

A Note to Husbands and Fathers.

Within the Christian community there is a revival of interest in protecting our girls from sexually driven males. The experiments of the last half of the 20th century in which girls were permitted easy access to private times with males through dating or leaving home to live in their own apartment, led to many illegitimate children and great heartache for our women and the men who love them. In short, God's law was not being followed and we are suffering the consequences. In recent years, many Christian men have been trying to re-establish their position as leaders in their homes, and are implementing numerous rules in efforts to protect their daughters. There has been a return to the concept of courtship and a discarding of the modern practice of dating. However, just to protect a daughter from exposure to boys is insufficient to keep her from the devastating effects of promiscuity. We can make rules which drive our daughters into the arms of the men from which we wish to protect them. Something of fundamental importance is missing, and it is incumbent upon fathers to discover the missing ingredient.

Christian men, in their attempts to rectify the problems of the last 50 years, are often oblivious to the important differences in the way men and women think. Considering this, we will review some of the key differences exposed in Scripture and review evidence given in scientific studies which confirm our need to consider the ways of women while establishing rules for their protection. Finally, God has revealed the answer to our problem and by examining the specific nuances of the Hebrew expression found in Genesis we can determine what changes need to be made.

We will begin by reviewing a passage from Scripture that can give us some insights into the differences that God designed between men and women.

^{RSV} **Genesis 2:18** Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

The phrase of interest in this passage is, "helper fit for him." This is often referred to as a help meet, but the Hebrew uses a couple of words to express this and I think the breadth of one word's meaning will expand our own understanding about the woman. The phrase is *azar K'negdo*. *Azar* means helper, hence the word help in "help meet" as given in the King James Version and the word helper in the Revised Standard Version. But this other word, *K'negdo* doesn't seem to get proper respect. This is a compound word as many Hebrew words are. The root word is *neged*, meaning opposite to or in front of, even opposed to or confrontational. The adding of the "K'" in front meaning, 'like' or 'as,' and the "o" on the end meaning, 'him' would make the word mean, 'as opposed to him.'

How have Hebrew scholars down through the ages dealt with this peculiar wording? Rashi, a Jewish commentator of the 11 and 12th centuries made this statement concerning wives, "A righteous man receives an *azar* (helper), but an unrighteous man receives a *neged* (one opposed to him). A friend came to me the other day with this rhetorical question, "If a man were walking

through the woods without his wife and he made a statement, would he still be wrong?” The response that I didn’t say out loud was, “only if he had a *neged* rather than an *azar*.” Some men sense that from their wives’ perspective, everything that comes out of their mouths is somehow deficient or incorrect. This humorous play on the old rhetorical question about a tree falling in a forest, vividly illustrates this common impression. However, Rashi’s separating of these two terms in this verse, as if there are two possible options does not do this Scripture justice. Nor does translating this as “a helper opposed to him,” sound like a benefit for Adam. I think Adam would have requested to be left alone rather than have God bring him someone who is continually trying to thwart his plans. Men would prefer to walk in the woods alone and be right.

The Revised Standard Version calls this, “a helper fit for him.” It gives a positive twist to a seemingly negative word. When considering the context, it seems that the positive interpretation is the only reasonable translation. Are we going to assume that when God carefully planned His creation He designed for Adam a wife that would contest his every notion? Could it be that the seemingly negative Hebrew word used here to designate a probably good and noble character of a female was chosen because of its dual nature? Why do some of us in our attempt to better protect our wives and daughters find them fighting us on every detail? Could it be that if we understand the nature of a woman and supply her innate needs, she will willingly help us accomplish our task, but if we miss those basic inner longings of the soul, we will have a continuous contention between us and our females?

Since conservative Christian values are being portrayed in our society as being abusive and this is being blamed on our interpretation of the Bible, I want to review some information brought forward by scientific studies to show science is supporting us while we are being criticized.

There are many studies now that reveal the differences in the way a man and a woman think. We will examine some comparisons, but it must be understood that we are not comparing every individual male with every female. That would be a gross generalization and such generalities would invalidate any study. There is no way one could do a scientific study that shows every male excels in one area over every female. In fact, such statements are ludicrous. These studies suggest that the average of all men may score a few points higher than the average of all women in a certain area of ability, while the women may score higher than the men in other areas of ability. The truth is, your wife may outscore you in an area where the average of all men would outscore the average of all women. So don’t try to get too specific with these figures to prove your superiority. These studies do expose certain tendencies in the sexes which will give us scientific support to understand how these opposites can work together.

