

Equality

The Biblical Foundation
Of Healthy Relationships



Views on Marriage Roles

- Authoritarianism: Men are superior to women in God's created order, and exercise absolute authority as head of the home.
- Complementarianism: Men and women have equal value, but God has given them different and complementary roles in marriage. God created men as the leaders of the family, and he created women as their helpers.
- Egalitarianism: Men and women have equal value, and an equal amount of authority in the home.

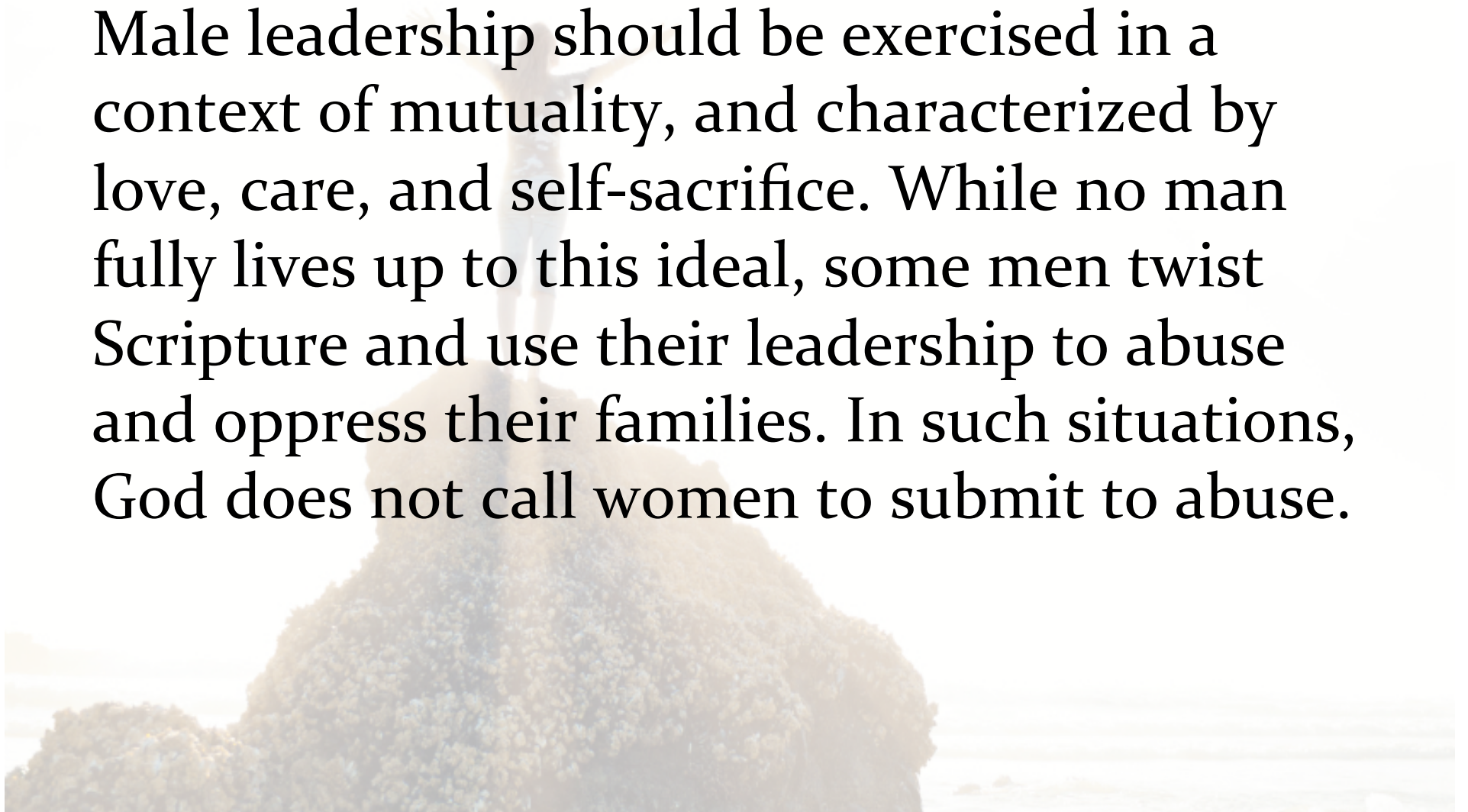
The Refuge View on Marriage Roles

We believe that God created human beings male and female, after His own image.

