

2. Foundations in Genesis (part 2)

******When God made light, what did He see (1:10b, last sentence)?** (*Read it with me*). He saw that it was good.

PPT>>> ESV **Genesis 1:10** God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

******When God made vegetation, what did He see (1:12b, last sentence)?** (*Read it with me*). He saw that it was good.

PPT>>> ESV **Genesis 1:12** The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

******After God made the sun and the moon to rule over the day and the night, what did he see (1:18b, last sentence)?** (*Read it with me*). He saw that it was good!

PPT>>> ESV **Genesis 1:16-18** And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night- and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

******What did God see when He made all the sea creatures and birds (1:21b, last sentence)?** (*Read it with me*). He saw that it was good.

PPT>>> ESV **Genesis 1:21** God created the great sea creatures ... and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

******What did God see when He made all the beasts of the field and livestock (1:25b, last sentence)?** (*Read it with me*). He saw that it was good!

PPT>>> ESV **Genesis 1:25** God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

******When God stood back and looked over everything He had made, what did He see (1:31a)?** He saw not simply that it was good, but that was was very good.

PPT>>> ESV **Genesis 1:31** And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

— 2:18 —

******Up to this point, everything God created was “good”. In 2:18 we suddenly find something not good. This is huge! This is a jarring wake-up call. This is a literary speed-bump! What could possibly not be good? What was not good (2:18a)? It was not good that the man should be alone.**

PPT>>> ESV Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone"

PPT>>> Alone in Paradise: It is amazing to ponder the fact that even though Adam had perfect fellowship with God, unbroken by sin, God was not enough. Something was lacking. Adam needed more. It was not good for Adam to be alone in Paradise. There is even a book by the title: *When God is Not Enough*.¹

1. How could it not be good for Adam since he had a relationship with God unbroken by sin (2:18)? See Genesis 1:26, 28, 2:15.

Reason #1

PPT>>> In *The Meaning of Marriage*, Tim Keller suggests the reason for Adam's "not good" situation was due to the Triune nature of God ("us/our", **1:26**). Within the Trinity is perfect fellowship. God created man in His image, with among other things includes the capacity and need for relationships with other people.² Adam lived in Paradise, yet he was still lacking. He needed another person to be in relationship with.

PPT>>>Application, Material Possessions: This also shows that material possessions cannot make a person happy (Howard Hughes comes to mind).

PPT>>>ESV **Luke 12:15** ... one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

PPT>>>Relationships (particularly family relationships) are a greater blessing and provide greater satisfaction than anything money can buy.³

Truth: The primary truth Moses is dealing with here is marriage, but there are exceptions (like those with the gift of celibacy). There are others who would like to be marriage, but can't find the right person. The principle remains that we all need to be in relationship with other people, to have friends.

Reason #2

Look carefully at 2:18; what did God prescribe as the remedy for the man's aloneness (2:18b)? He needed a helper (the question is, *A helper to do what? We'll deal with that in a moment*).

PPT>>>ESV **Genesis 2:18** Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

In general, what is a helper (2:18)? A helper is a person who gives assistance or support. Synonyms include assistant, aid or attendant. The Hebrew here is *ezer* (5828), as in Ebenezer

¹ John Greer, *When God Is Not Enough* (Bloomington: WestBow Press, 2015).

² Tim Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage* (New York: Dutton Group, 2011), 111.

³ Keller, *Marriage*, 111.

(stone of help). It means “an assistant.”⁴ It is critical to note that a helper is not necessarily inferior or less qualified. Many places in the Bible this same word *ezer* (helper) was used with reference to Jehovah God Himself:

PPT>>>ESV Psalm 30:10 ... O LORD, be my helper!

PPT>>>NAS Psalm 121:1-2 ... My help comes from the LORD ...

PPT>>>**Application:** Thus, we see that to be a helper is in no way a demeaning role. The helper God was about to create in no way had second-class status.

What was it that Adam needed help with (2:18)? Primarily, he needed help with not being alone! He needed someone to relate to. He needed a companion.

Also, consider this; what commission had God given the man back in 2:15? God put the man in the Garden to work it and keep it. **Joke:** He need help with the yard work! (You just can't find good help these days).

PPT>>>**2. It seems that not just any helper would do. What did God mean when He specified that Adam needed a helper “fit for him” (2:18)?** “Fit for him” is from *neged*, which literally means “that which corresponds to.”⁵ Thus, the alternate translation in the ESV is a helper “corresponding to him.” This helper would in some way be corresponding to the man.

PPT>>>It is interesting that the Hebrew for “fit” (*neged*) also carries the idea of an opposite counterpart.⁶ They are “like opposite.” Adam and his helper would be opposite yet corresponding; they would be fit for each other. They would be the same, but different.

