

Pastor Kyle Mercer
Multiply as a Woman

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Series: Made to Multiply
Genesis 2:18-23, 3:20

**BIG IDEA - WOMEN ARE UNIQUELY CALLED TO PARTNER, HELP,
AND BRING LIFE TO ALL THE RELATIONSHIPS IN THEIR LIVES**

What a powerful picture of a woman investing in other women and of a mother investing in a daughter. Today, we're going to talk about biblical womanhood, and I am prepared. I spent all week watching *What Women Want* with Mel Gibson, so I am ready. No. Open up your Bibles to Genesis, chapter 2. We're going to look at the first woman, the first wife, the first mom, Eve.

Before we get there, we need to celebrate something. We're in the Multiply Initiative. Hopefully you have your Multiply Moleskine. More coming in the weeks to come. Here's what I want to celebrate already. It's not just that we're going to multiply in the future; it's that we already are multiplying. Our Lexington community gathering had their first service this last week. We see you down there, Lexington. They had 250 people show up. Incredible. Thank you for those of you who served and showed up.

Here are the questions we're asking. We're asking two questions. Ask them with us. The first is...*What will our Lexington community gathering become?* That's largely dependent on those of you down there right now and you being all in with your time, talent, and treasure. But we're not just asking, "What will the Lexington gathering become?"

We're asking *this* question all the time...*What will our next location be?* Where are we going to go next? That depends in large part on *you* and the decisions you make over the next 16 months. Some of you are going to go, "Why am I driving 35 minutes to go to church? I need to bring Two Cities Church to my community." So, I'm excited to see what's going to happen there.

Listen. We're not just multiplying locationally; we're multiplying generationally. Look at this picture. Here are 200 students at our student camp last weekend. I dropped my daughter off. She's in seventh grade, of course. She wanted to be the first one there, so we got there early.

I looked like a goofball, but I'm walking around this camp all by myself, just praying over the cabins and looking at the beautiful area, and I'm watching parents drop off their kids. I'm watching student leaders hug the students as they get there. Guys, we had 50 student leaders and 200 students.

Hear me say this one more time. If you are a student or if you are a parent of a student, would you get your kids or get yourself into these incredible environments that we have? I am so grateful for the student ministry and the impact it's having on my family as well as so many other families in our church.

Finally, guys, this coming weekend is going to be the Weekender, and if you want to multiply... Some of you came around in the last four or five weeks. You came because a friend got baptized, or something, and you saw where we're headed and what we're doing as a church. I just want to invite you to get in. The Weekender is how you get into the church so we can multiply together. So, let me pray for us, and then we have a lot to cover as we talk about biblical womanhood and look at the first woman Eve. Let's pray.

Lord, thank you for so many different things to be grateful for. Thank you for the team down in Lexington who have been all in with their time, talent, and treasure. I pray that you would multiply their faith and multiply their effort and that that extension of our church would grow numerically, spiritually, and organizationally. Thank you for all of the students, Lord, that their lives are being transformed.

I thank you that our student ministry is such an ark and a lighthouse. I'm encouraged that I was told, over the last six months, 10 different students in our student ministry have said they believe you might be calling them to full-time ministry. I pray for the group in here that needs to take their next step to deepen their connection to the local church so they and their family can more deeply multiply. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.

Well, I love to watch movies, and I also love to learn, so my favorite type of movie... If I could just watch one type of movie, it would be a documentary. If I could tell you my favorite documentary over the last two years, it's *this* one. Have you seen this? *What Is a Woman?* I know it's kind of a provocative cover.

This was put out by the *Daily Wire*. Matt Walsh... He's kind of an interesting guy. He kind of has deadpan humor, if you've ever seen him. He has a big beard and glasses.

By the way, this is the most popular documentary *Daily Wire* has ever put out. It was so popular that Elon Musk pinned it to his X account, and it got 187 million views. If you haven't seen this, you need to see it. You need to watch it with your teenagers. Here's what he does the whole movie. It's over an hour and a half long.

