

## DISTINCTIVE DIGNITY

June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**Foundations // Genesis 1:26–28; 2:16–25**

### Message Context

*God created male and female with equal dignity as image-bearers, a shared mission to multiply His glory on the earth, and a distinct design that enables them to fulfill that mission together. The culture's confusion about gender is not an invitation to revise God's labels — it is a reminder of why His design matters.*

### CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. Who in your family growing up was the best at their "role" — the most provider-y dad, the most nurturer-y mom, or whatever variation your family had? What's one memory that proves your answer?
2. If you had to describe the most important thing you learned about being a man or a woman from watching your parents (or another influential adult), what would it be — and is it something you'd want to pass on?

### REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

3. Read Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:16-25. What stands out to you most from a fresh reading of these passages, and is there anything from the message that you want to be sure we don't miss as a group?
4. Pastor Jeremy opened with the image of mislabeling — pill bottles, wiring panels, allergens. "Labels matter because design matters." Where in today's culture do you see God's labels being replaced with something else — and what has been the result?
5. Pastor Jeremy said, "Your gender is not a question you need to answer - it is a gift God already gave you." How does that truth bring both comfort and correction in our culture?
6. The mandate in Genesis 1:28 — "be fruitful and multiply" — was given to both male and female together. Pastor Jeremy said this multiplication includes not just biological children but discipleship: multiplying image-bearers who reflect Christ's glory. What does your participation in that shared stewardship look like right now, in your current season of life?
7. The sermon summarized God's design for men as accountable, sacrificial headship. Where do you see that rooted in the Genesis text, and how does Jesus redefine headship as service rather than selfish control?
8. Adam's failure included passivity, silence, and listening to the wrong voice. What forms of spiritual passivity are common among men today, and how can brothers encourage one another toward sacrificial leadership?

9. In Genesis 2:18, God declares it "not good" for man to be alone — the first negative statement in all of Scripture. What does the fact that this was a designed incompleteness (not a mistake) tell us about the value God placed on the woman before she even existed?
10. The sermon summarized God's design for women as complementary, life-giving submission. How can we explain submission biblically as role and alignment rather than inferiority or loss of dignity?
11. The woman is called a "helper suitable" or "corresponding helper." How does the biblical use of "helper" protect us from treating women as lesser or passive or insignificant?
12. Pastor Jeremy proclaimed: "If your complementarianism causes you to demean or denigrate women, you've gotten the picture wrong." Where have you seen this go right in a marriage or family — and where have you seen it go wrong?
13. What would it look like this week to speak truth with love to someone who is confused, ashamed, or weary about identity, value, or God's design?

#### 🕒 PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)

14. The sermon challenged us not just to understand God's design but to live in it. Where is one specific area — in your home, your relationships, or your own sense of identity — where you need to surrender a "re-labeled" version of yourself and rest in the design God gave you? Share it with the group and invite their prayer and accountability.
15. Is there someone in your life right now — a family member, a friend, a coworker — who is wrestling with questions of gender identity or who has been hurt by the church's handling of this topic? Without sharing identifying details if needed: how can this group equip and pray for you as you love that person well, speaking truth with genuine care?
16. What is one tangible step you can take this week to better live out your God-given design as a man or woman in a way that multiplies His glory — in your family, your church, your neighborhood, or your workplace? Name it specifically so the group can pray for you and follow up.

Pray that God would help each person rest in His design, repent where needed, grow in Christlike sacrifice and submission, and multiply His glory in their home, work, church, and witness.

#### Announcements

**Worship Night: August 28 at 7pm** – Our Director of Worship, Selena Boyts, is planning an evening of worship. Save the date – more details to come.

**Emerald Crossing Summer Bible Camp: July 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>** – For Ages 2 and up! [nvf.life/kidscamp](http://nvf.life/kidscamp)

#### Resources for Going Deeper

- [Manhood and Womanhood Before Sin - Desiring God](#) - John Piper works from Genesis 2 to consider manhood and womanhood before the fall, with special attention to leadership and help.