PPT>>>They would be like two pieces of a puzzle that fit together to create a complex whole.⁷

PPT>>>**Adrian Rogers:** “A woman is infinitely superior to a man at being a woman, and a man is infinitely superior to a woman at being a man.”⁸

Truth: Most men need a woman's help. Behind every great man is a great woman. It seems that men need women more than women need men. It has been observed that when a man loses his wife, he begins the search for another wife. When a woman loses her husband, she just gets a cat!

Reason #3

Multiply: Earlier God gave Adam another commission: to fill the earth; to be fruitful and multiply (1:28). He couldn't very well do that alone, either!

⁴ Harris, *TWOT*, #1598b.

⁵ Harris, *TWOT*, #1289a.

⁶ William Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971), 226.

⁷ Keller, *Marriage*, 174.

⁸ Adrian Rogers, *Adrianism* (Collierville, TN: Innovo Publishing, 2015), 181.

PPT>>> ESV Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth ..."

PPT>>> ESV Psalm 127:3-5 ... children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward ... Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!

Perspective: Some say children make a rich man poor, but they have it backwards. It is children that make a poor man rich! I might add to that, proper trained children.

ESV **Proverbs 29:15** The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his **mother**.

— 2:19-20 —

*****What nomenclature job did God give Adam in 2:19-20?** He was tasked with naming all the animals.

PPT>>> ESV Genesis 2:19-20 So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

PPT>>>3. Why do you suppose God put Adam to work naming animals (2:19)? See 2:20b. It may have been to bring to Adam's consciousness the fact that there existed was no helper fit for Adam, 2:20b. Every animal had its mate, but not Adam. This naming process surfaced a felt need.

In ancient Hebrew society, what was the significance of the name given to someone or something (2:19)? Names reflected the character of that which was named. God changed Abram's name to Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude) and Jacob's name from Jacob (deceiver) to Israel (he who strives with God). As Rachel was dying in child birth, she named her son Ben-oni (son of my sorrow), but Jacob changed it to Benjamin (son of my right hand). Jesus changed Simon's name from Simon (God has heard) to Peter (rock).

Insight: Whatever name(s) Adam gives his helper will be very significant.

Authority: The right to name the animals suggests Adam's authority over them:

ESV **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

According to 2:20, what had all these beasts been formed out of? God formed them out of the ground.

It has been said that women are from Venus and men are from Mars. Look back to verse 2. According to 2:7, where are men really from? Like the beasts, men are from mud!!!

Joke: This is why men are such pigs when it comes to cleaning up after themselves, that's why men track dirt into the house and mess up the kitchen. Mud is what comes naturally to us!

ESV **Genesis 3:19** By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Thus, at funerals, preachers traditionally said: "ashes to ashes, dust to dust."⁹

Joke: Carl Sandburg quipped, "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, if the women don't get you then the whiskey must."

— 2:21-22 —

******We've already seen that men are not from Mars, men are from mud. Neither is it true women are from Venus. According to 2:21-22, where did woman come from?** The woman's origin was different from the origin of Adam and the animals. They were made from the dust but she was made from Adam.

PPT>>>ESV **Genesis 2:21-22** 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. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

PPT>>>Why A Rib?

Joke: God asked Adam if he'd like a helper, someone who would clean the house every day, do all his laundry, cook his dinner every night, wash up the dishes while he reclined in his easy chair, then come sit beside him and gaze lovingly into his eyes. Adam asked God how much something like that would cost. God said, "It would cost you an arm and a leg." Adam replied, "I dunno ... What can I get for a rib?"

4. What does woman's unique creation from a rib rather than dust indicate about the woman (2:21-22)? See 1:27, 1 Corinthians 11:8. That the woman was made of the man's rib, rather than the dust, suggests each is incomplete without the other. It also suggests that she is indeed a helper perfectly fit for man.

ESV 1 Corinthians 11:8 For a man ... is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man.

Like the man she is created in God's image. She is part of him. Moses tells us that both are created in God's image:

ESV **Genesis 1:27** ... God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

5. Why do you suppose God made the woman from Adam's rib rather than his foot or a head bone (2:21-22)? That she was taken from his side suggests that she is his equal.

⁹ Anglican Book of Common Prayer.

PPT>>>Matthew Henry: “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.”

Does 2:21-22 explain why men have one less rib than women? Men do not have one less rib than women! Alterations to a parent’s body are not transmitted to children. A dog’s tail can be cut off but its puppies will still be born with tails. However, it is true that a rib is the only bone that will grow back if removed; it’ll regenerate. God evidently knew what He was doing!

