

Mark 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.

Analysis

Jesus answered the Pharisees' question about divorce by returning to creation: 'from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female' (ἀπὸ δὲ ἀρχῆς κτίσεως ἄρσεν καὶ θῆλυ ἐποίησεν αὐτοὺς ὁ θεός). This quotes Genesis 1:27, establishing that binary sexual differentiation (male and female) is God's creative design, not social construct. The phrase 'from the beginning' (ap' archēs, ἀπὸ δὲ ἀρχῆς) makes creation God's normative revelation for marriage, predating the fall and Mosaic legislation. Jesus teaches that God's original design, not later accommodations to sin, reveals His will. This hermeneutical principle—reading Scripture through creation lens—grounds Christian ethics in God's pre-fall design. Gender complementarity is foundational to marriage, rooted in how God created humanity.

Historical Context

Genesis 1:27 states, 'God created man in his own image... male and female created he them.' This binary distinction is foundational to human identity and marriage. First-century Judaism affirmed this, though Greek philosophy sometimes promoted androgyny or gender fluidity (Plato's Symposium). Jesus' appeal to creation established permanent, transcultural norms versus culturally conditioned regulations. The early church followed this hermeneutic—1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 11:3-16; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Timothy 2:12-14 all ground theology in creation design. Reformed theology emphasizes creation ordinances (male-female

complementarity, marriage, work, Sabbath) as universally binding, predating special revelation and transcending cultural change.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' appeal to 'the beginning' challenge modern attempts to redefine marriage and gender based on contemporary culture rather than creation design?
2. What does this teach about using creation as interpretive lens for understanding God's will versus reading Scripture through cultural accommodation?

Interlinear Text

ἀπὸ δὲ ἀρχῆς κτίσεως ἄρσεν καὶ θῆλυ ἐποίησεν

from But the beginning of the creation male and female made

G575 G1161 G746 G2937 G730 G2532 G2338 G4160

αὐτοὺς ὁ θεός

them God

G846 G2316

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 1:27 (Creation): So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 5:2 (Creation): Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

2 Peter 3:4 (Creation): And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

Genesis 1:1 (Creation): In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.