

## LESSONS FOR THE SISTERS

### Lesson 5

#### Woman in God's Creation, Man's Fall, and God's Promise

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:18-24; 3:1-6, 15; 1 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:13-14

- I. “But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ”—1 Cor. 11:3:**
- A. First Corinthians 11:3 reveals the universal headship; in the universe there is the headship: God is at the top as the head of Christ, Christ is the head of every man, the man is the head of the woman, and human beings are the head of all animals and plants—Gen. 1:26-28.
  - B. In the divine governmental ordination, woman is under the headship of man; God created the female in this way—Gen. 2:18-24; 1 Tim. 2:13.
  - C. Among the unbelievers, the women are not under the headship of men, and since the men do not have Christ, they are not under the headship of Christ and thus are not under the headship of God.
  - D. However, when we receive the Lord and become believers, Christ becomes our head; our enjoyment of Christ as our head brings us under the headship of God and sets up a proper order between man and woman.
  - E. Hence, we must enjoy Christ as our Head in order to live under God’s headship, the divine authority, and to keep God’s ordained order in His administration.
- II. “For Adam was formed first, then Eve”—1 Tim. 2:13; Gen. 2:18-24:**
- A. Paul's word of explanation in 1 Timothy 2:13 brings us to the beginning; God always wants to bring us back to His beginning—cf. Matt. 19:8.
  - B. First Timothy 2:13 gives the first reason that a woman should subject herself to man.
- III. “Adam was not deceived; but the woman, having been quite deceived, has fallen into transgression”—1 Tim. 2:14; Gen. 3:1-6:**
- A. Here [in 1 Timothy 2:14] is the second reason that a woman should subject herself to man.
  - B. Eve was deceived by the serpent (Gen. 3:1-6) because she did not remain in subjection under the headship of Adam, but overstepped her position to contact the evil tempter directly without her head being covered:
    - 1. The inward cause of man’s fall was the woman’s assuming the headship—vv. 2-3, 6.
    - 2. Eve was ensnared by the serpent because she forgot her husband; the Devil was crafty, knowing that the woman was weaker than the man (1 Pet. 3:7), and he chose her as his target.
    - 3. Regardless of what the woman said to the serpent, as long as she stood there and spoke to him, she was wrong, for it indicated that she had assumed the headship.
    - 4. The safest way for her would have been not to talk to the evil one, but to turn to her husband and hide behind him.
    - 5. Eve should not have spoken to the evil one, for while she was talking with him his wicked thought entered into her mind; thus, even before Eve partook of the tree of knowledge her mind had been polluted by the enemy’s concept already.
    - 6. Satan will always try to tempt you, induce you, and trap you by making a proposal which raises questions about God’s Word; any time you doubt the Word of God you must realize that that doubt does not originate with you; it comes from the serpent.

7. We should not question any of the words in the Bible, but should say “Amen” to every word.
- C. Adam and Eve failed because they did not use their spirit:
  1. If Eve had turned to the spirit, there would have been no problem.
  2. Our husband is with our spirit; however, if we remain in our mind it means that we are assuming the headship, setting our mind to behave independently.

**IV. The fall occurred through the woman and the deliverance was promised also through the woman; this shows us the importance of the sister’s position in the Bible:**

- A. After man was created, what happened to man was very much related to the woman.
- B. By this we can see that whether or not God can have His way today in His purpose depends very much upon what the sisters will do.
- C. After the fall of man, God came in, not to do something through man, but to do something through the woman—Gen. 3:1-6, 15:
  1. The subtle serpent, the enemy of God, came in through the woman—vv. 1-6.
  2. Therefore, God chose to defeat the enemy also through woman—through the same channel by which he came—v. 15.
  3. In Genesis 3 the serpent came in through the woman, and in the same chapter, God promised that this woman would bring forth a seed who would bruise the head of the serpent.
- D. Eventually we see that the woman is not so bad; she is glorious; though Satan came in through the woman, the Seed who would bruise the serpent’s head also came in through the woman:
  1. Jesus was not the seed of a man; He was the seed of a woman.
  2. All the sisters should be proud of this; since the day Jesus came in through woman, there is the wonderful story of woman in the New Testament.
  3. There are six Marys recorded in the New Testament; the first Mary was the woman through whom Jesus was born; with Mary there is the seed of woman, and Jesus’ name is her seed.
- E. We should realize that the proper position of human beings is that of a woman; whether we are male or female we all have the position of a woman before God:
  1. If we claim that we are men before Him, we will immediately be devoured by Satan.
  2. Undoubtedly, the woman mentioned in Genesis 3:15 is Eve, and Eve signifies all the people of God, the people who take the position of a woman trusting in God; as long as we trust in God, we are His people, His wife.

