

SERIES: The Basics of God's Word – A Study in Genesis 1-11

TITLE: The Basics of Marriage

TEXT: Genesis 2:18-25

I. Mankind was Designed for Companionship (2:18a)

- This is the first instance that we see that God say that something is “not good” in the creation account.
 - Creation – good
 - Light, land, sky, sea, plants, animals – all good.
 - Man – good.
 - Even though man was created and it was declared “GOOD”
 - Notice: Man's aloneness – not good.
- You see – mankind was created for much more than an isolated experience.
 - Mankind was made for more than just having dominion over the animal kingdom...
 - Mankind was designed for **fellowship**, for **companionship**, and for **relationship** with God and relationship with one another.
 - And here what we see is the context of the first marriage.
 - Marriage is - The special pinnacle of relationships and provides the venue for intimate fellowship between two people.
 - We were made to have fellowship and companionship with one another.
 - The concept originated from within the Trinity.
 - John 17:24
 - 2 Cor 13:14
- This is why “it is **NOT GOOD** that the man is alone.” – Because God is not alone, nor does he intend for His creation to be either.
 - God has created you for fellowship...
 - Regardless of the context the same reality is as true as it was for Adam - It is not good for you to be alone.

II. Marriage was Designed to be Complementary (2:19-20)

- “Help meet” – the idea of a “suitable helper”
 - Not a slave – and all the women of the church said...
 - God's intention is not to create one who is **inferior to Adam**...
 - But one who is suitable/complement for Adam.
 - A helper who will assist and encourages in keeping God's commands.
 - *A helper who provides support for what is lacking in the one who needs help...*¹
 - God's intention is not to create one who is **the same as Adam** either...
 - God could have made another male alongside of Adam to help do the work in the garden...

¹ David Atkinson, *The Message of Genesis 1–11: The Dawn of Creation*, ed. J. A. Motyer and Derek Tidball, *The Bible Speaks Today* (England: Inter-Varsity Press, 1990), 68.

- But the reality is, Adam needed a helper who would provide what he was LACKING.
- And Adam would never have found that in one who was the same as Him.
- Collaboration is working with one mind towards a common goal...competition is trying to outdo one another to reach your own goals...
- If you want to see a marriage or any other form of relationship going off track, it comes from COMPETING with one another, rather than collaborating for the greater good...
- *Eph 5:22-25*

III. Marriage was Designed within God's Creation (2:21-22)

- Man was made of the dust of the ground.
- Woman was not made the same way.
 - She is not a separate species.
 - Not a separate piece of dirt...
 - Woman was made out of the man.
- What we see is that God actually removes something from the man, leaving him incomplete...
 - Only to bring back to Him the very thing that would make him more complete than ever before...
 - Within this, we actually see a beautiful picture of the Gospel.
 - We see mankind who has a deep soul need.
 - He is a sinner, separated from God because of His sin.
 - God gives something of Himself – his one and only son...
 - So that we can be reconciled back to Him.
 - So that we can ultimately become One with Jesus Christ.
 - This is why marriage matters.
 - *Eph 5:31-32*

IV. Marriage was Designed to be Cherished (2:23)

- I don't know if Adam was sore from the surgery, but he had a really good handle on **HOW GOD** had created this woman!
 - She was taken out of me!
 - My bones!
 - My flesh!
 - My blood!
 - My kind!
 - And He names her – like has named every other part of creation – and God didn't even ask Him to do that!
 - *Eph 5:28-30*

V. Marriage was Designed to be a Commitment (2:24-25)

- Really this is what we see in Genesis 2 and in every subsequent marriage...
 - There is **leaving** the parents (leaving their home, their provision, their authority)
 - And **Cleaving** onto the spouse to become One (physically, emotionally, sexually, and in covenant)
 - **Weaving** of two lives together (shared focus, collaboration, raising of the next generation, serving the Lord).
- The most necessary trait for these things to happen is that it requires **commitment** from both parties.
- I want to close this morning by just reminding you of Jesus' Commitment to His Church.
 - *Eph 5:26-27*
 - Do you know, that Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of a husband because he is faithful and committed to the salvation and sanctification of his bride?
 - That his bride might be one with Him forever.
 - Perhaps this morning you have a testimony of a faithful marriage.
 - Praise God for it.
 - Perhaps you have been hurt by a wounded marriage.
 - There is healing in the Gospel of Jesus.
 - Perhaps you have been unfaithful or uncommitted to your marriage.
 - Reconciliation is possible through Jesus.
 - Perhaps you have never been married.
 - There is a world of relationships that God has given outside of marriage that can be developed for eternal purposes to the glory of Jesus Christ.
 - It is in Jesus
 - That we have companionship with God forever.
 - That we are complementary parts in God's creation of the Church.
 - That we are cherished by God himself.
 - IT is in Jesus Christ, not marriage, That we are ultimately complete.