Dr. Luan Brizendine, a female psychiatrist has written a book studying the differences between the male and female brain function. She reviewed more than 1000 scientific studies, in the fields of genetics, neurohormonal development, molecular neuroscience, fetal and pediatric endocrinology plus conducted her own clinical work to write her book, “The Female Brain.” In it she concludes that the man is typically more logical in his thinking, more capable in judging distance, speed, and direction and can more easily visualize an object in various positions without

having to literally see those positions. Men excel over women in map reading and are better in mathematics, the sciences, finger and hand manipulations and sports.

Women on the other hand are much better in language arts. Women actually have a section of the brain devoted to communication while men communicate from all areas of their brain grasping for any neuron that isn't being used. Brizendine states that the average woman says about 20,000 words a day while the average man only says about 7,000. Women are much more capable in reading the emotions of other people. In fact women remember highly emotional moments much better; like a first date, wedding day or strong disagreements with their spouse. Women often remember details about arguments that men don't even know happened. It isn't that a man is in denial, he really doesn't remember them. Women also excel in details concerning their surroundings. Since men are better at spacial tasks they can visualize a map when given directions and follow directions in a map fashion, but women typically want to hear details concerning land marks. If a woman is reading a map, she will usually have to place the map in the direction of travel. Men usually turn the map in their mind and the direction it is laying before them is irrelevant.

Brizendine interprets this information in a typical evolutionary manner. Men needed the spacial tasks in order to hunt and provide for the family, therefore their brains developed in this way to enable the survival of the species. Whereas the female needed to protect the children while the male was off hunting, so she was very aware of her surroundings always looking for an intruder. Brizendine even goes so far as to state that the reason these differences are manifested is due to natural selection. Those who did not exhibit these characteristics did not survive and the weaker traits were lost. This information viewed from the conservative Christian perspective is explained quite differently. God placed these talents and traits within each of the sexes to facilitate the specific jobs that He had for each. When He created the woman, he had motherhood in mind, when He created the man, He had fatherhood in mind. He then gave the command to go forth and multiply. These characteristics are evidences of a Creator with a specific purpose in mind.

The section of the brain that uses logic is in the left hemisphere of the brain. When a male is developing in his mother's womb his brain is washed with testosterone. This little bath of a male hormone is what causes him to think like a male. The fetus exhibits no difference between male and female until this hormonal wash. After the bath, the sex characteristics begin to develop. As a part of the procedure the testosterone erases some connections in the brain that transfer information back and forth between the left hemisphere and the right hemisphere of the brain. The right hemisphere is the more emotional, artistic, abstract side of the brain, whereas the left side is the more logical, systematic, and concrete side of the brain. The male with fewer connections between the two sides has a tendency to use the left side of the brain as the dominant side. This enables him to make decisions without the addition of emotional considerations. Anyone who has attended a sports event or any competition knows men do get emotional. Yet when making rational, well thought out decisions, often the emotional pull is not there like it is with the female.

The woman has full connection between the two hemispheres of the brain. She is using both sides of the brain, but often the right side will act dominantly and override the logical thinking. This

will bring about emotional reactions, often full of compassion, mercy or sympathy. These are all good traits. A woman will quickly point out that she may have a more comprehensive view of the situation since she is using both sides of her brain to make a decision. She believes we men have half witted ideas and never consider the emotional problems that may be created. Men are viewed by her as lacking compassion and mercy. Truthfully men may consider the emotional aspect, but not consider it as the determining factor for decision making. If the man does not consider the emotional factor present in his wife and daughters when he is attempting to fulfill their needs, he may find his wife becomes the opposition mentioned as a possible meaning to *k'negdo*. However, if he considers this factor allowing for her emotional needs, a supportive helper who is suited for him is likely to appear.

God understood that the unemotional decision making process would better suit the needs of the family when dealing with society. To facilitate this he washed the male brain with a hormone that slowed down those emotional connections. Too much compassion, mercy and sympathy can keep a child from developing a clear view of reality. Parents love their child, yet neighbors may not. In other words, society is not going to be as compassionate about spoiled brats as parents are. Children who are self centered and only see things from their personal perspective do not develop proper social skills to enable them to become good citizens. A child must be capable of understanding that he must be able to get along with others in society. If not, he will be a problem person in society. So God gave us fathers who are not overly controlled by compassion. However, that same child needs his mother to come and comfort him after he has experienced some trauma -- possibly even if it was produced by his father's discipline. Children need to be strongly directed, and compassionately loved. Usually those messages cannot be communicated by the same person. God placed both a father and a mother in the family so as to supply both needs.

Considering this, I believe the verse previously mentioned from Genesis should be translated, "I will make a woman, who can see things from a different perspective, to help him." She is not necessarily opposed to him, only made differently to complete what is needed to make a more balanced family. She is complimentary to him.

God knew it would be impossible for two people to make decisions if all things were equal. Hence, one ultimately must be given dominion to make the final decision. The man has been given that dominion. This does not belittle the woman in any way. Position is not a method of determining value. Each partner in a marriage is just as valuable, only an equal partnership is doomed to end up in countless battles over how to make a decision. Hence, God gave the man the final say in a marriage relationship.