He goes to university professors and gender study experts. He goes to women's marches, and he talks to men and women. He interviews politicians. They talk about a lot of things. He just goes in there, and he sincerely says, "I just want to ask you this one question. What is a woman?" And they can't answer the question. They give the circular argument that they give today (you've heard this) that confused people give. "A woman is somebody who identifies as a woman." It's defining itself by itself.

Anyway, the documentary ends, and he walks into the kitchen in the last scene of the movie. He says to his wife, "I have a random question. What does it mean to be a woman?" Simply and nonchalantly, she says, "An adult human female," and the documentary ends.

Today I want to talk about what a woman is, and not just biologically, though we are so confused as a culture. It's important to say, "An XX chromosome." It's important to say, "An adult human female." It's important to say, "Somebody who has the potential to get pregnant." That's all important to say, but I'm not interested today in answering it biologically but, instead, answering it biblically.

I'm interested in this topic because I think women are confused today about who they are and what they should do. I don't know if they're any more confused than men. We talked about the men last week. Maybe women are more confused, potentially, because they have more options than they've ever had before.

I was reading this book. It's rated R if you read this book. It's called *Guyland*. It's written by a Jewish sociologist, and he spent, like, a decade on the college campus. It's fascinating. I've read it twice. It's all about guys, but you can't talk about guys without talking about the ladies.

Here's what he said. After 10 years on the college campus, he said the average college girl (I don't know if this scales once you're out of college) has three options. Option one: she can be the bro. He said what's interesting about the college campus is if you go to the average college classroom, all of the men and all of the women basically dress the same.

They have their hat on. They have their sweatshirt on. They have their baggy jeans on or whatever it is. He says that basically women feel like they have to be the bro. They have to drink light beer. They have to eat nachos. They have to know what's going on

in sports. He says what's interesting is, at night, they go from being the bro to the babe. He said this is so interesting. He was just observing.

He says men dress the exact same in the classroom as at the fraternity party. It's like there they are again in their goofy jeans and their sweatshirt. The women dress completely differently. Here's how it works on the college campus: if you won't be a bro, and you won't be a babe, then you're a... Well, I can't say that word and be a good Christian pastor up here. It's another *B* word. Some of you on the way home will be like, "*That's* what the word was." Yes.

It's not fair to women. Part of it is the oversexualization of our culture. Women are asking this question today. They're asking this question, I think, all the time. "Where do I fit in? What's my role in the church? What's my role in the home? What's my role as a single woman? What's my role in the university?" Women are asking this question all of the time. I want to try to speak to this today.

I've been teaching for 20 years, but I've been doing *this*, which is speaking to a local church, for eight years, and here's what I've found. Whenever you talk about biblical manhood, all of the women are like, "Give it to 'em! I brought my brother. My boyfriend is here. Give it to 'em." All of the men, about halfway through the sermon... I don't know if you noticed you were doing it last week.

Halfway through the sermon, the guy sits up a little bit straighter. His shoulders are back. He's like, "All right. All right. I can try this." This is so important to understand. When you talk to men about biblical manhood, they feel like you're calling them to more, but (and this is what I'm dealing with today) when you talk to women about biblical womanhood, they feel like you're going to take something away from them.

"Kyle, is this going to be a sermon on all of the things I can't do? Is this a sermon on the leadership position I can't have? Is the application of this sermon going to be that I need to be barefoot and pregnant, cooking sourdough bread in the kitchen?" The answer is "No."

We have to go back to Genesis, chapter 1. I'm not going to read it verbatim, but here's what I want you to understand. We don't understand Genesis 2 apart from Genesis 1. In Genesis 1, God creates pairs. Did you ever notice that? We disconnect it from Genesis 2.

Think about this. God creates heavens and the earth. I'm just quoting Scripture. God creates the birds and the beasts. God creates the land and the sea. God creates the day and the night. God creates the light and the darkness. Then the final pair that are to be different but complement each other is male and female, men and women.