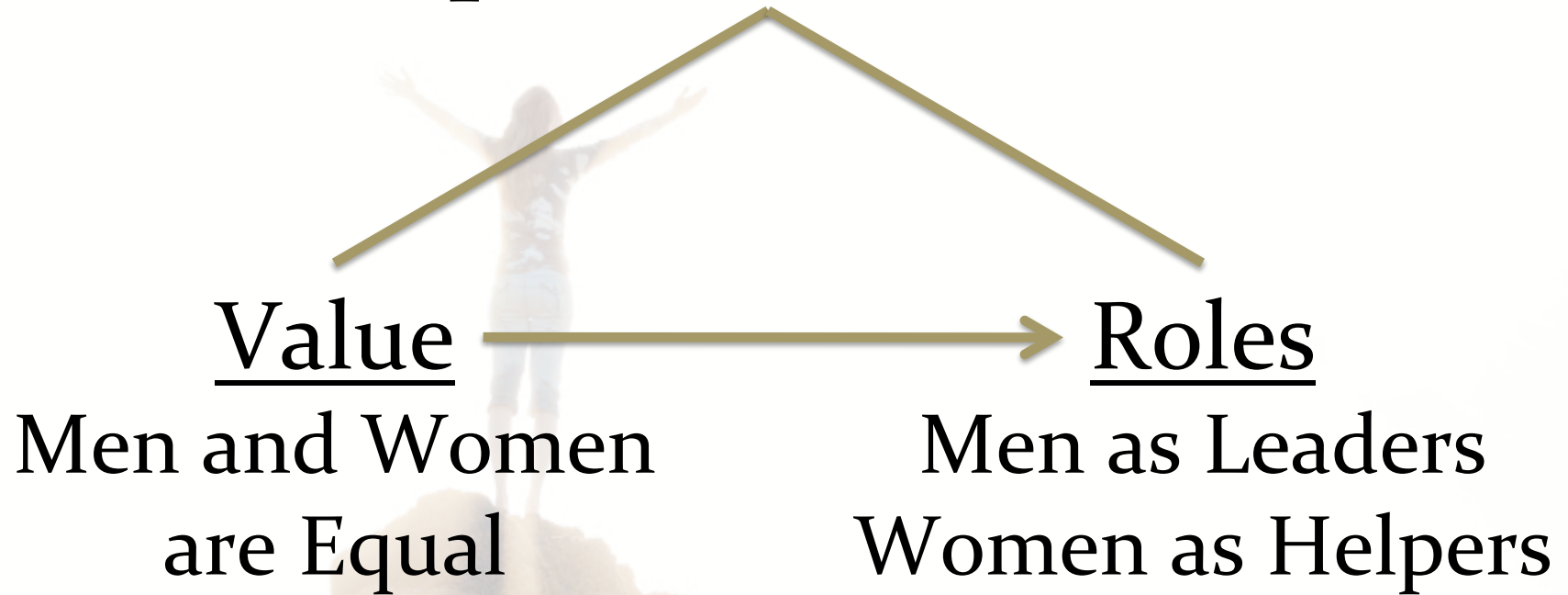
Therefore men and women have equal value, and both should be treated with the same respect and dignity. Within this framework of equality, God gave men and women different roles in the family. He created men to be servant-leaders, and he created women to be their helpers – an essential role involving partnership and support.

The Refuge View on Marriage Roles

Male leadership should be exercised in a context of mutuality, and characterized by love, care, and self-sacrifice. While no man fully lives up to this ideal, some men twist Scripture and use their leadership to abuse and oppress their families. In such situations, God does not call women to submit to abuse.



