

Male and Female - Preparing Adam for an Helpmeet

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Genesis 2:21-25 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 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. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- I. God prepared Adam to have a wife, and to be the head of the human race.
 - A. God did not create the woman immediately after he created Adam - there was a period of time that passed and some important things that transpired in that time.
 - B. It is obvious that Adam had to acquire some knowledge and understanding before putting another person in his life for him to live with, care for, and protect.
 - C. Before God made the woman Adam had the ability through language to communicate his thoughts and feelings, but there was no one but God that could understand his words.
 - D. Before God made the woman He had put Adam in the garden and given him a job and a purpose. (to dress and to keep it)
 - E. Before God made the woman He made all the animals to pass before Adam and Adam met creatures who were his inferiors.
 - F. Before God made the woman He made himself known to Adam, so that Adam met his superior in his Creator.
 - G. Before God made the woman Adam was prepared to meet his equal.
 - H. Before God made the woman He instilled in Adam his moral character, which is the most important quality for a being who is going to have live with and have dominion over other creatures.

The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. (2 Samuel 23:3)

1. God is love, and He made Adam in his own image and likeness, so Adam's character toward any other being would have been love.
2. There was no thought of thinking evil of another, or doing evil to another.

- II. The command to not eat of the tree was given to Adam before Eve was made.

Genesis 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

- A. Before Adam could have a wife he had to learn to submit to God himself.
 1. He had to recognize and submit to his rightful place in God's divine order.
 2. He had to recognize God as his Creator and Lord, and therefore as his superior - this is the basis of morality.
 3. Anything else is simply an individual setting himself up as a little god and defining his own morals according to his own lusts and imagination.
- B. Adam had to learn that although he was given dominion over all the earth he was not the lawgiver.
 1. He did not have the right to make the rules.

2. It was not his to decide what was right or wrong, but to decide whether to obey or not.
- C. The whole issue with the forbidden tree is God's authority over the man and the man's faith in God's goodness toward him.
- D. With nothing forbidden there is no concept of right or wrong, or good and evil.
1. With nothing forbidden and no boundaries set we would trample on the rights and property of others, thus morality requires that there be things forbidden.
 - a) As long as there were just one man in all the world all by himself he could live unto himself and not transgress against anyone else, but since there are others in the world there must be boundaries for his behavior.
 2. Remember, the whole creation is set up in opposing elements and principles without which we could not even live life or survive.
 3. Our reasoning is designed to choose between two things at a time and approve or reject one or the other.
 4. In our mixed up world everyone wants to agree with both sides of every issue, and does not want to believe in moral absolutes, so we have completely lost our way.
- E. A command by its very essence contains a license and an exception.
1. All licenses that are issued by men to other men grant a privilege with exceptions. (driving, hunting, fishing, business, cars, etc.)
 2. By the way, this is what separation of church and state is about; the founders meant for the government to stay out of the church - not the church out of the government.
 - a) Because they understood this basic truth that the right to worship and serve God is not given by the state, but by God himself, and the state therefore has no right to impose reserves or exceptions on it - thus the first amendment to the constitution was freedom of religion - no government interference.
 3. Adam was free to eat of all the trees of the garden ...but one.
 4. Most people overlook the overwhelming benevolence of God and accuse Him of injustice by putting one tree in the garden that the man could not eat from.
- F. Adam was made to understand that there was right and wrong, good and evil by the command of God NOT to eat of a certain tree.
1. Life was complete and full and good without that one tree - everything else was given to Adam to do with as he pleased; just one exception.
- G. If Adam is going to live with others like himself, then any rights given to him must be given with a reserve to protect the rights of others.
1. Adam must learn that he is not the center of the universe in spite of his exalted status as head of the race and ruler of the world.
 2. He must be made to realize concern for the rights and welfare of others, both those superior to him and those inferior to him before he is ready to live with someone his equal.
 3. All other creatures are not there simply to serve him and for him to take advantage of and use at his pleasure.
 4. No man is ready for a companion until he is more concerned about pleasing God and others than himself.
- H. The tree was merely the thing reserved to mark boundaries and cause Adam to recognize God's rights in preparation for recognizing the rights of another like himself.
1. There was nothing about that tree that was poison or magical and we have no reason to believe that some physical element in the fruit of that tree introduced sin into the world.

2. It was good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and to be desired to make one wise - but God had said not to eat of it.
 3. The sin was disobeying God, and that is where they obtained the knowledge of evil - experimental knowledge of disregarding God's clear command.
 4. The shallow-minded infidel argues that God did the evil in placing the tree in the garden to tempt man.
- I. So even if there had been no tree that was forbidden, because Adam was a moral being, he would still have had to acknowledge the rights and authority of God.
 1. If God had not put that tree in the garden and forbidden Adam to eat of it Adam still would have had to face the possibility and the consequences of disobedience.
 - J. Adam was made to have dominion with his wife over all the earth, but before he is qualified to be a just overseer he must have a proper sense of right and wrong and his place in God's order.
 - K. Without a moral sense he would be on the same level of existence as the animals.
- III. Morality is about recognizing the rights of others, or doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Luke 6:31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

- A. Since man is a moral being there must be commands given to mark out the rights of all creatures, including his own.
- B. These words of Jesus prove that the moral law of God is written in the hearts all men.
 1. We know what is right and wrong simply by how our own heart would respond if we were on the receiving end.
- C. The command concerning the trees of the garden show that our rights are granted by and derived from God - not inherited simply because we are born.
- D. By understanding these things and being submitted to God there arose in Adam's living soul a sense of responsibility, of right and wrong, and of duty.
- E. He understood God's order and plan for life to have peace and harmony and joy.
- F. The man must first have these qualities before he can live in harmony with another like himself.
- G. Before he can have a wife to love, fellowship, commune, and live intimately with he must be the kind of being that desires to love and do good to others without putting his own selfish interests before theirs.
- H. Thus, the entire moral law of God is reduced to two simple truths by Jesus Christ:

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Matthew 22:37-40 Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

- I. This was what God taught Adam before he made a woman to be his companion.
- J. This is still the only preparation that will bring peace and harmony to marriages, homes, churches, and nations.