

1 | God created man to be fruitful and multiply.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it . . ." **GENESIS 1:28**

God commanded man to *be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it*. We are appointed by God as stewards of His creation, and He has given us two ways to be fruitful and multiply. One is through our children, whom we have the responsibility to raise in a godly manner (Deuteronomy 6:6,7). The other is through making disciples. Jesus commanded all His followers, including you and me, to *go and make disciples of all nations* (Matthew 28:19). According to John 15:4, how can we be fruitful?

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2 | God created man to be productive and responsible.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. **GENESIS 2:15**

Man was the first to receive God's command. His purpose is to have dominion over the earth and every living creature on it. This includes stewarding God's creation: taking care of the living creatures and cultivating the land where God placed him. Until today, man is called to be responsible and productive, maximizing the strength and skills God has given him where he has been called. According to Proverbs 21:25,26, what happens when he refuses to work?

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3 | God created man to be loving and faithful in his relationships with his family.

²³*Then the man said, "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."* ²⁴*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

GENESIS 2:23,24

Humans are made for relationships. We are not self-sufficient or self-serving beings, but are created to love and thrive with one another. The design that God shows us in Genesis 2 is a relationship marked by close intimacy and faithfulness in the context of family. This is also what Jesus showed us through His life, death, and resurrection. He was sent to the earth in love and He lived with great love for us, even to the point of giving Himself up on the cross to save us and have a relationship with us (Ephesians 5:25–27). Man is also meant to reflect this love and faithfulness to the family he is part of—whether as a husband, father, son, brother, or friend—and in his church community. Knowing how Jesus loves us (Romans 5:8), how are we supposed to love others?

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APPLICATION

- What is one mindset you have about manhood that needs to be corrected? Meditate on Genesis 2:15 this week, and ask God to align your thoughts to His original design.
- How are you using your God-given skills and strengths for the calling He set for you?
- Who among your family and friends can you encourage to seek God and live out their identity in Him? How will you impart to that person the truth of their identity in God?