

Made to Shine – Introduction 1.14.16

6 pm Leaders Prayer

6:15 Refresh

6:30 Announcements: Welcome back, how was your Christmas and New Year?

-It's good to see you all back and some new friends with us!

-Della, thank you for the wonderful Refreshments, it's such a blessing to us all, isn't it!

*If any of you would like to help Della with setting up and putting away the beverages, just let her know.

?For our Drama, SonSHiNE Revue, we need someone in their 30's for a part.

-Were any of you able to be here for the powerful meetings this week, Power to Rule"?

? Who? What is one thing that ministered to you?

-Do y'all remember how when we launched SHiNE, I shared that God had put on my heart that SHiNE is to be a response to the leadership of the men?

-You would of thought Steve & I got together and planned this, we didn't, but God did!

*Jan has a real treat for you all!

6:40 Jan "Blank Canvas"-See pgs. in notebook: Poem by Jan, and Blank Canvas Sheet

Here's a beautiful song Jan has for us to listen to, entitled ...

"The Blank Canvas", by John Michael Talbot.

As you listen, think about what you would like to glean from this study on Womanhood?

Are you an open canvas for God to paint His design on?

Ask The Lord to come and paint on the canvas of your life.

Write down anything you sense the Holy Spirit is speaking to you.

Pray: Lord we submit to You, your design and the work of your Spirit in us. We open our hearts and lives to you and ask you to please come and paint your beautiful feminine design upon our lives as we seek You in your Word and in prayer.

6:50 Message (30 min)

-When I was a little girl growing up on the farm I was curious about why the cows and bulls were so different, why did my brother sweat so much and why were the chickens so much nicer than the roosters?

I was a tomboy, dolls were of no interest, dresses were worn under duress, and I loved playing football with guys during recess. Yet, as I moved into the double digits I began to think about what it would be like to be a wife and a mom.

-How about you, what did you dream about as a little girl?

-Are our girls given the permission to or being encouraged to be a wife and mom if they want to?

-I didn't have a good model of marriage, as my mom and dad didn't get along, I'd go to bed hearing them argue many nights.

They were wonderful people, you'd love them if you were to sit and talk with them, but they never figured out the beauty of marriage, and my dad divorced my mom when I was 16.

-I deeply desired to get married, but didn't want the kind of marriage my parents had for sure, truth be told they didn't want that for any of their children either. So I sought after God's design for marriage in the Bible, I read books, listened to pastors, went to seminars and learned from observing a few couples that seemed to have that "spark".

-In 1985 Denny and I got married and we had our challenges, he with his issues and me with mine, some personality, but most from simply not understanding God's design for

manhood, womanhood and the beautiful and rewarding complimentary relationship God teaches us in His Word.

In 1999 I reluctantly joined a bible study about biblical womanhood I felt the Lord leading me to, and when I mentioned it to Denny he said it had been on his heart for me to do as well.

I said I'm not sure what it's all about, but if I start acting weird, you let me know and I'll stop going! ;)

It was like signing up for a foreign language that I didn't know, but it was written upon my heart.

I felt like I had found a file in my hard drive that had been missing from my programs and it greatly boosted my processor, firewall and performance in life, marriage and family!

The second week in the study I had an implosion, it was like a bomb went off in me. I still remember where I was sitting and the sense that blasted in my spirit, "you will be doing this study the rest of your life"! I didn't really know what that meant, I thought, "really, that would be a long time".

-God knows I'm a learner, slow, but I keep at it and eventually get it. I'm so thankful we serve a loving and patient God, aren't you?! I'm still learning and so glad I took that course!

-He knows we are imperfect, and loves us still. I think it blesses The Lord when we bring Him our weakness, fears and concerns; believe me, I've been bringing Him plenty!

Tuesday night on the way home from church, Power to Rule, I was crying telling Denny, I can't lead SHiNE, but I know God can. He asked, "so who are you going to side with?".

- Over the last several years the phrase, "find God's design and align", has been ringing in my ears over and over concerning every area of my life, from how to worship God, to how to love my husband, to how to eat!

The Lord commands us to cast all our cares on Him! He doesn't expect us to know how to do everything, but He does ask us to trust Him to work in and through us.

1 Peter 5:5-8(NIV) Listen to what God commands us to do, and hear what He will do! "5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders (whether older or in authority over us). All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."^[a] 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety (cares) on him, (why?) because he cares for you. (this

allows you to) ⁸Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

In other words, if we don't do what He's instructing us to do, we will be opposed by God, and devoured by the devil!

