



Did God originally plan for BOTH men and women to lead?

Absolutely! God honored and blessed the first man and woman and gave them *both* five key commands. In the ideal perfection of sinless creation, we find God’s heart to bless humanity and establish a world-reaching mandate that leads to human flourishing. Consider God’s first words to people in Genesis 1:28:

Key Term
them
plural pronouns and plural verbs

*“God blessed **them** and said to **them**, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’”*

How do we know the command is for both of them and not just for the man? VERBS and PRONOUNS

Clearly God intended both male and female to share in these commands/blessings because God used five, *plural*, imperative Hebrew verbs. Also, notice that God used *plural* pronouns blessing ‘them’ and instructing ‘them.’ God designed a powerful and harmonious partnership between male and female from the beginning.

God used plural verbs and plural pronouns.

The First Five Commands

God did *not* repeat himself with five, identical verbs. Rather, these commands offer God’s clear, strategic blueprint for people. Since God spoke to *both* of them, men and women are *both* required to fulfil each of these commands.

- PARAH (to be fruitful)** - God instructed the first couple to ‘enjoy one another!’ and procreate people who reflect God’s image. No one is foolish enough to think only one gender can accomplish the task alone. Likewise, in the church, God intends both men and women to be fruit-producing, image-bearing, makers of disciples.
- RABAH (to multiply)** - This imperative means that men and women should spread God’s abundant life quickly to all nations (multiply rather than add)! While bearing fruit replicates life, *rabah* increases the speed.
- MALE (to fill full)** - It means to overflow, satisfy, and replenish. God intended that men and women leave no area of society untouched with God’s glory: education, business, entertainment, government, media, healthcare, etc. We are to influence and impact every area of culture based on giftedness, passion, and experience.
- KABASH (to subdue)** - This means to overcome or bring into subjection. *Kabash* does not mean simply clearing farmland or taming animals; God wants victory over every enemy. Jesus came to destroy the enemy’s work (1 John 3:8). Men and women together are to overcome the darkness and chaos and bring God’s light and peace.
- RADAH (to rule)** - God wants his people to rule and care for all creation. Ruling over the earth is not a task given to only one gender. In Genesis 1, God told ‘them’ to rule, but not over each other! God blessed humanity with leadership, and both are to exercise dominion as ambassadors of God’s reigning kingdom.

Conclusion

God blessed and commanded BOTH male and female. He did not limit leadership to men only. Rather BOTH received the powerful privileges and weighty instructions. The enemy wants to pervert each of these commands and destroy God’s team. But we are to reflect God’s heart for mutual collaboration.

4 Crucial Questions

1. What does this teach us about **GOD**?
2. What does this teach us about **PEOPLE**?
3. What command should I **OBEY**?
4. With whom can I **SHARE** this?