This conclusion can be shown from Scripture through several means. First the woman was taken from the man. Even when Eve partook of the forbidden fruit, her eyes were not opened until she gave it to Adam and he ate. Then it says, "their eyes were opened." He, being the authority brought about the curse, not her. Romans 5:12 tells us that it was through Adam not Eve that sin entered the world. If Eve ate first, why would it not be attributed to her? Since Adam was her authority, he could have redeemed her improper action much like a father or a husband could reverse

an oath of his wife and daughter when he heard it.¹ Instead he participated and all men were subjected to the curse of Adam in that all men die because of their sin. Without his possessing dominion, this would not have happened.

So far it is shown that the man is typically a non-emotional, systematic, calculated leader and the woman is a caring, vocal, emotional, supporter of her man. Now we must review another verse and see how these verses together expose another important aspect of the nature of a woman. This should give us some insights into problems which can arise in families where the father begins to step into his position of authority, but neglects to incorporate an understanding of the women's innate needs and perspective.

Genesis states, ^{«NKJV} **Genesis 3:16** To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

The phrase in this verse often emphasized by one attempting to re-establish his authority in the home is the last section "And he shall rule over you." Yet, he often neglects the previous phrase, "Your desire shall be for your husband." In the first phrase we have revealed an inner emotional make up that God embedded within the female. Her desire is for the man. The Hebrew word used here, *t'shuqah*, means longing, craving, or desire. If the curse has been transferred to all mankind through the actions of this one couple, then God must have instilled within every woman the same longing for men. This desire placed in each woman cannot be restricted to only one man. If that were the case, a woman could never get married, because she would desire only her father, or she could never be widowed and remarried since her longing would not transfer to another man. Therefore, in a fallen world infected with death and decay, God needed to instill the craving desire into the woman as a part of her emotional makeup, and that desire can be transferred to any man. This really makes a woman vulnerable to be abused, used or taken advantage of by men. In fact, this information in the hands of an unscrupulous man could be used to his advantage.

In order to understand the danger, we must recognize what was earlier mentioned concerning the way a woman's brain is different from a man's brain. She tends to major on the right brain so that she is fully connected to her emotions. With the emotional side of the brain in full working order combined with the longing for a man as a result of the curse, we have a woman's longing manifested by an intense need to please men. She wants to be pleasing, and will do almost anything to be pleasing if she believes that she can. All a man needs to do to trigger that response is give a compliment. A sincere compliment will send an emotional trigger through the woman and she just wants to know how to get more. Now this makes her really susceptible to being used. Men who understand what the compliment does will use this to their advantage and the woman is trapped by her emotional makeup.

¹ Numbers 30:3-13 gives clear instructions concerning an oath of a female and shows that the male having authority over her can invalidate her oath. This also gives evidence that the man has authority whether he is a father or a husband.

In my teenage years it was obvious that teenage girls were very susceptible to boys who lavished them with compliments. This really irritated me knowing the intent of these boys, but the girls never seemed to notice. We called the boys “smooth talkers” and they were the scourge of anyone who respected the females and had their best interests at heart. I saw numerous teenage girls fall prey to one of these smooth talking males just to be dumped after they had been conquered by him. Then he would move on to his next conquest and she would be emotionally damaged for life. The girls had fallen prey not only to this inconsiderate clod seeking only his own pleasure, but also to their inner emotional makeup which was being left vulnerable by their father. Girls were usually ready to go find another smooth talker to supply their emotional need to please, but not without experiencing much trauma in the process. This is not to say that she cannot “wise up,” but often this happens only after much heartache and tribulation. This makes her very suspicious of men and often keeps her from appreciating the sincere compliment from one with pure intentions.

God made the sex drive in men to make sure the race was propagated and there is no sin in them having one. He gave the man special abilities in spacial tasks to enable him to do work outside the home including hunting, growing food, caring for livestock, building shelters and traveling to distant lands in order to acquire necessary goods. He gave him special strength as protection from the environment while traversing hostile territory.

God gave the woman the ability to discern small intricate changes in her immediate environment so she can spot danger. He made her keenly aware of her emotions so she could nurture the needs of the family or better understand the emotions of her children. He made her desire her husband to keep the family together so that the children could be raised to be balanced individuals. He placed in women a desire to please, so that they can be fulfilled by serving the needs of another. These characteristics enable her to be a valuable helper, one who comes along side her man to accomplish their goals.