But... if we submit ourselves to authority, clothe ourselves with humility, humble ourselves, & cast ALL our anxiety on Him...

Then God will: Show favor to you, Lift you up in due time, Care for you and you will be alert and sober minded!

-This is being an open canvas for the Master Painter to begin painting beauty with the ashes of our lives.

I've been amazed with what He's done and continues to do in my life! This is what God loves to do!!! He's a creator; He created everything you see out of nothing, He loves to create beauty in our lives, no matter how many ashes we have!

Let's look at the OVERVIEW In your notebook

The transformational study I took in 1999 was, *The 5 Aspects of Woman*, I went on to lead the study 19 times. Denny prayed the ladies & me through it every time! This semester we will be studying God's design for women from the Bible. Know Denny will be praying for you and me as well!

The Scriptural framework we will be following is one skillfully laid out by Barbara Mouser; it has impacted my life and thousands of others. I pray Ps. 119:105 for you, that God's word is a lamp for *your* feet, a light on *your* path.

God Made You to Shine! We all desire to SHiNE don't we, because that's what we're made for! When we SHiNE, it's God's light radiating through us, we don't come up with it! WE ARE DESIGNED TO SHiNE!

Is. 60:1-5 NLT “Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you. ² Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the Lord rises and appears over you. ³ All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance. ⁴ “Look and see, for everyone is coming home! Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home. ⁵ Your eyes will shine, and your heart will thrill with joy, for merchants from around the world will come to you. They will bring you the wealth of many lands.”

HOW DO WE SHiNE???

God created us to:

1. **Rule**, Gen. 1:26-28; we are to rule the domain God gives us.
2. **Complete**, Gen. 2:18-24; God created woman from & for the man to help the man complete the mandate.
3. **Give Life**, Gen. 3:15 & 20; fulfilled in -Lk. 1:30-33; we're created to give life and nurture.
4. **Be Wise**, Prov. 1-9 & 31:10-31); teach and counsel.
5. **Be the Glory of Man**, 1 Cor. 11:7; Eph. 5:31-32; responding to God as a picture of the believer and the Church.

We will study each design of womanhood from the created, fallen and redeemed position.

6. **Deborah**, Modeling Biblical Womanhood, from Judges 4&5 (4:4-7; 5:12); A Mother to Isreal.

Before going through the 5 Aspects I was not aware, but my identity was in what others thought of me. I was in bondage to the fear of man, but as I began learning what God thought of me, I was set free!!! And I have progressively been set free in many areas while learned more and more about who God is and how He loves and forgives me! :D

Understanding who God is, and His identity for Men & Women has helped me grow closer to God, and relate to both men and women with much greater clarity and ease.

It impacted my life, marriage and how I interacted with our children and raised them.

We All Have Identity, but What Is It In?

Two important questions we ask throughout our lives in one way or another is...who am I, and why am I here?

Both of these have to do with our identity.

Have you ever really stopped to think what your identity is in? Many find their identity in what they achieve, what they have, who they know, what others think of them and so on.

Did you know that where you find your identity is one of the most defining markers about how you see the world, yourself & others?

Where you find your identity is one of the most important and significant choices you make to influence your life!

Are you willing to open your heart to God and allow Him to rewrite any beliefs, lies, or information you have embraced so your life can be aligned with His design?

Listen to these verses; these are the foundational Scriptures we will build on:

Gen. 1:26 – 28 NLT ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

In verse 26 what is so pivotal to our identity?

Being created in God’s Image, to be like the Trinity... Father, Son & Holy Spirit!!!

No matter how many counselors or sessions you go to, self-help programs you attend, studying you do to explore your identity, achieve great accomplishments, or do good deeds you will not find your true identity and purpose until you understand the true nature of The One in whom you are created in the image of! These are all good things to do, but they will prove empty in the final analysis, because they are not the foundation upon which identity is created.

V.26 says, “in our image, to be like us”

V.27 “...God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them...” (Here God says it 2 different ways!)

V.28 What is the 1st thing God does after creating Man & Woman?

“God blessed them”!

*This speaks volumes about His nature! This speaks volumes about our nature! God is a good God, everything he does is out of a nature of love and blessing! When we see God this way, it revolutionizes how we see Him, ourselves and others! This one revelation of God’s nature, of which you are created in the image of will totally change how you see, think and act!

-It is only in seeing God for who He truly is, His true nature, that we are set free to see, think and act in the way He created us to.

