meanwhile, social media influencers insist you “live your truth”—and be whatever gender feels right to you today—or shed gender distinctions entirely in pursuit of an androgynous ideal.

Then there are voices on the other side, shrinking womanhood down to rigid stereotypes—crocheting and canning, pearls and pies—as if femininity is a 1950s sitcom with only one acceptable script.

Between “be exactly like a man,” “fit this narrow mold,” and “make it up as you go”—you’re caught in the crossfire. The confusion is real. The answers seem impossible to find. Everyone claims to know the answer, but their answers conflict.

But what if, among all these competing voices, there’s one you can actually trust? . . . There is.

It’s the voice of the One who made you.

His Word cuts through the noise—through culture’s insistence that you define yourself, through your own confusion about what you feel or don’t feel, through messages from your past that may have taught you to suppress your femininity. And here’s the beautiful truth He wants you to know: He understands you better than you understand yourself.

The writer of Hebrews describes it this way:

The word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account. (4:12–13)

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No creature is hidden from Him. You are fully known by the God who made you.

You have an anchor when everything else feels uncertain. Your feelings may be unreliable. Your past may have left you confused. You may struggle to see yourself clearly. But God's Word stands steady and sure. It penetrates the fog. It sees past the cultural messaging, the trauma, the personal history—straight to the truth of who you really are.

And what does it reveal? That God created you as a woman—intentionally, purposefully, lovingly. Whether you experience feminine inclinations right now or whether life has obscured them—even seemingly erased them—the truth doesn't change. He designed you for connection. For creating beauty. For nurturing life. These aren't just cultural expectations someone made up. They're capacities He built into you, part of His blueprint for your life—even when circumstances have made them hard to see or feel.

Your womanhood isn't random. It isn't negotiable. And it isn't a problem that needs solving. It's a glory waiting to be discovered—a glory that points beyond yourself.

Because here's what might surprise you: your womanhood isn't ultimately about you at all.

When God created male and female, He had something far grander in mind than just populating the earth or organizing society. He was telling a story—the most magnificent story ever conceived. He was putting the gospel on display in human flesh, creating a living parable that would echo through every generation until Christ returns.

God created manhood, womanhood, marriage, and sex because He wanted us to have symbols powerful enough to help us grasp who He is and what

a relationship with Him looks like. Think about it: without these realities, how would we understand desire, love, commitment, fidelity, intimacy, covenant, family? How would we comprehend spiritual jealousy, the longing for oneness with God, or what it means to be united with Christ?

These physical realities give us the language and experience we need to understand spiritual truths that would otherwise be beyond our reach. What we can see points to what we cannot see. That's why these symbols matter so profoundly.

From the very beginning, God embedded a profound story into human design. Together, male and female tell the story of Jesus in a way nothing else in creation could. He made man with a bent toward reflecting Christ's initiating, providing, protecting, sacrificing love. He made woman with a bent toward reflecting the Church's responsive, receptive, life-giving beauty.

What's more, He created the two sexes—in relationship—to display something about the divine relationship that exists within the Trinity itself. It's a breathtaking charge: to go about the business of daily life while reflecting the very image of the Almighty.

This is why the question "What is a woman?" matters so profoundly. Get this wrong, and we don't just miss out on personal fulfillment—we obscure the gospel itself. We distort the clearest picture God gave the world of who He is and what a relationship with Him is all about.

Much has been said about this question in courtrooms, classrooms, and on social media—but what's missing from those conversations isn't more data or better arguments. It's theology.

In this book, we're going back to the beginning, back to the Designer's original blueprint. We're going to examine what God had in mind when

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He formed woman from the side of man in the garden of Eden, to explore a definition of womanhood that roots us in Scripture, celebrates our God-given design, and points us toward our ultimate purpose.

So here it is—a one-sentence theological definition we'll unpack together, phrase by phrase:

“  
**A woman is God’s living masterpiece, handcrafted in His image, intentionally created female, fashioned with softness and relational beauty to receive and respond, bring forth and nurture life—bearing witness to the story of Jesus and the glory of God.**  
”

A woman is God’s living masterpiece, handcrafted in His image, intentionally created female, fashioned with softness and relational beauty to receive and respond, bring forth and nurture life—bearing witness to the story of Jesus and the glory of God.

This definition doesn't reduce you to a stereotype or squeeze you into a one-size-fits-all mold. God created infinite variety within womanhood—different personalities, different gifts, different callings. You might love sports or science, motorcycles or mathematics, adventure or art. True womanhood isn't about fitting a cultural caricature.