Now, I'm going to say something that may be controversial, but I think it's biblical, so it doesn't really matter if it's controversial. I think it's very helpful to understand this. I don't think you can define a man apart from referencing a woman, and I don't think you can define a woman apart from referencing a man.

How would you define darkness without talking about light? It would be hard. Can you talk about the land apart from the sea? Yeah, but if you could also talk about the sea, you'd better understand what the land was. That's what I'm trying to say here. So, for the men, last week I said a man is somebody who is uniquely called to protect and provide spiritually and physically for the relationships in his life, and you'd probably say, "...especially the women in his life."

I'm going to give you a definition. By the way, how did I come up with this definition? This definition is based on the three names given to Eve: *woman*, *helper*, and *Eve*. We'll cover these today. If you put these three names together, *woman* means from man, partner; *helper* means strength and support; *Eve* means giver of life.

So, if we try to put a definition of *woman* together (and then we'll spend the rest of our lives living this out based on our season and stage and relationships we're in), I think a woman is uniquely called to partner, to help, and to bring life to all of the relationships in her life...maybe most especially to the men.

This will make more sense if we go to chapter 2, verse 18. Let me explain this. This is the last thing we get told before Eve is created. ***"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'"*** We now live in a Genesis 3 world, which means it's full of sin, rebellion, folly, and brokenness, but this is a Genesis 2 world we're in right now.

I want you to understand this and get this. The world was perfect, and the world was sinless. There was no sin, but God still says something is not good. Here's the first point: *it's not good for there to be no woman*. We all know this. Right? Here's the interesting thing. When you read a Bible verse (you know, I've been doing this for a while now), there is the specific, direct application of that Bible verse.

So listen to this verse. "It's not good for man to be alone." I'm going to tell you in a second what that specifically means. What we tend to think that means is we tend to go, "I know what this means. This is why you need to be in a Community Group: it's not good for man to be alone." We take it, we abstract it (this is fine to do), and by implication and application we say something like, "You know what? We need community." And we do.

We say something like, "We need accountability. We can't know ourselves by ourselves. We need friendship and fellowship and partnership." That's all true, but I

actually think, specifically, this verse is saying it is not good for a *man* to be alone. I think it's saying it's not good for *men* to be alone. We know this.

In fact, this is an interesting thing to look into. The average widower (a guy who loses his wife) is three times as likely to get married as a widow. That's 300 percent. Why? Because I think this is true. Women tend to do better by themselves than men do by themselves. Everybody who has ever met a single man says, "Amen."

Have you ever walked into a single freshman men's dorm? After you put your hazmat suit on... It smells like BO and burritos. I know this personally. I got married at 25, so I wasn't single that long, but what I brought to our marriage was one pan and a spork. I was like, "This is what I've been living off of." If you go into a single man's bathroom, if you go into a single man's kitchen, you know it is not good for man to be alone.

We know this. The stats are in. Men do worse with their physical health if they're single, because it's the wife who's like... I mean, how many wives here...? If you were not in your husband's life, he would eat horribly. You come in, and you're like, "Are you going to eat that whole tub of ice cream?" He's like, "Unless you selfishly want some, yeah." Right?

This is interesting. Single men don't make as much money as married men. Why is that? Well, we don't know...causation, correlation. But how many things do you need in your life to make you all you need to become? Jacob worked seven more years for Rachel. We know single men do not do as well with mental health.

We know single men tend to engage in more self-destructive behaviors because they don't have a wife in their life who says, "How many drinks did you have tonight, honey?" Men need women in their life. Yes, women need men in their life as well, but I'm saying I believe this is a unique call.

So, let me show you what God does. I'm going to read the verse again. ***"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'"*** Why does God say, "The man needs a helper," but then he has to give the man an object lesson? He's about to walk all of the animals in front of the man and say, "These are not going to suffice to be your helper."

