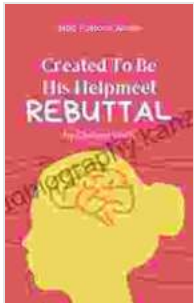


Created To Be His Helpmeet: A Biblical Rebuttal



Created To Be His Helpmeet Rebuttal by Chelsea Wells

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 199 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 90 pages
Lending : Enabled



Debi Pearl's book, *Created To Be His Helpmeet*, has garnered significant attention and controversy within Christian circles. Published in 1994, the book advocates for a strict and patriarchal view of marriage, arguing that women are created to be subservient to their husbands and that their primary role is to support and nurture their families.

While some have embraced Pearl's teachings, many have raised concerns about their biblical accuracy and their potential to promote harmful gender stereotypes. This article aims to provide a comprehensive rebuttal of *Created To Be His Helpmeet*, examining its key arguments and offering a more balanced and biblical perspective on marriage and gender roles.

1. The Biblical Basis of Helpmeet

Pearl's central argument revolves around the claim that the term "helpmeet" in Genesis 2:18 implies female inferiority and submission. However, a closer examination of the biblical text reveals a more nuanced understanding.

The Hebrew word used for "helpmeet" is "ezer," which can mean "helper" or "complement." It is used in other passages to describe God's relationship with Israel (e.g., Exodus 18:4) and to refer to the role of men in supporting women (e.g., Psalm 118:7). Therefore, the term does not inherently carry the connotation of female subordination.

Furthermore, the context of Genesis 2:18 suggests that the helpmeet is not inferior, but complementary to the man. The passage states that God made the woman "a helpmeet suitable for him." This implies that the woman is not a mere assistant, but an essential counterpart who shares the man's responsibilities and brings her own unique strengths to the relationship.

2. The Nature of Subordination

Pearl argues that wives are required to submit to their husbands in all things, even when it involves submitting to physical or emotional abuse. This interpretation is based on a selective reading of Ephesians 5:22-24, which states, "Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church." However, this passage must be understood in the context of the wider biblical teachings on marriage and submission.

The Bible does not teach that wives are to submit to their husbands at their own expense. On the contrary, husbands are instructed to love, honor, and cherish their wives as Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25-29).

Furthermore, submission should be mutual, as both husbands and wives are called to submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21).

In cases of abuse, biblical principles require husbands to repent and seek help, and wives should not be expected to tolerate or submit to harmful behavior.

3. The Role of Women in Marriage

Pearl's book confines women to a narrow and restrictive role in marriage, arguing that their primary purpose is to serve their husbands and children. While it is true that wives are called to support and nurture their families, this should not be their sole or exclusive responsibility.

The Bible encourages women to use their gifts and abilities to serve God and others. In the Old Testament, women like Deborah, Ruth, and Esther played significant roles in leadership and decision-making. In the New Testament, women like Mary Magdalene, Priscilla, and Phoebe were active in ministry and evangelism.

Women should be empowered to pursue education, careers, and other activities that bring them fulfillment, as long as they prioritize their responsibilities within the family.

4. The Implications of Patriarchal Teachings

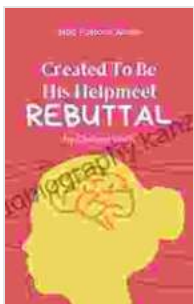
The patriarchal teachings promoted in *Created To Be His Helpmeet* have serious implications for women and society as a whole. These teachings can create a culture of fear and intimidation, where women are silenced, marginalized, and denied opportunities for personal growth and leadership.

Moreover, patriarchal marriages can lead to increased domestic violence, as women are discouraged from seeking help or asserting their rights. They can also contribute to gender inequality in the workplace, politics, and other spheres of public life.

Debi Pearl's *Created To Be His Helpmeet* offers a distorted and harmful view of marriage and gender roles. Its teachings are not supported by the Bible, and they promote a culture that is detrimental to both women and men.

A more balanced and biblical approach to marriage recognizes the equality and complementarity of men and women. It encourages mutual respect, love, and support within the family, and it empowers women to use their gifts and abilities to serve God and others.

It is time to reject the harmful teachings of *Created To Be His Helpmeet* and to embrace a more just and equitable view of marriage and gender roles.

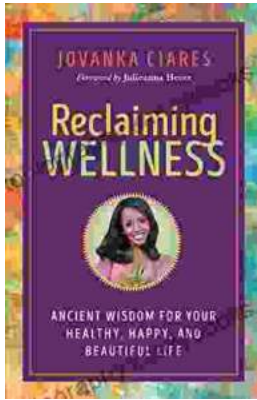


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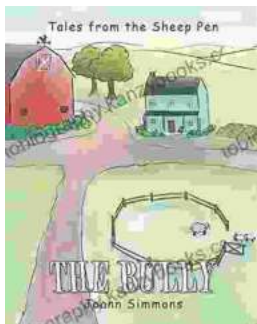
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