Once discovering this knowledge, it explained what had been witnessed in my teenage years. Few Christian girls made it to their twenties without becoming sexually active. They were very susceptible to the smooth talker. Their fathers were not only leaving them vulnerable by allowing them to date almost anyone who asked, but they also were negligent in fulfilling their daughters’ emotional need to please. Being the confidant of many girls, the real facts surfaced. Most felt their fathers did not like them as much as they did their brothers. They often thought that they could not please their father no matter what they did, so they stopped trying. While Christian females seemed somewhat ambivalent towards sex and even acted rather self righteous if anyone mentioned the topic, they seemed to have no resistance to the smooth talkers. There was one Christian girl who got pregnant by a non-Christian boy to whom she was trying to witness. Spending hours with a male in private, speaking of spiritual things, will trigger the emotional desires of a woman. This was the natural makeup of a female working against her. She had been left in a vulnerable position by her father allowing her easy access to time alone with boys, and her emotion to please over-ruled her desire to walk according to God’s law. She would then excuse her behavior at that moment by a realization that there is grace if she falls.

If we as fathers are not fulfilling our daughters' intense emotional need to be pleasing, we will drive them to become pleasing to other men. A father who is overly critical or is always trying to direct his daughter to do things differently will send a message that his daughter cannot please him. A teenage daughter who faces constant disapproval from her father will easily find another male she can please. Even if we put rigid guidelines upon her to protect her, she will find a way around the fence to give pleasure to someone. They grow up and society gives them license, calling them of age even if we teach them they should stay under our authority. If she finds a male who has an innate need for sexual release, which seems to be about any male over the age of 13 and under 100, then she will find some way to satisfy someone and fulfill her need to be pleasing. So ruling over a woman without suppling for her emotional needs will drive her to another. It doesn't matter whether she is your wife or daughter, the result could be the same.

Over the years many stories have illustrated the need of the father to understand this intense need of his daughter. The more dictatorial a father, the more tragic the story. Military dads seem to be the best at continually giving orders, but never letting their daughters know that they are pleasing to them. Such behavior will drive a daughter into the arms of a smooth talking boy or anyone who will speak kindly to her. This is a clash between the way a man's brain functions and his daughter's emotional makeup. When a man has been conditioned to jump when an order is barked by his superior, he expects those under him to act in similar fashion. When he comes home, this conditioning remains a part of him. A man does not expect his superiors to coddle to his emotions, yet his daughters do, even though they probably do not understand that this is a result of their emotional makeup.

The good news is that this is repairable. If you are one of the dictatorial type fathers and husbands, who have expected your women to follow your orders because it is the right thing for them to do, there is hope that any harm can be corrected before you totally drive your daughters into the hands of men whom you would not choose. There is an example of a father who I will call Bob, while not fully understanding the problem, had a daughter tell him over and over that she felt as though she could not please him. It seemed that Bob would criticize her even if she was doing something to please him. About that time a smooth talking young man came into their lives. He had recently repented from several years of immoral behavior and turned his life over to Messiah, but the way he treated women was still in the manner of one on the prowl. He lavished them with praise and drew their emotions toward him. This was natural for him by this time and Bob's daughter could have easily been drawn in by this young man's flowery talk. Bob was not really interested in having this boy for a son in law due to his extremely immoral past. While Bob knew God forgives, he also knew the baggage remains and was too great for his innocent daughter. Bob reasoned that his previous critical attitude was not good so he decided to work on communicating the idea that he believed his daughter was very pleasing to him and that she was a true gem. She responded quickly to his praise and began to ask what her dad thought of this new young man. They discussed the negative aspects of letting her emotions attach her to a boy who had not well established the fact that he had changed. Only time could show full repentance and if she let her emotions draw her to him, she might later regret it. She listened to his council only a few weeks after he began to change his critical behavior.

Families who have focused on living righteously and fathers who have desired to re-establish godly leadership in the home have witnessed it all come apart in their daughter's teenage years because they have been overly critical of every aspect of her life. We men are not short on good ideas to implement, but often do not consider the emotional makeup of the female when we establish these new ideas. We often create many boundaries to keep our families on the straight and narrow, then do not compliment them as they walk this narrow path. In doing so, we exasperate those whom we lead and create a situation for our women to be easy prey. That which we most wish to protect we make vulnerable.

These observations are not made to excuse immoral actions of our women. Such information could be interpreted as turning the tables to blame all men for the impropriety of woman. This could allow them to make excuses for their own moral indiscretion. This warning is merely an attempt to bring understanding to men in hope that we can avert some of these problems if we are headed in the wrong direction. It is still sin for a woman to seek the approval or to be pleasing to a man who is not her rightful authority, even if that authority is totally in the wrong concerning his behavior. However, if we can avert the pain that would be ours for misunderstanding the needs of a woman, all of God's people and His kingdom have much to gain.

Frank Houtz
DRY BONES RESTORATION COMPANY
Post Office Box 306
Winchester Kentucky (40392)

Copyright Feb, 2009