

1 Corinthians 11:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.

Analysis

For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man—Paul continues his Genesis 2 argument. Οὐκ ἔστιν ἀνὴρ ἐκ γυναικός, ἀλλὰ γυνὴ ἐξ ἀνδρός—the preposition *ek* (from, out of) signals source and derivation. This refers to Eve's creation from Adam's rib/side (Genesis 2:21-22), not biological reproduction (which Paul will address in v. 12). Woman's derivative origin establishes a creational priority of man, though not superiority of value.

This verse is unpopular in egalitarian contexts, but Paul isn't making sociological commentary on modern gender roles—he's establishing theological foundations for worship practice. The head covering symbolizes this creational pattern: woman came from man (source) and was made for man (purpose, v. 9). This doesn't diminish women's worth any more than Christ's submission to the Father diminishes His deity (v. 3, 15:28). Order and equality coexist in biblical theology.

Historical Context

Genesis 2's creation account was central to Jewish and Christian anthropology. Unlike Ancient Near Eastern myths where gods create humans from blood, clay, or divine substance without differentiation, Genesis presents a two-stage creation: man from dust, woman from man. This narrative uniqueness grounds biblical complementarianism. Paul reads Genesis christologically and ecclesiologically throughout 1 Corinthians (15:21-22, 45-49), seeing Adam and Eve as typological for Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:31-32).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the two-stage creation account in Genesis 2 inform Paul's theology of gender roles?
2. Can derivative origin (woman from man) coexist with equal dignity? How does the Trinity model this?
3. In what ways does modern feminism's rejection of creational order reflect deeper rebellion against God's design?

Interlinear Text

οὐ	γάρ	ἐστιν	άνδρός·	ἐξ	γυνή	ἀλλὰ	γυνή	ἐξ
not	For	is	the man	of	the woman	but	the woman	of
G3756	G1063	G2076	G435	G1537	G1135	G235	G1135	G1537

άνδρός·
the man
G435

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 2:13 (Parallel theme): For Adam was first formed, then Eve.