When we talk about female characteristics, we're speaking in generalities—not rigid categories. We're describing tendencies, inclinations, and the general bent or direction of our God-given nature. There are certain threads woven into every woman's design, certain notes that resonate in every feminine heart, certain purposes that unite us all. These aren't limitations but rather invitations—invitations to step into the magnificent calling God has written into your very cells, to become fully the woman He envisioned when He knit you together.

As we explore each phrase of this definition, we'll see how your physical design points to spiritual realities, how God's purpose for you echoes eternal truths, and how your daily choices can magnify the gospel. We'll discover that being a woman isn't about proving yourself or conforming to culture—it's about saying "Yes, Lord!" to the One who made you, and in doing so, becoming more fully yourself than you ever thought possible.

So let's begin this journey together. Let's ask the question our world is afraid to answer: what is a woman? And let's listen for God's response, trusting that His design is not only right but also breathtakingly good.



“

Your physical design points to spiritual realities. Your female body isn't just a random collection of biological features—it's a revelation, a means by which God displays truths about Himself and His redemptive plan.

”



## CHAPTER ONE

# GOD'S LIVING MASTERPIECE

The *Mona Lisa* is the most recognizable masterpiece in the world. It appears on mugs, posters, textbooks, and phone cases—replicated more than perhaps any other work of art in history. But if you travel to Paris and stand before the original in the Louvre, you begin to understand why it has captured the imagination of generations.

The small canvas, the depth of the gaze, the subtlety of the brushwork. None of it announces itself loudly, yet all of these elements draw you in. Its power does not lie in novelty or scale but in the quiet mastery behind it. What makes the *Mona Lisa* extraordinary is not merely the image itself but the artist who created it. It bears the unmistakable mark of Leonardo da Vinci, and its value flows from his intention, skill, and genius.

### A LIVING, BREATHING WORK OF ART

From the very beginning, God created humanity as His masterpiece.

Genesis 2 gives us this intimate picture of creation: “Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being” (v. 7).

But here’s what’s remarkable: God doesn’t just create us once. The apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:10 that believers are God’s “workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.” That word “workmanship” in

“  
**We’re not mass-produced.  
We’re not generic . . . We’re  
God’s custom-crafted  
works of art—both in our  
physical creation and in  
our spiritual re-creation.  
His magnum opus.**”

Greek is *poiema*—from which we get our English word “poem.” It means a work of art, a masterpiece, something crafted with skill and intention. Something beautiful. Something unique.

Paul is saying that when you come to Christ, God doesn’t just save you—He re-creates you. You become His *poiema* again, remade in Christ Jesus. Just as God formed humanity from the dust and breathed life into us at creation, He now forms us anew through spiritual rebirth.

We’re not mass-produced. We’re not generic. We’re not interchangeable

parts rolling off an assembly line. We're God's custom-crafted works of art—both in our physical creation and in our spiritual re-creation. His magnum opus. His *poiema*.

But we're not just any masterpiece. We're a *living* masterpiece.

This separates humanity from every other aspect of creation. God spoke light into existence. He commanded the waters to gather. He called forth vegetation and animals. But with humanity? He did something different. Something intimate.

He breathed His own breath into us, animating us with life that comes directly from Him.

Now, it's true that animals breathe too. They're living creatures just like we are. But here's what's remarkable: only humans received God's breath directly, personally, intimately. God didn't just give us life—He breathed His own breath into us. Face to face, so to speak. It's profoundly personal.

This shared breath suggests a connection between man and his Maker—an intimacy that no other creature experiences.

Think about that. The breath in your lungs right now is a continuation of that first divine breath. Every heartbeat. Every inhale and exhale. It's all sustained by the life God breathed into humanity at creation.

We're not static sculptures sitting in a museum. We're not lifeless clay hardening in the sun. We're living, breathing beings—animated by the very breath of God Himself.

Just as a master artist pours skill, vision, and care into creating something extraordinary, God has poured Himself into creating you.

You're His workmanship, His masterpiece, His *poiema*—a living work of divine artistry.

## ARTISTIC GENIUS

How did God create this living masterpiece? He formed it by hand. The Hebrew word is *yatsar*—the same word used for a potter shaping clay. It suggests artistic, inventive activity that requires skill and planning—work done with great care and precision.