## **Excerpts from the Ministry:**

### **The Head of Every Man**

In 1 Corinthians 11:3 Christ is presented as the Head of every man, who brings man under God's headship and sets up the order between man and woman: "Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ." In Ephesians 1:22-23 the headship of Christ over all things is to His Body, the church. In 1 Corinthians 11:3 the headship of Christ over every man is related to individuals. Christ is the Head of the Body, the church (Eph. 5:23), corporately, and of the believers individually. He is the Head of every one of us directly.

In 1 Corinthians 11:3 Paul points out that the head of the woman is the man. In the divine governmental ordination, woman is under the headship of man. God created the female in this way (Gen. 2:18-24; 1 Tim. 2:13). According to the nature (1 Cor. 11:14) created by God, woman is subordinate to man.

Paul also says in verse 3 of 1 Corinthians 11 that the head of Christ is God. Christ is God's anointed One, the One appointed by God. Hence, He is under God, and God as the Originator is His Head. This refers to the relationship between Christ and God in the divine government.

Verse 3 reveals the universal headship. In the universe there is the headship: God is at the top as the head of Christ, Christ is the head of every man, the man is the head of the woman, and human beings are the head of all animals and plants (Gen. 1:26-28). Originally, there was such a headship in the universe, a headship that maintained a proper order in God's creation. Yet this order was overthrown by man's rebellion. Among the unbelievers, despite their civilized or cultured appearance, there is disorder in their private life, particularly in their marriage life. The women are not under the headship of men, and since the men do not have Christ, they are not under the headship of Christ and thus are not under the headship of God. Hence, all unbelievers, both men and women, are lawless. They live under the human government by compulsion, and many of them murmur and complain about the government, disliking the human authorities that rule over them. However, when we receive the Lord and become believers, Christ becomes our head. Our enjoyment of Christ as our head brings us under the headship of God and sets up a proper order between man and woman. We should enjoy Christ in His headship in order that we may be under the headship of God and man may be the proper head over woman.

We all need to be under the headship in God's governmental administration. The headship of Christ is related to the headship in God's universal governmental administration. The archangel with his subordinates rebelled against God's headship (Ezek. 28:13-18; Isa. 14:12-15; Matt. 25:41), establishing his kingdom of darkness (12:26; Col. 1:13), and became Satan, God's adversary. God created man to deal with Satan and his rebellious angels. Nevertheless, Satan seduced man to follow him and rebel against God. God then sent His Son to destroy Satan and rescue man out of Satan's authority back to God's kingdom (1 John 3:8; Heb. 2:14; Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13); in redemption God in Christ brought fallen man back to Himself. God's redeemed people are now the church. As the church, we should declare to the angels, to both the rebellious and submissive ones, that as God's redeemed people, we are not rebellious against His headship but are under His headship, the divine authority. We enjoy Christ as our Head and thus remain under the headship of God. Not only will we be under God's headship in the coming kingdom age and in eternity, but we submit to His authority even in the present rebellious age. We need to realize that we must be under the headship of Christ. When we enjoy Christ as our Head, this enjoyment brings us under God's headship and sets up the order between man and woman. Hence, we must enjoy Christ as our Head in order to live under God's headship, the divine authority, and to keep God's ordained order in His administration.

In Revelation we see that Christ, the slain Lamb, is absolutely under the headship of God for the carrying out of God's administration. Christ is the Administrator who is carrying out God's administration through His submission to God's headship. Revelation 4 and 5 show that the slain, resurrected, and ascended Lamb is taking the lead to submit Himself to the headship of God in the heavens. In contrast, the earth is filled with rebellion. Satan is taking the lead to rebel against God. Nevertheless, in the midst of all this rebellion, there is a Body composed of those who have been redeemed and baptized into the Triune God. This is the Body of the One in heaven who submits Himself to God's headship. The Body of Christ on earth should reflect Christ the Head in submitting Himself to the headship of God. Although the earth is filled with rebellion, we must be a people under God's headship, who through their submission to Christ reflect Christ's submission to God. (*Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 312, pp. 3165-3167)

