

# Man and Woman

We joke about each other. We love them; we hate them. But for most of us, we want the fulfilment that comes from loving commitment to a life partner.

The Bible teaches that God had a particular intent in mind when He created man and woman. The woman was created from living tissue taken from Adam, so that there would be an emotional attachment between them quite distinct from other creatures in the animal world. Adam understood that the command of marriage is directed to the man, that he “*cleave to the woman*” (Genesis 2:24). The woman by the very nature of her creation, would respond and so the two beings would be inseparably united. Jesus comments on this creative act: “*They are no longer two but one. What God has joined together, let not man separate*” (Matthew 19:6).

What anguish of heart, what devastation of mind when the marriage suffers unhappiness and discord. It often results in enormous social cost. Much of the pressure has come from modern philosophies with human rights insisting that man and woman are treated equally. This is impossible. The Bible teaches that man and woman have unique characteristics and a different way of thinking to each other.

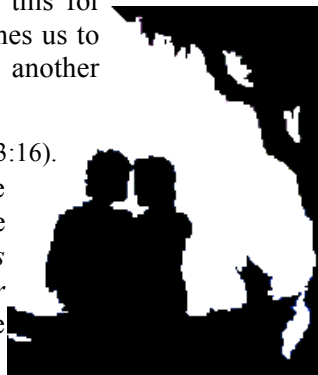
These differences are intended to blend and provide the union with a broader and fuller understanding of life. Each then appreciates the contribution of the other. However human rights philosophies have put man and woman into confrontational mode.

Instead of insisting upon our rights, the Bible teaches what each must **give** for each other. (Ephesians 5). Proponents of human rights teach:

“you give me”. The Bible teaches: “I will give this for you”. They teach *self* awareness. The Bible teaches us to be God centred, focusing on the needs of another (Ephesians 5:22-29), even as He did for us.

“*God so loved the world he **gave** his Son...*” (John 3:16).

**True love** is giving without thought of self for the wellbeing of the other. On this basis, the Bible commands “*Husbands (selflessly) love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her*” (even to death) (Ephesians 5:25). The Bible teaches you how to live.



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