God didn't just speak humanity into existence the way He spoke light into being or commanded the waters to gather. With the rest of creation, He spoke. But with humanity? He got His hands dirty. He formed. He shaped. He crafted.

And indeed, this potter-and-clay imagery runs throughout Scripture. Isaiah declares, "We are the clay, and you are our potter; we all are the work of your hands" (Isa. 64:8). The Bible wants us to see ourselves as vessels fashioned by the Master Craftsman, each one shaped with intention for a specific purpose.

But notice the next step in the creation account. After creating man, God doesn't use the same method for woman. He doesn't scoop up more dust and start over. Instead, He does something even more intimate:

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. (Genesis 2:21–22)

God reached into the body of the man and drew out the substance from which He would craft the woman. This wasn't a distant, hands-off act of creation. It was surgical. Personal. Costly.

In the creation of man, God got His hands dirty. In the creation of woman, He got them bloody. The first man had to be wounded for the first woman to exist—a shadow of the greater truth that the Last Adam would have to be pierced for His Bride to live.

It's also notable that the word *made* is different from *formed*. It's *banah*—the word for building or constructing, the same word used for building a house or a temple. God *built* woman. He constructed her through a different process entirely—one that required the man's participation and sacrifice.

Woman herself, from the beginning, is presented not as an afterthought or a lesser version of man but as a deliberate and distinctive work of the Master's hand—the crowning touch that moved His assessment of His work from “good” to “very good.”

### YOUR BODY—HIS STORY

Every day we interact with women—mothers, daughters, sisters, coworkers, friends, and strangers waiting in line at the grocery store. We see them everywhere, yet, like the phone cases and posters bearing the *Mona Lisa*, we rarely pause to consider the depth, design, and deliberate artistry before us. A woman's worth, however, does not depend on whether she is acknowledged or admired by others. Like the original masterpiece, her value flows from the Creator who made her, whose wisdom, purpose, and love are written into her very being.

You are a living masterpiece. Not because you're perfect or because you've achieved something remarkable but because the Master Artist poured His creative genius into forming you.

And here's what takes this from merely beautiful to absolutely staggering: God made you this way on purpose. Your sex isn't arbitrary. The fact that you're a woman and not a man isn't random. God didn't flip a coin. He didn't draw straws. He intentionally, deliberately, carefully crafted you female.

This means something. Your body—with its particular architecture—tells a story. The visible speaks of the invisible.

Elisabeth Elliot captured this powerfully when she wrote to her daughter about the significance of the female form:

What does it signify? Is there invisible meaning in its visible signs—the softness, the smoothness, the lighter bone and muscle structure, the breasts, the womb? Isn't your identity intimately bound up with these material forms?<sup>1</sup>

The answer is yes. Your physical design points to spiritual realities. Your female body isn't just a random collection of biological features—it's a revelation, a means by which God displays truths about Himself and His redemptive plan.

Consider your womb, a hidden space that mirrors the mystery of spiritual birth (1 Pet. 1:23). Physical life flows from marital union; spiritual life flows from union with Christ. Young or old, married or single, fertile or barren—the womb remains a symbol of God's life-giving creative and redemptive work.

Consider your breasts. Your body's ability to feed and sustain new life mirrors the way the Word nurtures spiritual growth and maturity. "Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow up into your salvation" (1 Pet. 2:2).

Consider the carrying angle in your arm—yes, that bend that makes it a bit awkward to throw a football but perfect for cradling a baby. This isn't a design flaw; it's a design feature. Your very bones were shaped with purpose—to hold, to comfort, to nurture.

“

**Your body tells His story.  
Each physical feature  
serves as a signpost  
pointing to spiritual  
realities.**

”

Your body tells His story. Each physical feature serves as a signpost pointing to spiritual realities. The way God fashioned you wasn't just about creating a functional human—it was about telling His story in flesh and blood.

This should fill you with wonder. The God who spoke galaxies into existence bent down to form you with His own hands. The God who measures oceans in the hollow of His hand took infinite care with the architecture of your female form. You matter to Him—not in some vague, sentimental way but in a specific, detailed, personal way.

And this should also anchor your identity.

When culture tells you that your body is meaningless, that being female is arbitrary, that you can simply choose to redefine yourself—you can stand firm. We don't get to decide what a woman is any more than a painting gets to choose its colors.

And here's the glorious truth: we don't need to. The Master Artist's design is perfect. His intentions are good. He made you a woman because woman is exactly what He wanted you to be.