Let me tell you what he's trying to do. He's trying to help the man see his need for a woman. Men will not see their need for a woman unless they're doing something unbelievably weighty and significant with their life. If you're like, "I want to build a career, I want to build a family, and I want to leave a legacy," it's like, "Well, you're going to see your need for a woman." Look at what happens here.

"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.' 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. 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."

Then God does this. Verse 21: ***"So the LORD God caused a deep sleep..."*** God is the first doctor. He gives the first anesthesia. ***"...to fall upon the man, and while he slept..."*** By the way, notice it's the personal name of God also used in the creation of Eve, as it was in the creation of Adam. ***"...took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man."***

Most of us (probably all of us) have heard this story so many times it doesn't seem strange to us anymore, but as I've told you so many times, a good Bible reader is a confused Bible reader. Why would God make the woman this way? I mean, he could have made a woman the exact same way...made her in the garden, maybe not in the wilderness, but made her from the dust of the ground. Why from Adam's side? Why take Adam's rib?

Well, there are many things that hopefully we'll have time to get into, but one of the reasons is (men need to hear this) men need to understand that if they are going to have a wife in their life, it's going to cost them something personally. How many men are not willing to give up part of themselves to merge their life with a wife? Adam had to kind of involuntarily learn this lesson.

Here's what happens. This is important. Verse 23: ***"Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh..."*** This is the first time she gets named by Adam. Adam names the animals, and then he names his wife. ***"...she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."***

So, the first name the lady is given is *woman*, which literally means from man. Now let me show you this. In 1 Corinthians 11:8-9... Listen. This passage is so explosive that if you Google it, your computer may explode. If you open to this verse, a stick of dynamite may fall out of your Bible. Careful. This is Paul interpreting what I just read, and I'm going to try to explain what all this means in a second.

First Corinthians 11:8-9, the New Testament interpreting and explaining the Old Testament. ***"For man was not made from woman..."*** He speaks of the order of creation and then how the creation happened. ***"...but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man."*** Paul could not be clearer. He does

what theologians do, affirmations and denials. In other words, the woman was created for the man, and the man was not created for the woman.

Okay. Now I have to talk about something we need to be sensitive with, but listen. The Bible teaches male headship. Some of you have never heard of this. You can Google it. You can read about it on your own. You can talk about it with your Community Group leader. I'm sure they'll be very excited to do that.

Male headship means men have the primary responsibility in the church and in the home to lead the partnership God has created. Men have a unique responsibility in the church and in the home to lead the partnership between the men and the women. Now, this is where it gets messy because of the world we live in. If I were giving this sermon 100 years ago, basically all of you would be married, and if you weren't married and you were an adult, you'd be married very soon.

The way male headship works out in the government or in the workplace or among single people... The farther we get from God's clear teaching on the church and the home, the more you need wisdom, the more there is gray, the more there is freedom, and the more, honestly, there's mess, but I want us to understand this.

Single ladies... I have a lot of great things to say to you today as well. I'm excited about it, but, single ladies, if you do not like the idea of male leadership, if you do not like the idea of male headship in the home, then don't get married. If you want to be the head of your own home, you want to completely provide for yourself, and you want to set the complete direction of your life, remain single.

What I have found is most women are dead tired of that by 35 years old. They're very tired of it, and they wish they could connect their life to a man where there would be direction and provision. Let me speak to the married women, because it's hard. Think about your marriage, married women. Are you the problem? Are you horrible or is your husband horrible? Most likely, you're both horrible, so good luck. How are you going to work all this out?

Let me challenge you. Try this until Christmas, and then afterward you can go, "Oh, Kyle doesn't know what he's talking about. That's not what the Bible says." Try to come alongside your husband to uniquely partner with him, to ask him to lead, and to figure out how you could come alongside him so he could become everything God wants him to be. Maybe (maybe I'm wrong on this, but I don't think so), in the meantime, doing that, *you* will become everything God wants *you* to be.

