

VII. God's Blueprint in Biblical Perspective  
*Foundations from Genesis*  
"Foundation #5: The Sanctity of Gender—Male and Female"  
Genesis 1–2  
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This series is meant to go along with the essential principles of Christianity from the Apostles Creed, that series that was done earlier in the year. Now, these are the 15 sanctity's that must be embraced in a particularly in need to be understood by God's people in the context of where our culture is and what is happening. We will be looking at Genesis 1 and we have arrived at the sixth day of creation. I just want to remind you we have established a number of sanctities, essential foundations of the faith. Number one is the sanctity of Divine revelation where general revelation is available to all and special revelation is the Word of God. Then we went from the sanctity of revelation as God has revealed Himself, to the sanctity of God Himself. Then we went to who is made in the image of God and that would be the sanctity of man. Then, we studied the sanctity of creation. The creation week is absolutely crucial in terms of what it anticipates in the week of passion and what it anticipates in the eschatological reality of the second coming of Christ. There are five studies that have led us up to this point that are available for your review on our website at <https://briarwood.org/sermons/>.

Now we're going to take a look at the sanctity of gender. For this study, I will give you a grasp on the sanctity of gender and then take a few studies to look at the sanctity of gender in terms of Biblical masculinity, of Biblical femininity, and what God's Word says about that. We'll still be in Genesis, but for those two sermons we'll need to move out beyond that, and then we'll look at the sanctity of sexuality as we address some things that are going to be a little challenging. I hope to be able to handle them pastorally and appropriately, but I'm not going to be any more prudish than what the Bible is. I'm just going to develop what the Bible says in these matters because they are coming to you, to your children and your grandchildren and you need to understand them. These coming sermons, I think, are very crucial in this series on the foundations of the faith.

In Genesis 1 we are given the opportunity to eavesdrop on a Divine conversation in the Trinity. This conversation is reflective and declarative and definitive. On the sixth day of creation, here is what happens in Genesis 1:26; [26] *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

We are given a little bit of a clue here because we've just been told He is going to make man, singular, in the image of God yet note the plurality – one God the plurality accommodating the three Persons, our image, our likeness. But then we see that this man is going to have plurality when it says 'Let them have dominion over...' the creation and are going to have dominion over all the Earth and everything that is there. In other words, this that is made in the image of God is going to be God's governor of this creation, God's vice regent. Let's continue.

Genesis 1:27–28 says [27] *So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; (now look how him is defined) male and female (two genders, in order to bear the image of God) He created them. (Then comes the benediction – God blessed the male and the female) [28] And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill*

*the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

Here, we are instructed that this creation of man, male and female, as His vice regent is now given three specific tasks; they are to subdue the earth, multiply and fill the earth and they are to have dominion, that is stewardship of the earth. Let's continue.

Genesis 1:29–31 says [29] *And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. [30] And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. [31] And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

We see that man made in His image is also given the ability for rationality, for morality, for action, for thoughtfulness, for direction, for definitiveness and that's all necessary in order to have dominion and fulfill the task that was given to him. This man made in His image, unlike God, will need sustenance, and therefore because of their physical being that is being created, and so He has provided all of that for them.

As we see what has just been described on the sixth day, we now have a recapitulation of it and the focus of it, not only upon the Earth, but in that special place that God has made for Him to dwell with them and for them to fulfill their task, and that is there on the Earth in the Garden itself. What do we find out in this microscope focus starting in Genesis 2:4? Genesis 2:4 says [4] ***These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.***

You will find the phrase ‘these are the generations of...’ ten times in the book of Genesis. In other words, the book of Genesis is actually ten books of origins. These books within Genesis bring focus and detail to this overall preamble of the creation week as it has been given us where first was ‘ex-nihilo creation’ meaning from nothing God made everything and then God began to form it and fill it during the six days of creation, resting on the seventh day. In this look upon the sixth day and the creation of what is taking place, we find greater detail in terms of God's reflection and action, as well as man's obedience to the Lord. Let's continue in Genesis 2.

