

*The Gender Desk Writes*  
*Hey! I'm no spare rib I'm doubly refined!*

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God did not make her like every tree (Genesis 2:9), every beast of the field and every bird of the air (Genesis 2:19) or as Adam himself (Genesis 2:7) from the ground but from the ... rib?

Strong's #6763 (Hebrew *ts/ea*) says this word is normally translated side, corner, chamber or flank and Young's Analytical Concordance shows that the word "rib" as used in Genesis 2:21-22 is translated, the other 41 times it is used in the Bible, as side, corner, chambers or flank.

Who then was the originator of the "rib" theory? According to Katharine Bushnell, in *God's Word to Women*, none other than Rabbi Joshua. He wrote: "God deliberated from what member He would create woman, and He reasoned within Himself thus: I must not create her from Adam's head, for she would be a proud person, and hold her head high. If I create her from the eye, then she will wish to pry into things; if from the ear, then she will wish to hear all things; if from the mouth she will talk much; if from the heart, she will envy people; if from the head, she will desire to make all things; if from the feet, she will be a gadabout. Therefore I will create her from the member which is hid, that is the rib, which is not even seen when man is naked".(1)

Charles Trombley in his book "Who said Women Can't Teach" states that this incorrect translation of the word "rib" for "side" came about to strengthen the low opinion most rabbis had of women at the time and to justify masculine insecurities built upon the false premise that woman and not man was responsible for sin and death.(2)

Some Reformers put it another way. "Woman was not taken from man's feet, as if she were beneath him, or from his head, as if she were over him, but from his side, as an equal with him."

However the method used by God for the origination of woman leaves no confusion. She was humanity doubly refined! God's ideal for her in marriage would be to enjoy a wonderful closeness in her relationship and partnership with her mate. Dr Joy Fleming in "Man and Woman in Biblical Unity" says "Descent from one ancestor establishes both the absolute unity of humanity and identical substance of both male and female in a way that separate creations from dust could not have done." (3)

1. Katharine Bushnell, *God's Word to Women* (para 43).
2. Charles Trombley, *Who Said Women Can't Teach* (p 71)
3. Dr Joy Fleming, *Man and Woman in Biblical Unity* (p 12)