

Genesis: In Relationship - Genesis 2:18-25

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, “*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*”

- Marriage is the first institution created.
- Marriage matters to God.
- The picture of Jesus and the church is the Groom and Bride
 - **Luke 5:34-35** And He said to them, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them?³⁵ But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days.”
- The presentation of the Church in Heaven is called the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.
 - **Revelation 19:7-9** Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.⁹ Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

God did this, because He anticipated man’s need.

- It is not good for man to be alone. Aloneness is not good.
- Man is not spoken into being, but created.
- Why didn’t God just create man and woman at the same time?
 - Man is created first so he can see that it is not good to be alone.

So what does God do?

Genesis 2:19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name.

- God sends the animals before Adam to be named.
- Adam sees all the animals and they all have mates because God made all the animals able to reproduce. So Adam sees them all with partners.

Genesis 2:20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

- Adam names the animals – none found suitable because all are beneath him. God is already above him. Adam needs someone beside him. Equal to him.
- Comparable = counterpart.
- God does not say man needs a sex partner. Does not need children. He needs a partner. Wives should be treated as such.
- Adam does not recognize his need, so God helps him see it by bringing all the animals to him. Adam does not find a helper. This was not because God did not have the time. He did this to show Adam an awareness of his need.
 - God will sometimes put us in circumstances to make us aware of our need.

This reveals one of the purposes of marriage:

- Marriage = the elimination of loneliness
- Marriage is designed to be a shared life. Where the two are equals and partners sharing their lives together.
- This works when accompanied by Godly behavior.
- Treating mates with Godliness and respect. Physical attraction is not enough.

God showed Adam his need, but then God arranges for his need to be met.

- **Genesis 2:21-22** And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

- Adam rests in the Lord and his need is met. Adam could not do it. Full reliance on God.
- While this is also rest as in sleeping, it is a picture of true rest.
 - We rely on God completely. He meets our needs. We just rely on Him.
 - This is the first instance of it, so God does it more literally.
- From the rib – (not sure, but still a good picture) Woman is not created from man’s head to rule over him, not from his feet to be trod upon by him, but from his side to partner with him.
- Woman is made of the same components as Adam.

First recorded human words are in this next verse:

Genesis 2:23 And Adam said: “*This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.*”

- In other words: This one is like me. She is like me. She is the same yet different as me.
- Men and women are the same in that they have equal position before God. They are made of the same stuff. They have equal authority in this world. They are both in the same place spiritually.
- They are different in that they have different make-up that suits them better for different things. They have different hormone levels. They have different strengths and weaknesses.
- But they are helpers to each other. They compliment each other. They are able to come together to reproduce life. We are better together.

And thus marriage is established. But there is some commentary given on marriage here:

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

- Marriage is instituted because God set it up. Attack on the traditional family unit is an attack on the ways of God.

- Marriage will not change or be done away with until it's purpose is fulfilled, same as the law. The fulfillment is the wedding supper of the lamb. Then none will be given in marriage any longer.
 - **Matthew 22:30** For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

Within Genesis 2:24 there are 3 relationships shown (kind of).

1. A Relationship with God. This is represented by the word therefore. Since God set this up. Since God created marriage, we must first have a relationship with Him. Outside of Him, marriage will always have problems.

- This is dependence. God is the one that brings one flesh. Only He can do that.
- **Matthew 19:6** So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

The core relationship in a marriage is with God. Do not marry an unbeliever.

- **2 Corinthians 6:14-15** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?
- When God instituted marriage it was not designed for sinners. It was designed for the righteous.

2. Second relationship = Parents

- This is independence. When the marriage happens, the parents need to cut the cord.
- Parents should take the initiative on this.
- Each spouse should also take responsibility in this.
- When this does not happen, then it is like being married to more than just your spouse.

3. Third relationship = each other

- This is interdependence.
- Cleave – joined together as one.
- Sex is God's idea and meant to be in marriage.
- Highest form of intimacy.
- Sex makes you one flesh.
 - **1 Corinthians 6:16-17** Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For "*the two,*" He says, "*shall become one flesh.*"¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

You now belong to your spouse

- **1 Corinthians 7:4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.

God's design for marriage is above reproach. That is why the enemy attacks it so violently. Marriage should be defended.

Genesis 2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- There was no shame, for shame can only arise from a consciousness of sinful or irregular conduct. Here, there was no sin.