Genesis 2:5–7 says [5] *When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, [6] and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— [7] then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*

Now, we see the dichotomous nature of man, he is physical and spiritual. His body is from the dust of the ground, that is a corpse until God breathes into the nostrils that He had made the very breath of life, and then he becomes a living being. He has a body, which is not in the image of God, because God is a Spirit, but he does have a body and now can fulfill his task. Note, what is his task? Subdue, govern and fill the earth. Is it not appropriate that he is made from the dust of the earth as a physical being? He will then need to be sustained by the vegetation of the earth itself. Then he makes him in His image by breathing into him, the breath of life where he becomes a living soul. Let's continue.

Genesis 2:8–9 says [8] *And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom He had formed. [9] And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God has entered into*

covenant with Adam. He has given him his responsibilities and He now is establishing the two sacraments of the covenant, and that is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life. What does He tell him now?

Genesis 2:10–17 says [10] *A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. [11] The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. [12] And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. [13] The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. [14] And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.*

[15] *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. [16] And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, [17] but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”* Now, here is the first negative that reveals that he is a moral man capable of rational decisions with a volitional dynamic to his life. Here he is given this threefold task and a fourth commandment is given, the negative that he is not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now we will see the development of man – male and female. Let’s continue.

Genesis 2:18–25 says [18] *Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” [19] Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. [20] The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. [21] So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. [22] And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. [23] Then the man said,*

*“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man.”*

[24] *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. [25] And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

This development of male and female in this context of what God says is out of Divine reflection. God is doing this purposefully upon reflection in the council of the Trinity, and is being established, and therefore, out of the basis that it's not good for the man to be alone. Now, that alone is not referring to loneliness. Adam was not lonely. Adam couldn't have been lonely because who's there with him? God is there with him and God is enough. But Adam cannot do the task he is given without a suitable helpmate, one that is fit to him, one that is fit alongside of him, one that will assist him in subduing the earth in having dominion over the creation as the vice regent of God, another one necessary to properly image God. So, the female is necessary for man, male and female, to properly reflect God, bear the image of God and to properly accomplish the task that is God-given to them. Then certainly, the female is going to be the fit helper in order for man, male and female, to be able to be fruitful and multiply and fill up the earth.

Then we see that the creatures of the earth had already been created and now in the hand of a supernatural God, they are brought before man to do what? To name them. This is very

important because whenever you name something, there are three things being done. If you name something, you have authority over it. If you name something, you are defining it. If you name something, you have responsibility for it. When you name something, you have authority over it, you are to define it accurately as to how God created it and thirdly, you are now responsible for it.

There are two words for man in the text, Adam which is where we get the name, Adam, and then the other word is *Ish*. The word for the woman is *Ishah*, meaning reflection of *Ish*. When it says there was not found a helper fit for him, that meant none fit the definition of coming alongside of him, of being a fit helper to subdue the earth together, to rule over the creation together, to have dominion and to be fruitful and multiply. When God took from man and made the woman, we see the creation matching the purpose of the creature. Adam is taken from the dust of the ground to rule over the earth, to subdue the Earth and to fill the earth. But it's not good for him to be alone, he needs a suitable helpmate, one that matches with him so from his side, there is a rib that is taken from him, then closed up and then this rib is then used, therefore, the material reflects the mandate, that is to come alongside to be the suitable helper, so that as one they can serve the Triune God and the mandates that God has given to them. Thus, the creation act matches the creature's purpose.

Then we see in Genesis 2:23 that Adam names the woman, *Ishah*, for he has responsibility. This is reflected even in the Christian influence upon the Biblical doctrine of marriage as a man leaves his father and mother and a woman is given, they become one and they bear the name together, the name of the husband, who now names his wife. I'll never forget, my wife and I were married on January 26, 1969, and we went on an extravagant 3-day honeymoon to Blowing Rock North Carolina at the cliff dwellers. Then we came back to enroll her back in school the next day, and as we returned, we stopped off at Sears and Roebuck, where she had worked with my mother where I first met her six months earlier. There was a lady there talking to my mother and I said, "Hi! I'd like for you to meet Cindy Miller." The frost that existed on the floor of Sears and Roebuck you could have skated on in that moment. The look on my wife's face at that moment, and then I realized, "No, this is Cindy Reeder." She said, "That's better."