Here's a little secret. Every time this is talked about... Because it's hard, and I'll tell you why it's hard in a second. Whenever this is talked about, and we have to abstract

it... You know, most of you have never even seen this, so you're like, "Oh, this is..." Whenever this is taught, it's attacked. Whenever it's lived out, it's attractive.

Let me tell you a little secret behind the scenes. Who are the married couples everybody wants to spend time with in our church? It's the people who are living this out. We're not asked randomly. We're always asked about certain couples. We're always asked about certain families. It's like, "Wow." Yeah, because they're living this out. Why is it so hard for us to hear today?

We're exploring together, guys, so we're going to go to a different place on the map for a little bit. I want to talk about why it's so hard for us to hear the call for a woman to partner and to help and to bring life. Probably the hardest reason it's hard for us to hear this is we live in a feminist culture. I'm not talking about first-wave feminism, which was women's right to vote. I'm not talking about second-wave feminism, which was women in the workplace. I'm talking about the feminism of our day where...

Okay. I'm going to give you another story. Harrison Butker is the kicker for the Kansas City Chiefs. They won a Super Bowl...all that kind of stuff. So, Harrison Butker goes to a Catholic college. He's asked to give the commencement speech. He gets into some silly things about the Catholic mass. I'm like, "Why are you talking about that?" But in general, he said a lot of great things. "Hey, I'm grateful."

One of the things he says to this class... Go listen to it. It's a 20-minute talk. He spends, like, two minutes... He goes, "Hey, guys. So proud of you. Ladies, I'm so excited for you to start your careers. I think you may find what my wife has found. There has been nothing more meaningful in her life than being a wife and mother, and I'm so grateful for my wife." And he actually starts to cry. Then he moves on and talks about some other things.

As you would imagine, the mainstream media threw a hissy fit that someone would even dare to put in a woman's mind that being a wife and a mother might be something valuable or meaningful in her life. The feminist agenda is so strong it shows up even in Disney movies.

I hate to say this out loud, but I like the movie *Frozen*. I wish I didn't, but I do. Here's the thing about *Frozen*. *Frozen* is about Elsa discovering herself, letting it go. Think about this with me. All this stuff is so subtle. Who are the two men in Elsa's life? Kristoff. He's the goofy bro. His best friend is an animal. He can't get his life together.

And who's the other man in the story? Hans. He doesn't really want a woman. He wants a woman for what she can do for him. He doesn't want to serve her. He wants to take advantage of her. So, who saves the day? How is Elsa saved? She's saved by another woman, her sister. The feminist fantasy.

So, we live in this culture where that's happening. There's a second thing that's very interesting. Women are single for so much longer than they've ever been before. When you say "single women," you're like, "What do you mean? Single? Do you mean single again? Do you mean single at 23 or do you mean single at 33?"

I looked this up. In 1950... That was not that long ago. In human history it's like blinking an eye. It's one old person ago. Think about it. One old person ago, you were in 1950. Do you know how old the average woman who got married was in 1950? Twenty. Just think about this with me for one second.

When are you single? We don't look at a 14-year-old and go, "He's single." We're like, "He's 14. We hope he graduates high school." We don't really consider somebody single usually until they're 18. It's like, "Okay. Now you're single." Just think about this with me. I don't know all of the answers. We're exploring together.

How long was the average woman single up until one old person ago? One to two years of their life. The average woman today... This keeps going up, but the newest statistic I could find is the average woman today gets married at 29 years old. So, what are the effects of being single for 10 or 15 years as an adult? Answer: we don't know. I mean, in 100 years in the history books... It's a new phenomenon. And we love the single ladies.

Here's what I'm struggling with. I want to hold up what the Bible holds up, marriage as the norm and what is to be honored by all, the Bible says, and also realize we are in a time where that is not being experienced, especially by a lot of young ladies. For example, the number-one fastest buyer of single-family homes is single women.

