

Exploitation, particularly of the physically weaker, persists across ages, with women and children being common victims. God, in creating humanity, made both male and female in His image, bestowing upon them the task of ruling the earth and multiplying. However, the fall disrupted this harmony, introducing a shift in the relationship dynamics between men and women.

Genesis 3:16 gives the change and the new order in their relationship, where eve was told, "Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." This shift in authority doesn't equate to the dominion given over animals and plants but implies a caring leadership where the husband rules with the well-being of his wife in mind. Jesus provided a model of the ideal husband-wife relationship, exemplifying submission and headship through his love and sacrificial nature rather than a mere assertion of authority.

Despite our creation in the image of God, the caring model of the Trinitarian relationship often lacks in human interactions. Women, unfortunately, are sometimes treated as commodities or objects of desire, even within the church, where the principles of love and tenderness should prevail. Despite the existence of laws protecting women, exploitation and abuse persist both within homes and in broader society.

The Cross serves as a reconciling force, eliminating unnecessary barriers between male and female, establishing equality for serving Him as partners. Men are called to recognize the Godgiven image in women, treating them with dignity and honor. Our prayer is for a Godly conviction to permeate the hearts



of men and families, transforming attitudes and behaviors to eradicate the exploitation of women both within and outside the home.

## LET US PRAY

Lord, you created human beings as male and female to be equals and to serve you, but we have misused our gender to dominate and exploit women within our own homes and in society. Today, we remember families where women are suffering exploitation and are in pain and agony. We ask for you to restore the dignity and honor of women who have endured exploitation in our churches and communities. May the Cross break down the barriers created by our culture and traditions between the genders, enabling us to peacefully and joyfully coexist as your children and fulfill your work in this world. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.