We had now united together, we are one, and so he (Adam) owns her. Notice, as he names her, she is not the same as him but same like him. Here he affirms their inequality as image bearers before God. She is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. Many have made the observation she doesn't come from his head, she's not over him. She doesn't come from his feet, she's not under him. She comes from his side and that means alongside of him to fit in union with him, and the two will become one. A man in marriage shall hold fast, hang to, cling to his wife. There is shameless sexuality, distinctive gender by the creation of God as they become *echad*, one flesh. It's the very word that's used to describe the Trinity in Deuteronomy 6:4 which says [4] "*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*" It's also used to describe a cluster of grapes, it's one with plurality. The Trinity is *echad*, and now man is *echad* in the covenant of marriage that is now provided.

Note, the covenant of marriage is created by God and sanctified as a gift to the man, male and female. God didn't make marriage, and then go make man, male and female. He made man, male and female, then He made marriage for their union, their intimacy and their oneness. It is very much like, what did God make on the seventh day, the Sabbath. God did not make man for the Sabbath for God had already made man on the sixth day. He made the Sabbath for man (Mark 2:27). It's a gift. The sanctity of marriage is a gift. We'll look at that more closely at another time but for now note that marriage was made and then not gender invented and

sexuality invented. God made man – gender and sexuality – then marriage was made for God's gift to man in order to rightly accomplish the subduing of the Earth, the ruling over the creation, being fruitful to multiply, to walk faithfully before God with the offer of the tree of life through faithfulness and avoiding and saying 'no' to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Much of what I'm sharing with you has been poured into my life throughout the years by Dr. Henry Krabbendam and others, because all of their stuff just bleeds into me over decades. I don't have quotes but I do want to always acknowledge that whatever I'm able to share is always been the blessing of the Spirit of God, His idea with His Word and those that have invested in my life – people like Dr. Rick Phillips, in his commentary on Genesis, Dr. Francis Schaeffer's book Genesis in Space and Time, Dr. Jim Boyce's book, Foundations of the Christian Faith, Dr. Johnny Gibson, and R.C. Sproul. Those men, their mentorship in discipleship and what they have written have greatly affected me for which I am everlastingly grateful, so that bleeds through here.

I recently heard a talk from Dr. Johnny Gibson, who is a Professor of Old Testament at Westminster, observe something out of Genesis that will allow me to make and build on some points from these two texts in this study concerning gender and the sanctity of gender. It's really interesting where we are as a culture, isn't it? I see it this way where we live in the unabashed pursuit of the culture of self. There are a lot of isms that are used to get us to this point, but no one is playing that game hardly – socialism, Marxism, and various isms – that are all just being embraced. There is the unabashed commitment to the sovereignty of self in rebellion against God. With the attitude of we will not be who You made us or do what You made us to do. We will declare who we are and what we do.

Whenever self, in arrogance, strikes out against God in sin, then you will always have marks that will accompany it. There are four marks to the culture of self – insanity, absurdity, immorality and lethality. The culture of self will manifest itself as a culture of insanity through chaos, a culture of absurdity by confusion, and a culture of immorality. In the next few studies we will see, how abundantly clear, sex is a created gift of God to man, male and female – these are heterosexual relationships in the context of marriage. Those in rebellion against God declare to Him, "No, sex is for personal gratification. Sex is for my autonomy. Sex is for my declaration. I will determine sexuality and marriage." In that rebellion against God, immorality is always absurdity, insanity, immorality and lethality. When you sin against God, it leads you into death and it leads men and women to commit murder in order to cover up the consequences of insanity, absurdity and immorality. Thus, in our nation, the culture of self is guilty of 60 million deaths and counting. If the present administration has its way, you will be paying for it penny by penny and dollar by dollar. That is where the culture of self always leads. Dr. Gibson made the point that it never stops. This downward spiral is unstoppable. It's relentless until it goes into abject anarchy. It sells itself as freedom. It is not freedom. It is lethal anarchy.