I remember my good friend from college... She ended up getting married, but I remember her... She was in her mid-20s, and she started crying as she was telling a group of us something. She was about 25 years old. She started crying, and she said, "I bought my own KitchenAid mixer."

All of the guys were like, "And why are you upset about that?" She went on to explain that's something young ladies put on their wedding registry. So, when you start buying all of the things in your life that you thought you weren't going to buy or get until you got married, it's...

Then women are working more. I'm not here to talk about the morality of working outside the home. Of course single women are going to work more if they're outside of their father's home and are not in their husband's home and all that. What's interesting is when women go to work, even more women go to work. How does that work? Well, when women go to work, they hire other women to do the things they're

not doing anymore. Of nannies, 99.9 percent are women. Of people who clean homes, 99.9 percent are women.

So, we have women working, we have women single, and then women's lives are way more complicated than men's. Why? Because they have to get their lives together more quickly than men do because they have a biological clock. If you don't graduate from grad school until you're 25 or residency until you're 30, then you have a very small window to get everything together.

I'll read you this. This is interesting. This is what one woman wrote. Not in our church. This is what a woman wrote about being a modern woman. See if this resonates with any of you ladies. "Being a woman today is hard and confusing. We're constantly bombarded by contradictory messages of what a woman is supposed to be. We aspire to the impossible (Gisele's legs)," which I think is Tom Brady's ex-wife.

She says, "Then I feel bad when I look at my own legs. Our mothers exemplified a generation that now feels out of date, leaving us scratching our heads, wondering what we're supposed to grow into. Messages of inadequacy bombard us. My skin isn't perfect. My arms aren't toned enough. My boobs aren't big enough. I'm too nice. I'm too accommodating. I'm too harsh. I'm too indirect. I'm too bossy. I'm too passive.

I work too much. I waited too long to have kids. I'm falling short of my potential if all I want to do is be a mom. We're expected to be feminine and masculine, powerful and gentle, sexy and motherly. We've got all kinds of roles to fill...friend, lover, seductress, caretaker, sister, daughter, housekeeper.

Society rewards us for our appearance of youth. Our attractiveness somehow is the source of our power. We are judged whether we want children in marriage or whether we don't. We have a small window of time with which to make a career or a family, and then we're asked to balance it. It's madness." Women are like, "It's crazy. It's crazy. She said it for us." Yes, it *is* crazy, guys.

Then there's the last thing we've been talking about. Women are less happy today. There's a 35-year study done by a married couple who are both sociologists or psychologists. They named the study at the end: "The Paradox of Declining Female Happiness." They are confused themselves, because women can work more, they make more money, they have more freedom, they're more educated, and they can live anywhere they want to live, and they keep reporting they're less happy than they used to be.

Well, let's go back and see what God says to Eve. "***So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept...***" By the way, he had nothing to do

with the creation of Eve. Adam was sleeping. If your husband or your boyfriend or your grandfather randomly falls asleep, it's biblical.

"...while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man." Eve is made from Adam's side. I mentioned it earlier, but listen. Chauvinism would say the woman should have been made *behind* the man, feminism would say the woman should be made in *front* of the man, and the Bible says the woman was made from his side to be a partner with him.

I think this is why women love to cuddle so much. Do you agree? They like to be back right where they were created, in the side. But I want you to see this. **"Then the man said, 'This at last...'"** It's like, "At last? Adam, you've been alive for a day." **"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."**

Listen. These are the first words in human history that are recorded that a human has spoken. Up until now God speaks. The first words ever recorded are from a man to a woman. You'll notice they're indented. It's a song in Hebrew. This is the first R&B song in the Bible right here.

This is really important. The first words of a man to a woman are positive. How many women have had a bad experience with men? This is why they can't follow them. They don't want to marry them. They don't want to let them lead because men have been horrible in so many ways (that's a whole other sermon), and we know that.