Complementarianism



Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.



James 3:8-10

⁸...no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

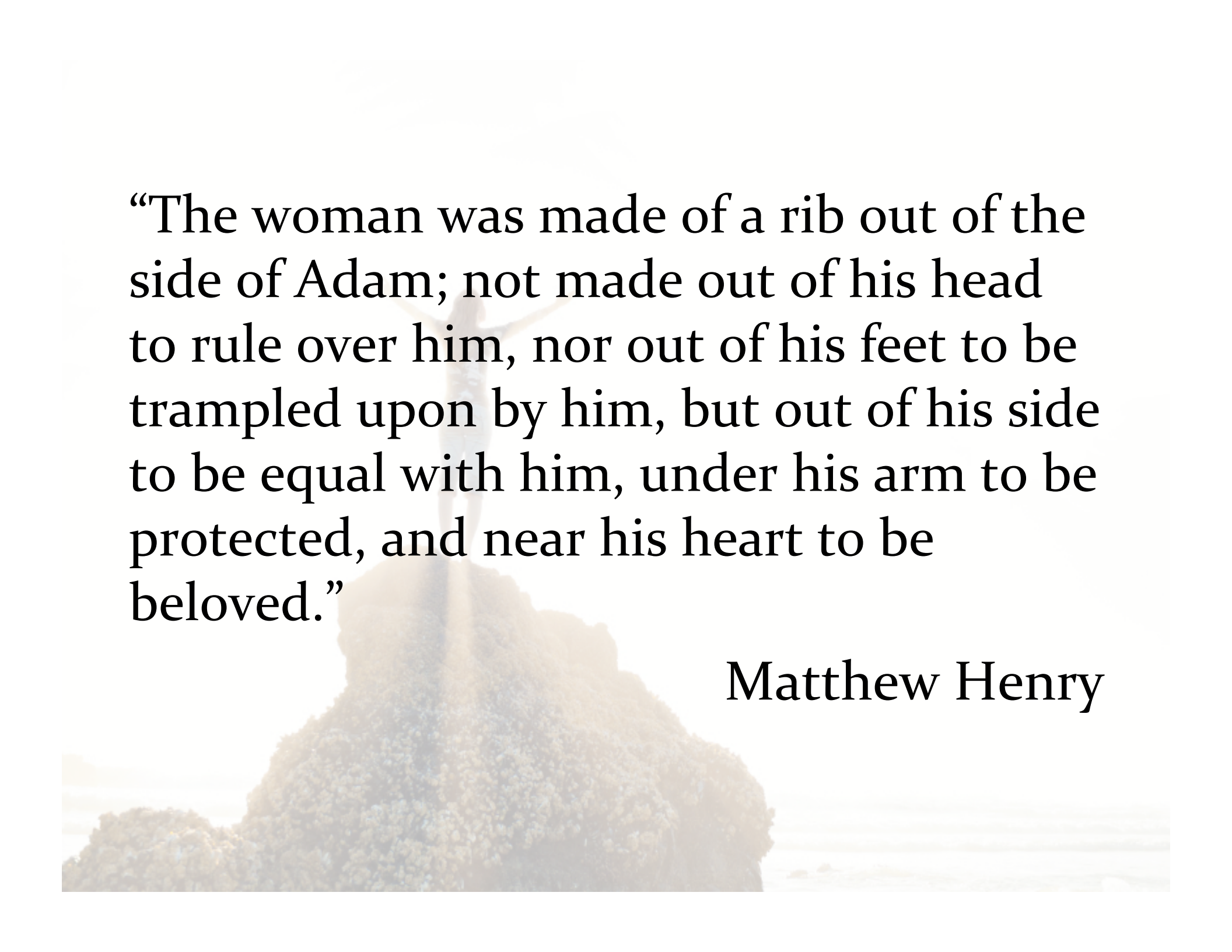
Genesis 2:18-25

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him...” ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Genesis 2:18-25

²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.



“The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”

Matthew Henry