I'm not going to ask you if you're on Facebook because I know most are. I meet people on Facebook all the time. I make use of it as a platform to communicate, and it wasn't long ago that to be on Facebook they allowed you for gender 58 choices. Do I need to say more of the culture of insanity and absurdity? They now say 'no' and have apologized for that, because they basically said in response to the pushback from the cultural revolution, "We don't have the right to limit the possibilities of your gender." So, what did they do, go to 59? When you hear LGBTQAI, always remember the next one, it's plus. The alphabet is not through. Fifty-eight was not enough. Now, it's just fill-in the blank for whatever you want to say you are.

No society can function with that kind of absurdity and insanity. That's not how God made us. You can break God's laws, but God's law will end up breaking you. Here is our society in this confusion, this insanity, this absurdity, this immorality, and how and why are we here? Why are we now embracing a neopagan culture? I don't care where you're from, your forebearers were barbarians. That's why they got the name barbarian, because nobody could make sense of what they were saying, "ba, ba, ba, ba", so they made up a word about them, barbarians and that's how they got the name. There were all kinds of sexual immorality, perversion, all kinds of perversion of any notion of family and marriage and then Christianity came. Then neopaganism began to disappear with the church on mission, on message and in ministry. Society then began to establish itself, not with perfection but with progress, a progress that was rooted in the churches ministry and out of that ministry were the effects of redeeming grace and common grace.

We are now living not in a pagan society where we are looking for the effects of Christianity, we are in a society that has been blessed by the effects of Christianity, again, not perfect, but the clear effects of Christianity over literally hundreds of years where there has been blessings of gospel awakenings, blessings of revivals, blessings of God's kind providence, and in the midst of all of that we willingly are saying to God as a culture, "We will not have You." Therefore, now we are descending into the chaos, the depravity and the abyss of neopaganism where humanity has no defining distinctions. Androgyny is the way of life. We will invent our self. I will be what I want to be. Thus, we see these bizarre attempts at cosmetic surgery, where people actually are trying to become animals, as well as a culture that engages in the child abuse of chemical castration of children in adolescents to change their gender. There is irreversible surgical abuse of children. That's where we are as a society.

Why are we there? I want to give you seven reasons why I believe we're in this downward spiral of neopaganism. Number one, we are in it because we have self-inflicted it upon ourself. We are not victims. What you see today in this cultural revolution that is like a tsunami wave, it is self-inflicted for we are doing it to ourselves. We are doing it purposefully. We even use Democratic government procedures in order to institute people who are furthering it.

Secondly, it is culturally promoted, meaning it's the institutions that shape the culture in our day and time. The evangelical church is changing its message with cultural accommodation because it has changed its mission to cultural transformation. The reality is the evangelical church is not a player in the culture. The more we try to be a player and accommodate our message to get a seat at the table, the less influence we have. The church has never been influential because of how acceptable and how alike it is to the culture, but how distinctive it is through the work of grace and a gracious testimony.

Who are the culture shapers? Here are five of them. The culture shapers that are inflicting this culture as we are supporting it, is the academy of higher education. My generation, in our rebellion, didn't work so we went to the academy and now we're leading the Academy in the classroom and the administration. Therefore, the radicals of the 1960s have gone to the Academy to lead it and are educated. I know you love your college and I understand that. I am not trying to rain on your parade, but if you think the government supported curriculum and educational system that is here is the same one that was there 30 years ago and the college is the same as it was 30 years ago, then you're living with your head in the sand. It's just not true. The Academy is perhaps the number one shaper of this cultural revolution of self, marked by insanity, absurdity, immorality and lethality. The number two shaper is what's now become known as the deep state,

it used to be called the bureaucratic state. The number three shaper is corporate America. The virtue signaling coming out of corporate America is absolutely astonishing. The number four shaper is the entertainment industry, the celebrity culture which include entertainment, sports, movies, plays, music, etc. Then the number five shaper is journalism. This is the one that wraps it all up together. Those are the culture shapers and that is what they are promoting.

The third reason we are where we are now is, it is manifested by the call to sexual freedom, which in reality is the sexual revolution that is attempted to be defined with the alphabet arrangement of LGBTQAI+, and that is the sexually motivated. Many in that revolution and in that context are people that are hurting in their sin and need to be rescued, but there are even more from those culture shaper institutions that are using people who are in sexual addictions to promote what they want to accomplish.