### **The Woman's Assuming the Headship**

Now we must see the inward cause of man's first fall. I am strong on this point. The inward cause of man's fall was the woman's assuming the headship (vv. 2-3, 6). Eve was ensnared by the serpent because she forgot her husband. The Devil was crafty, knowing that the woman was weaker than the man (1 Pet. 3:7), and he chose her as his target. Regardless of what the woman said to the serpent, as long as she stood there and spoke to him, she was wrong, for it indicated that she had assumed the headship. The safest way for her would have been not to talk to the evil one, but to turn to her husband and hide behind him. If Eve had done this, the subtle one would have been frustrated. Therefore, the basic cause of man's first fall was the assuming of the headship by the wife. Although she had a husband, she nonetheless stood on her own.

#### **The Significance of the Woman**

The significance of the woman is that she represents man before God. In the life-study message on Romans 7 we pointed out that Isaiah 54:5 says, "For thy Maker is thine husband." God is the unique, universal man. Whether we are males or females we are all a part of His wife. Man's position is not the position of the husband; it is the position of a wife. God is our husband. The headship is with God, not with us, not even with the men. Before God, the position of the brothers is the same as that of the sisters. Both sisters and brothers are females in the eyes of God.

#### **The Position of the Woman**

God is our Husband and our Head, and we must always keep ourselves under His covering. The woman must cover her head and never assume the headship (1 Cor. 11:3, 5, 14-15). Since God is our Head we should always turn to Him. By the Lord's mercy, I have learned of Him. If I had been Eve in the garden and the Devil had come to me, I would not even have looked at him. I would have turned to my husband and hidden myself behind him. I would have let Adam be the head and let him exercise his headship. Then there would have been no problem.

#### **The Failure of the Woman**

The failure of the woman consisted in being over the man and assuming the headship (cf. 1 Tim. 2:14). This failure on Eve's part typifies man's assuming the headship and signifies his being over God and putting God aside. This same principle operates today. Whenever we act on our own, putting the Lord aside, we are defeated. If we try on our own to be victorious, that very effort is a defeat because it keeps us away from our husband, our Head. Never do anything by yourself. To try to do anything by yourself means that you are assuming the headship and forgetting your position as a wife. We should be wise and never take the position of the husband.

Eve in the garden was our representative. Nearly all of us on occasion have acted in the way she did. We have become Eve. Whatever situation occurred we faced it by ourselves. Although we might

have prayed a great deal, when the problem presented itself we forgot our husband and acted as if we had none. Why do you not turn to your husband? Why do you always meet the temptations alone? As long as you confront situations by yourself you stay away from your husband. That was the basic cause of man's first fall. As a minister of the Word, I must learn the lesson of not speaking by myself. While I am speaking I must rely upon my husband. I must hide myself in Him and be one with Him. If I fail to do this, I will become another Eve and will be defeated.

Now we can see that we should not blame Satan too much. We all must blame ourselves because we have assumed the headship and have not respected our husband. We assumed the headship, forgetting that we are the wife. When mothers deal with their little children they may deal with them independently. They may say, "I know how to take care of children. I have been a mother for years. I know what to do and I know how to do it." If you adopt this attitude, you immediately become Eve. Although you may do a good job, in fact you are defeated. We must remember the principle of man's first fall: man renounced the wife's position and assumed the husband's position, making himself the head and the husband. Whether our efforts succeed or fail makes no difference. As long as we stay away from God and presume that we can act apart from Him, we have been defeated already. We must see this.

We may experience this even as we deal with our temper. To be defeated by our temper is a small thing. However, if we try by ourselves to overcome our temper, we commit a sin. The attempt itself is a great sin. Your trying to defeat your temper means that you are assuming the headship. You must learn to say, "Lord, I do not care whether or not I can defeat my temper. Lord, I rely upon You for this. It is not my responsibility to deal with my temper. Lord, I am not the husband. You are my husband. I simply rely upon You. I don't assume that I have the headship. Lord, You are my Head. Lord, You take care of my temper." If we all learn this lesson and maintain this stand before the Lord, our temper will disappear. The Devil will be defeated. We must learn this one, basic principle.