What do women need from men? They need a lot of things, but they need attention and affirmation. I wonder if so many problems in marriage and so many problems between daughters and their fathers and moms and their sons and brothers and their sisters... If men would just pay attention to the women in their life and be unbelievably grateful for them and then tell them, I wonder if that would solve half of our problems. Maybe.

Then look at what happens. I'm going to go back to verse 18. **"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper...'"** We need to talk about the word *helper* because it means to bring strength and support. That's literally the word.

Here's what I want you to know. Though Adam calls the woman *Woman* (that's the first name), and though Adam calls the woman *Eve* (that's her third name), it is not the man, just for the record, who calls the woman *helper*; it is God. To be a helper is not to be inferior. God in the Old Testament in the Psalms calls himself the *helper of*

Israel. In some sense, to admit you need help may speak to your own weakness and need more than anything else.

In the New Testament, what is one of the words for the Holy Spirit, the third member of the Trinity? The *Helper*. Now here's what we know. Nothing gets done apart from the Holy Spirit, and nothing gets done apart from a woman. We all know that. I'll tell you a story that showed this point to me.

Years ago, Barack and Michelle Obama were at this nice restaurant. I don't know how that works when you're the president. You get to eat at these nice restaurants. You get these special tables. You get special access and all that kind of stuff. Anyway, they're at this meal together, and somehow they find out that the owner of this nice restaurant and the chef (same person) used to date Michelle back in high school. It was years ago.

So they say, "Bring him out." So he comes out. You can imagine meeting the president. They have a good conversation for a few minutes. He goes back, and Barack says to Michelle, "It's amazing. Think about how differently your life could have turned out. If you would have married him, you would own this incredible restaurant." She said, "Nope. If I would have married him, he would have been president." All of the women are like, "Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!"

The call of a woman is to help and not hurt. I have seen (I'm not thinking of any one person) very average men, dare I say below average, and somehow... You only have to trick one woman one time, but somehow they tricked some woman into marrying them, and she is just incredible. The way she comes alongside him, doesn't demean him, sees the best in him... That man becomes so much more than he could have been otherwise.

Then we've all seen the guy... You can almost see these guys when they walk into church. They have a glazed look over their eyes, and they're a shell and shadow of who they've been. Somehow, their wife has been basically having a choke hold around their neck for the last 25 years of marriage. Women have a unique... It's a superpower to be the helpful partner in life or to nag, to destroy, and to break down.

That leads to the last thing, the name *Eve*. Let's go to chapter 3, verse 20. It says, "***The man called his wife's name Eve...***" Some think this might be a nickname, because we nickname the ones we love. He already called her *Woman*. Why also call her *Eve*? "***...because she was the mother of all living.***"

Women have a unique ability to bring life, to give life, and to speak life into all of their relationships, but I would say especially men. I mean, think about what a woman can do. A woman can grow a human in her body, and then deliver that human, and then

feed that human with her body. You think about what a guy contributed to all that. Not much.

A woman has a unique opportunity to bring life. What's a synonym for bringing life? *Beauty*. As soon as a guy gets married, he's like, "There are pillows everywhere. There are candles." The other day, I walked into our master bathroom, and we had eucalyptus hanging. I was like, "It smells amazing in here. I would never buy eucalyptus. This is awesome."

Women have a unique ability to make a house into a home. Women have a unique ability to speak life. I mean, now here we are. We're eight years in, and we can kind of see what happened, but about nine years ago, when Margy and I were talking about planting this church... I was like, "Am I going to go into business with my dad? Am I going to stay where I am? Am I going to try to do something? I don't know."

I remember there was this moment where she looked at me and said, "If you plant this church, it will grow and people will follow you," and I was like, "Oh! Say it again." There is no Two Cities Church apart from Margy. Give her a round of applause right now. Anyway, women have to understand the power of their words.

They do understand this in the negative. It's the power of seduction. We understand that. We need to understand the power of words for good. Where we've tried to go today is we've tried to say what I said two weeks ago: the differences between men and women are God-given and good. They're for human flourishing.