Number four, we are in a true cultural revolution. I grew up studying the cultural revolution of Mao Tse-tung, Pol Pot, Marxism from Lenin to Stalin, the Hegelian dialectic that was brought to bear in Marxism, and then embraced in the gateway movement of socialism. Here is what you can know about a revolution. The revolution is committed to the surrender of its opponents, not negotiation. The number one opponent to the cultural revolution is historic Biblical Christianity. Therefore, it is absolutely committed to the fact that if the church is to be allowed, it must condemn what it previously celebrated and celebrate what it previously condemned. A revolution is a declaration to the opponents, to the adversaries, 'you will celebrate what you condemned and you will condemn what you celebrated.'

Number five, is gender confusion and chaos. Gender confusion brings it home to where we are right now. Gender confusion and chaos are both a tactic and a consequence of this revolution. Historically, gender dysphoria has been found even at its highest points in less than 3% of the population at some time or another in the span of their lifetimes. 2.8% of that 3% was found in the years of adolescence. 92% of that segment of society, the process of adolescence, is what dealt with the issue of gender dysphoria. Now, it is nurtured and is a consequence of the revolution as zoo sexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, transsexuality. By the way, they are not new, for you can find them in Leviticus 18 and 19. All of that leads to gender confusion as a consequence and that sexual revolution is embraced with gender confusion as a tactic that is being used. People who genuinely have gender dysphoria and issues through adolescence are the ones that really are being victimized by the revolutionaries, and that ought to break our heart and send us with carefulness into their lives with grace, truth in love and love in truth. The reality though is that we have now moved into an exponential growth of that statistic. It is now estimated to be 300-fold and increasing.

In fact, a whole new category has been given and the person who created the category out of observation lost her job in an Ivy League school, because she was willing to write on it. She called it 'sudden onset gender dysphoria.' She said 'There is something amazing happening. Now we have this epidemic of gender dysphoria.' Why? Then she began to point out why. Teachers are promoting it in classrooms. Children are being taught that it is cool. Parents are being taught that it is cool that your child becomes significant through this and that gives you as a parent significance. There is a whole counseling industry that is not there to deal with the gender dysphoria of adolescence, but it's there to create cases of gender dysphoria. Now, Western civilization nations are able to give surgical and chemical prescriptions to these children with no parental consent. This gender confusion and chaos is not only a consequence, it is a tactic.

Number six is, the effeminization of men and the masculinization of women. I hope you don't think, "Oh, Harry just thinks that a woman has to grow up, put on a dress and go cook pancakes every Saturday morning." Have you met my wife and my daughters? That is not what I'm talking about, but there is something called Biblical masculinity and Biblical femininity. We will look more in depth on this in the coming studies but in this revolution there is the direct assault on anything that reflects Biblical masculinity. Do I believe in toxic masculinity? "Yes." I know there are toxic men and I know there is a toxic view of masculinity, but I know masculinity is not toxic. In fact, the cure for toxic masculinity is Biblical masculinity. And there are women leaders all over the Bible, but their femininity was not lost in the heights of achievement that they found in church history and in the Bible.

Number seven, the final contributing factor to this culture of self, marked by insanity, absurdity, immorality and lethality is, the fall. This comes from sin. The heart of the problem is the problem with the heart. Culture reflects the reigning heart view of life. It contributes to it, it hardens it, it creates slippery slopes for it, but basically the culture is the reflection of what is being taught, thought and embraced. Our issue, as we find in Romans 1:22, professing to be wise, we become fools. We have embraced with unbelievable epistemological assets in this world, a journey into imbecility, and it's all because of the arrogance of self and rebellion against God. It's a heart issue.

Creator God, creation – binary. The way to strike out against God and worship the creature and the creation, is to deny the Creator's binaries. Did you notice in Genesis binary after binary? Land, sky – water, ocean – light, darkness – day, night – male, female. The heart of rebellion strikes, out as paganism always has, against the Creator in order to worship the creature. Thus, professing to be wise, we become fools when we exchange the glory of the incorruptible God for the creature and we worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator.