#### The Process

#### Not Using the Spirit

Adam and Eve failed because they did not use their spirit. If Eve had turned to the spirit, there would have been no problem. Our husband is with our spirit. However, if we remain in our mind it means that we are assuming the headship, setting our mind to behave independently. This is awful and sinful. We must realize that our husband is with our spirit and exercise our spirit accordingly. Even when your temper is stirred within you, you need to turn to the spirit. Although you may say that it is difficult to turn in such a circumstance, I would reply that in such difficult times it is all the more necessary for us to turn to our spirit. Do not deal with your temper; turn yourself to the spirit. Learn to use your spirit. All Christians know how to pray and ask God to help them, but few of them know that they have a spirit to which they can turn. We do have such an organ, and it has a wonderful function. Since God is with our spirit, we need to turn to it. If we will learn to turn to our spirit and to exercise our spirit in every situation, the results will be marvelous.

How do you know when you are using your spirit? It is very easy. Whenever you do a certain thing or contact a person without being with God it proves that you are not using your spirit. Regardless of what you do, if you are independent of God and not contacting Him while you are doing it, it proves that you are not in the spirit. Be assured that in such a case you will suffer loss. We all must learn to contact God in everything. As long as we contact Him, we are in our spirit. As long as I walk, I am using my feet; as long as I see, I am using my eyes; and as long as I contact God, I am using my spirit, since my spirit is the organ by which I contact Him (John 4:24). If I see, it means that I am exercising my eyes. Likewise, if I am contacting God, I must be exercising my spirit. This is very precious in our daily walk, and we all must learn to practice it.

Thus, the first step in the process of man's fall was failing to use his spirit. Adam and Eve did not contact God in eating of the tree of knowledge, but instead paid attention to things other than God, not taking Him as the Head. (*Life-study of Genesis*, msg. 18, pp. 232-236)

### THE SEED OF WOMAN

Jesus also has another name: the Seed of a Woman. This is seen in Genesis 3:15. 'And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.'

Why is Jesus called the Seed of Woman? To see this we must realize that in order to fulfill His purpose God created man as the center of the universe. It is not a small thing that we have been created in God's image. Adam was made in the image of God. But God said that it was not good for man to be alone. So He took a part of the man and built this part into a woman. This is God's economy. Many times those of us who are husbands wish that we did not have a wife. Yet, on the other hand, we simply cannot go on without a wife. God's economy destines us in this way. Hence, God prepared a wife for man.

But not long after God made a help meet for man, Satan entered. He did not make his first approach to mankind through the man, but through the woman. The husband may be likened to the front door, and the wife to the back door. He came in from the woman's direction, not from the man's. This may seem terrible, but it is really wonderful.

Forty years ago I heard a message by Brother Watchman Nee in which he said that in the entire universe God has an enemy, who may be likened to a mouse running loose in our house. How can we get rid of him? The best way is to set a trap. With the trap, there is always a little door. The door to the trap is the woman. The trap-maker made the door. Then one day Satan came into mankind through this door. He thought that he had captured man, but God had caught the enemy in a trap. This is why in Genesis 3 God told the enemy that the seed of the woman would bruise his head.

So eventually we see that the woman is not so bad. Eventually she is glorious. Though Satan came in through the woman, the Seed who would bruise the serpent's head also came in through the woman. Hallelujah! Jesus was not the seed of a man; He was the seed of a woman. All the sisters should be proud of this. Since the day Jesus came in through woman, there is the wonderful story of woman in the New Testament. Not long ago I fellowshiped with the sisters in Los Angeles about the six Marys recorded in the New Testament. Of course, the first Mary was the woman through whom Jesus was born. With Mary there is the seed of woman, and Jesus' name is her seed. (*The Wonderful Christ in the Canon of the New Testament*, msg. 1, pp. 8-9)

**Study Questions:**

1. In God's creation, according to 1 Corinthians 11:3, how did God arrange an order of headship in His administration?
2. Based on man's fall in Genesis 3:1-6 and 1 Timothy 2:14, how do we see woman's need to be under the proper headship?
3. After the fall, and according to God's promise, how did God do something through the woman to defeat His enemy? How does this show us the importance of woman in God's administration?

**References and Further Reading:**

1. *Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 312.
2. *Life-study of Genesis*, msg. 18.
3. *The Wonderful Christ in the Canon of the New Testament*, ch. 1.