Part of what has happened is we have not valued each other's differences, and sometimes, like I said at the beginning, we've tried to define our lives apart from the other sex, and we can't do it. We were meant to come together, men, to uniquely protect and provide spiritually and physically for the relationships in our lives. Women are uniquely called to respond to that in partnership, in helping, in strength, in support, and in life giving.

So, let me end with the same verse I read. I want to read it to you one more time. Then I want to talk to all different types of women as we close. Verse 20: "***The man called his wife's name Eve...***" Here's the last title. "***...because she was the mother of all living.***" Let me just talk to moms for a second. You know this, but it is an incredible gift, an incredible stewardship, and an incredible responsibility to be a mom.

The clearest way a mom is going to multiply is by investing in the children God has put right in front of her. This is true for men and for women, but for most of us, our greatest contribution to society will not be something we do but will be somebody we raise. You have to understand that I'm trying to lift up... Part of my job is to say the

things the Bible says that the culture is not saying or suppressing, so I just want to lift up moms.

Secondly, I want to talk to the single ladies. We love all of the single ladies. As I've gotten to know many single ladies over the last decade or so here, we know that almost every single lady in here so desires one day, and for many of you sooner than later, to be married and to have a husband. What I'm trying to do is hold up that ideal that you aspire to and pray for and we want to see happen and also say what a unique calling the single ladies have in the season they are in.

By the way, we need to give the single ladies a round of applause because no one helps more than them. I mean *nobody*. There's no one in our church who helps more than the single ladies. Single moms as well. We're doing a lot of clapping today, but they deserve it.

Let me say this. It's so messy. I gave a version of this sermon Thursday morning to a few of the staff, and one of the feedbacks was, "Hey, Kyle, it's great. You do your cultural analysis. You do the biblical things. How do you help women actually multiply? Give me a tool."

I think the biggest thing we do is connect our lives to this church and to other people. Singleness in the Bible is called a gift, not a present. A lot of single women are like, "Well, then I want the gift receipt." Singleness is a gift. It's a divine enablement for a season of your life where you can uniquely be committed to the Great Commission and discipling others like never before.

Let me say this, as well, to the older ladies in here. A lot of the older couples in our church that have come here... Because I always ask people, "Why did you come here?" I want to encourage you with this. This is what a lot of the older women said. "I wanted to be around all of these young women. Maybe I made a few mistakes in my marriage" or "I did some things well in my parenting, and there's nothing I want more than to be around some single women and some young moms and some young married women."

So, I want to encourage the older women to invest (Titus 2) into the younger women in this church, and together we are going to multiply together. Nobody loved and cared for single women, and all women, better than the Lord Jesus Christ, whether it was his relationship with Martha or his relationship with Mary or his relationship with the woman at the well who was cohabitating and already had four marriages.

Jesus uniquely cared for, respected, and elevated women in a culture that didn't, and we are excited to see how God is going to use men and women as we embrace our unique roles and as we multiply together. Let's pray.

Lord, thank you so much for the women in our church. I just want to say thank you. Thank you for all of the single women. They are serving everywhere. They show up to babysit. They're the backbone of our kids' ministry. They're on every serving team, giving their time and energy. Lord, I pray for the single women. I pray two things.

First, that you would recall them to multiply even in their singleness, to commit more deeply to investing in the younger generation, to commit more deeply to making disciples and multiplying their lives. Lord, I also pray that you would bring a godly man into their lives, Lord, that they would say, "This is the guy I'd like to partner with, I'd love to help, I'd love to bring life, and I'd love to subdue and have dominion together with him."

Lord, I pray for the older women, that you would give them a unique eye to observe the women in our church who might be hurting. They might be hurting in their singleness. They might be hurting in their marriage. They might be hurting as moms to young kids and overwhelmed. Lord, I just pray the church would be the church, we would move toward each other, you would bless that, and we would multiply. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.