Ladies, if you really want to be free, open your heart and mind to understand God’s true nature!

“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” Luke 2:14 (NKJV)
This is God’s heart to you, me and all mankind!

When we understand the true nature of God we will stand in our homes and communities like evergreen trees that point to heaven, proclaiming the peace and goodness God gave all mankind through the coming and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Why do you think it took God 2,000 years to implement the law?

Because He is and His nature is **love and grace!**

Do you like pointing out all the sins of your children or friends? Of course not, neither does God!!!

But out of love and grace He had to implement the Law for our own good, or we would of self-destructed.

-Heb. 7:18

¹⁸For, on the one hand, **a former commandment is cancelled because of its weakness and uselessness [because of its inability to justify the sinner before God]** ¹⁹(for the Law never made anything perfect); while on the other hand a better hope is introduced through which we now *continually* draw near to God.

In the KJV V. 18 says, "For there is verily a **disannulling** of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof."

Disannulling (Oxford Dictionaries online)- Declare to be invalid; cancel: *your covenant shall be disannulled*

Annul (by Merriam Webster)-

: to say officially that something is no longer valid : to make (something) legally void

1: to reduce to nothing: obliterate

2: to make ineffective or inoperative:

3: to declare or make legally invalid or void *<wants the marriage annulled>*

What's the Legal Difference Between Annulment and Divorce?

<https://www.legalzoom.com/.../whats-the-legal-diffe...>

LegalZoom.com, Inc

"There are two ways to legally end a marriage - **annulment** and **divorce**. An **annulment** is a legal procedure which cancels a marriage between a man and a woman. Annuling a marriage is as though it is completely erased - legally, it declares that the marriage never technically existed and was never valid."

-What is the difference between the Old and New Covenants?

The O.T. is based upon the Law & the N.T is based upon the redeeming Blood of Jesus. In the O.T. the Law was enacted to point out our sin and that we could never measure up in our own righteousness. If you did 99 things out of 100 right, the Law would point out the one thing you did wrong.

Has anyone here gotten a speeding ticked before?

POLICE OFFICER:

Yesterday morning I got caught up in prayer, added some things to this talk that came to my heart during prayer and was heading to get a MRI done on my knee. Because I had taken so much time in prayer and writing down wonderful truths God had shown me I was running late and driving faster than the speed limit, I was going with the flow of traffic, but I got picked and got a speeding ticket.

You know when the nice officer came to my window he didn't mention 1 thing about all the things I was doing right! All he was concerned with was the one thing I did wrong. That's ok, that's his job and that's the job of The Law.

When he looked at my driver's license, was he looking at my identity or my identification?

There is so much more to you & me than what is shown on our driver's license isn't there?!

On our driver's license it identifies us as, "female".

Google Search: Female-

1. of or denoting the sex that can bear offspring or produce eggs, distinguished biologically by the production of gametes (ova) that can be fertilized by male gametes.

synonyms: feminine, womanly, ladylike

"female attributes"

antonyms: male

- o (of parts of machinery, fittings, etc.) manufactured hollow so that a corresponding male part can be inserted.

Meriam Webster: having some quality (as gentleness) associated with the female sex

Is there more to you and me than that??? I SURE HOPE SO!

And we will learn more about God's feminine design for us.

Rom. 7:7 NLT - God's Law Reveals Our Sin

"Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet." "

-Whereas in the N.T. Jesus paid for our sin, and we are now the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus living in God's love and grace once again!

1 John 4: 10 (AMP)

¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation [that is, the atoning sacrifice, and the satisfying offering] for our sins [fulfilling God's requirement for justice against sin and placating His wrath].

2 Cor.5:21 NIV "God made him who had no sin to be sin^[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Have you ever wondered:

Why did it take God 2,000 years to enact the Law?

And it's been 2,000 years since He did away with it!

That we only lived under the Law for 2,000 years, and under love and grace for 4,000 years now?

Yet the majority of Christians and all of society is law focused! The only reason He gave the Law was to protect us from destroying ourselves with our own sin.

It was only a guardian for us until Christ came and paid for our debt of sin that we could not pay.

Galatians 3:24 (NLT)²⁴ Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith."

Many people think God kicked Adam and Eve out of the Garden because he was mad at them, that couldn't be farther from the truth! It was because of love that He did! He didn't want them to eat of the Tree of Life and live forever in a sinful body.