Here are your takeaways from the text for this study. The first one is gender and sexuality are affirmed and confirmed biologically through creation by the Creator, thus procreation with sexuality in the gift of marriage. Gender and sexuality are not affirmed and confirmed by the internal analysis of the individual. No, when a baby is born, you can either do a blood test or you can hold the baby up and look. It doesn't take a degree program to see that the baby is either male or female. This is affirmed and confirmed by the hand of God.

Number two, creation confirms the Creator's mandate and task. In other words, you know what God made us to do gender-wise, because God made us to do what He mandated. He made Adam from the dust of the ground with the mandate he is given to subdue the earth, rule over it and fill it. He made the woman as a suitable helpmate to come alongside, both equal but not interchangeable, both different. As Dr. Gibson says, magnets only attract when there is positive and negative and they come together. You don't have sameness sexuality to accomplish the task to subdue, be fruitful and multiply. There is a distinctiveness and it starts in the material God uses to bring forth His creatures, male and female, and then what He brings them forth to do together and individually, as they unite together as one.

Number three, the task of man – male and female – is the same as the naming of man. Adam and Eve, the male and the female, Ish and Ishah, what do they do? They name, they define. That means they take responsibility, but how are *they* named? They are named by God Himself. God takes responsibility for them. God originates them in light of what He has mandated for them to do. God defines them, directs them, takes responsibility for them, and He has brought them forth in a creation manner for the created mandate He has given to them. This



is seen by their origin and their composition. The creature does not name himself, define himself, or direct himself. He is named, defined and directed by the Creator.

Number four, it requires both male and female to fully manifest the image of God.

Number five, man, male and female, even the naming of Eve by Adam was based upon the direction and reflection of what God had done to Adam and through Adam. As man does not name himself, he is called under the eye of God to name, define and take responsibility for the creation. I am not a pantheist and I am not finding a home in the green movement, but I do believe in a Biblical stewardship of this home God has created, and how we handle the other parts of the creation – birds, fish, animals and this earth that has been made by the Creator. We do so under the eye of God, who named us and gave us that direction.

Number six, our rebellion against God is because of the fall into sin and because of the fall into sin, we the creatures, now rebel against God. In the next study I will cover God's response to man's sin, male and female, and why that becomes foundational to man's rebellion against God in sin, its occasion as well as the curse.

Number seven is, what is the curse that God placed upon humanity and, therefore, what is our responsibility to deal with it? I will also cover this in the next study as we look at the curse of sin that came upon Adam and Eve and how that has laid the groundwork for Romans 1 and man's rebellion against God in this movement of androgyny whereby, we attempt the effeminization of men, the masculinization of women, the denial of Biblical sexuality that's shameless when it's heterosexual in the context of marriage but always brings shame and what God's wonderful solution to that is through the Gospel itself.

I have had a significant number of things because of simply the decades of ministry, where I've ministered to women and men who have been caught up in the industries of sin, the pornographic industry of sin, the sexual trafficking and sexual sins that are there. Time and time again, when they feel safe enough to share it, they will say, "Pastor, I just felt so dirty. I just went home and sat down in the shower" or "I went to the bed, just curled up and pulled up the covers." That's when I love to go to I Corinthians 6, to speak of the forgiving and transforming power of the Gospel. I Corinthians 6:11 says *[11] And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. You have been clothed. You have been redeemed and it is that culture of the Gospel that we need to take with humility yet, boldness, to meet the culture of self with its destructive insanity, absurdity, lethality and immorality.*

One might think it has to be done in either humility or boldness but not both and my response to that would be, "Well, it does if you do it in the flesh, but the Spirit of God can weave two threads together." So, let's surrender to the Spirit, let's keep digging into God's Word, and let's stay on mission, on message and in ministry.

If you've been with me through this study and been able to track with me, do you now see why the world and the world that's invaded the church hates the book of Genesis and wants to discredit it? It is so powerful. We will be back in the book of Genesis in the next study to continue where we left off. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in such a rich text of Scripture. Would You, Father, please bless my brothers and sisters? Father, I really don't know what to say, other than, just discouragement from time, is that people are out there in the midst of this and really can't seem to be interested enough to understand why it's there from Your Word and how to meet

it with Your Word. But, here we are, so use us and may Christ be exalted. We'll give You the praise now and forever more. Amen.