

1 Corinthians 11:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

Analysis

For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God—Paul continues the mutual balance. Ἐκ τοῦ ἀνδρός (of/from the man) recalls v. 8—Eve from Adam's side. But διὰ τῆς γυναικός (by/through the woman) reminds us that every man since Adam enters the world through a woman's womb. Biological reproduction reverses the creational order: woman from man (Genesis 2), but men through women (every birth).

But all things of God (τὰ δὲ πάντα ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ)—the theological climax. Both creational priority (man first) and reproductive reversal (man through woman) derive from God. Neither sex can boast or claim autonomy. This echoes 8:6: 'one God, the Father, of whom are all things.' The head-covering debate finds resolution not in cultural norms or gender politics but in theological grounding: God is source of both sexes, their differences, and their mutual need. Worship must reflect this God-designed order.

Historical Context

Paul's rabbinic training emphasized God as Creator and Sustainer. Jewish theology grounded ethics in creation narratives, not pragmatism. By anchoring gender roles in God's creative act, Paul transcends cultural relativism—this isn't Greco-Roman custom but divine design. Yet by emphasizing mutual dependence and God's ultimate sovereignty, he also avoids rigid patriarchy. This balance was

countercultural in both Jewish and pagan contexts, offering a third way: theological complementarity within mutual dignity.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does grounding gender roles in creation order (not culture) shape your view of male-female relationships?
2. What does biological reproduction's reversal of creational order teach about God's complex design for human interdependence?
3. How does 'all things of God' humble both male pride and feminist autonomy?

Interlinear Text

ἄσπερ	γὰρ	ἡ	γυναικός·	ἐκ	τοῦ	ἀνὴρ	οὕτως	καὶ
as	For	G3588	the woman	is of	G3588	is the man	even so	also
G5618	G1063		G1135	G1537		G435	G3779	G2532

ὁ	ἀνὴρ	διὰ	τῆς	γυναικός·	τὰ	δὲ	πάντα	ἐκ	τοῦ
G3588	is the man	by	G3588	the woman	G3588	but	all things	is of	G3588
G435	G1223			G1135		G1161	G3956	G1537	

θεοῦ

God
G2316

Additional Cross-References

Romans 11:36 (Parallel theme): For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 8:6 (References God): But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

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