Death to those who receive Jesus as their savior is a promotion from the broken bodies here on earth, it's God's love, grace and mercy that we don't have to live forever in brokenness and torment.

-For example, this last Sunday night I was with a friend in the final stages of Alzheimer's, after getting her to bed her mind slipped into a state of hallucinating, and I've never seen in someone's face torment like I did that night. After the episode that lasted about an hour and a half I prayed for God to give peace to her soul! The next day she was received into heaven and set free from the 88 year old tired body she was living in. Do you see God's grace even in death?!

*No extra charge for this, but it's pretty common knowledge that eating elevated levels of carbs and sugar can cause diabetes, but many people aren't aware of the fact that it can also significantly raise our chances of contracting Dementia or Alzheimer's?

-Our bodies significantly affect our lives don't they?

They are not who we are, but they certainly are our earth suits that give us the ability to do what God's called us to do!

*What was used to carry out the first sin? That's right food!

What is used in Communion? Food and Drink.

God seems to think food and what we do with it is important.

➤ Each week we will take a peek at the role food plays in that specific aspect.

*Deep down I knew God was a loving and gracious God, but when I really began to understand this about His true nature just last year, it blew the doors off my way of seeing God, myself and others! If I'm created in His image to be like Him, then living in love and grace is to be embraced!

You might be thinking, "what does all this have to do with biblical womanhood?"

I'm glad you asked!

What we will be studying this semester all goes back to, "a way of seeing"!

Matt. 6:22-23 NLT ²² "Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!"

*So HOW do we, see so our eyes and body are filled with light? So we can truly SHINE with His glory!

Rom. 12:1&2 NLT "And so, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.^[b] ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God

transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

- This is where we change for the better, letting God paint the truth of His love and design upon our hearts, the canvas of our lives.

Prov. 23:7a KJV encourages us, "For as a man thinks in his heart, so *is* he."

*How many of you remember last semester us talking about mindsets and how they affect how we see?

-Do you remember the, "midline shift" I had from my accident in 2013? My mindset affected how I saw, which affected how I walked! I could see the what, but my where was off, which caused me to see things that weren't there, to be paranoid, hit my knuckles, affected my short term memory, made me tired, and feel like I was going crazy!

-That is such a picture of where we are today regarding sexuality.

-We see the what, but have lost perspective of where it has come from and what His design for sexuality is.

-It's no big deal to change your hairstyle or color in a myriad of ways with the passing fads, but to change your sexual identity, of which there were only created 2, this is core to who God made us to be, it is detrimental to the individual and the culture!!!

-There is so much gender confusion today that our young people especially do not have any grid of God's design anymore. This leads to the loss of identity, purpose and then anger or complacency, and eventually depression and suicide.

-In our culture our young people are breathing the toxic air of humanism where people are being their own gods. We must love them, live the Truth, pray for them and keep speaking the truth in love whenever we have the opportunity.

When a baby is born, and you know both mother and baby are ok, what is the first question we ask?

That's right, "is it a boy or a girl"?

At the core God chose to design and make us as male and female. Gender identity is formed in the heart and mind of God, we are created in His image!

We are all curious in some way about our humanity, our purpose, sexuality and connection with God and others.

As we study God's Word to better understand His design for womanhood, **we will first look at The One in whom we were created in the image of, and what His intentions are.**

Gen. 1:26-28 are our foundational Bible verses.

God is calling us to change! To allow the Holy Spirit to undo that which is not God's design in our lives coupled with working in us His love, forgiveness and truth to work His beautiful design into our lives.

God is good, He is a giver, helper and mighty warrior, He is jealous for us, our biggest fan and encourager. Do you see Him that way?

As we come to this study, let's submit ourselves to God, His Word and Spirit's work in our lives.

Part of our prayer for you has been that anything that has been painted upon the canvas of your life that is not God's truth about God, yourself or others that it would be identified by the truth of God's Word and His Holy Spirit. That each one of us would be humble and teachable, an open canvas for Him to paint His beautiful feminine design upon the canvas of our lives.

Are you willing to trust your Creator, Encourager and One who Loves you more than anyone to paint His beautiful design upon the canvas of your life and be empowered to be and do in joy and strength that which He has created you to be and do?

Let's hear what God has to say about His beautiful design of womanhood this semester.

Next week we will start with Gen. 1 and how God has created us to Rule!

7:25 Worship - Anna

**7:45 D-Groups- Share Names; Leaders Share Contact Info. & Receive Contact Info.
from Group Members; Ice Breaker**