18. What does the creation of Adam first, then Eve later, indicate about roles within marriage? See *1 Corinthians 11:4, 9-10*.

PPT>>>ESV 1 Timothy 2:12-13 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man ... For Adam was formed first, then Eve ...

PPT>>>ESV 1 Corinthians 11:4 ... the head of a wife is her husband ...

PPT>>>ESV Ephesians 5:23 ... the husband is the head of the wife ...

Adrian Rogers: In nature and in marriage, anything with no head is dead and anything with two heads is a freak.

Word of Caution: As a result of sin entering the world, women will be tempted to not submit, but rather to try to control and manipulate their husbands:

ESV **Genesis 3:16** To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

This word “desire” means to control to master. It is used again here:

ESV **Genesis 4:6-7** The LORD said to Cain, "... sin is crouching at the door. Its **desire** is for you, but you must rule over it."

— 2:23 —

******How did Adam react when he saw his refurbished rib (2:23)?** He instantly and excitedly recognized her as a part of his own body and he gave her a name related to his own name.

PPT>>>ESV Genesis 2:23 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."

How to Find Your Soul Mate: At the right time, God brought Eve into Adam’s life. For us today, the best way to find the right person is to be the right person.¹⁰

¹⁰ Rogers, *Adrianisms*, 182.

- **“this at last” (2:23):** This is evidently a Hebrew idiom expressive of joyous astonishment.¹¹ The NASB translates it “this is now.” It is roughly equivalent to “wow!”

Application: A cynical joke declares marriage to be a great institution, but then asks, “Who wants to live in an institution?” To the contrary, marriage is something to get excited about. It is a God-given blessing.

Exception: Some people do have the gift of being single (1Co 7:7), but most people don’t.

PPT>>>9. What truth about the marriage relationship does 1 Corinthians 11:9-10 bring out based on Genesis 2?

PPT>>>ESV 1 Corinthians 11:9-10 ... man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

PPT>>>Orientation: Men and women need each other, but they are oriented to each other differently. Man needs the help; woman needs to help. Adam was called to the work and the woman was called to Adam. She was to help him in his task God gave him before she was created. He is oriented to the task; she is oriented to him.¹²

Vocations: God defined the man by the work he was called to do. The woman was defined by the man she was called to help. A vocation is a calling; it is from the Latin “I call”. Adam was the one in charge and Adam was the one responsible for both the work and for his wife.¹³ Even though Adam and Eve both sinned, the entire blame for the fall went to Adam

PPT>>>6. What application does Ephesians 5:28-29 derive that could be based on 2:23?

PPT>>>ESV Ephesians 5:28-29 ... husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it ...

“Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” (2:23) is used elsewhere in the Old Testament to refer to blood relatives. This makes the point that marriage is the closest of all human relationships.¹⁴

PPT>>>7. Based on 2:23, why did Adam name her “woman” (2:23)? Since she was taken out of his own body, he gave her a name that was taken out of his own name. The Hebrew for man is *ish* (376), and for woman is *ishsha* (802). This even comes across in English: man, woman and male, female (doubtless feminists are on the warpath to change this).

¹¹ Keil and Delitzsch, “The Pentateuch”, *Commentary on the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986), 69.

¹² Douglas Wilson, *Reforming Marriage* (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 1995), 19.

¹³ Wilson, *Marriage*, 30.

¹⁴ Dennis & Grudem, *ESV Study*, 54.

PPT>>>8. How does Adam naming Eve relate to maiden names and married names (2:23)?

In the beginning, the woman took on the name the man gave her. This is the basis for the practice of a woman changing her name to her husband's name when she marries. Feminists reject this, insisting on keeping their maiden names (which is also a man's name: their fathers' name).

PPT>>>Insight: The fact that Adam named the woman suggests authority.

PPT>>>Application: ESV **Ephesians 5:23** For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the **head** of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Turn ahead to Genesis 3. What specific name did Adam give the woman in 3:20? He named her Eve, which sounds like the Hebrew for "living," since she was the mother of all living people.

10. How does 1 Corinthians 11:12-13 out 2:23 and 3:20?

PPT>>>ESV 1 Corinthians 11:12-13 ... in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God.

PPT>>>Men and women are mutually dependent on each other. Yes, Eve came from Adam, but all subsequent men have come from women. There is equality.

PPT>>>Equality: There is equality within marriage (both are created in God's image), but there are differing roles. Douglas Wilson asks which is better: a hammer or a tea cup? The answer is it depends on what you are using it for! They have different uses. It is not that women are incapable. You could use a wrench to drive in a nail, but it is better to use a hammer.

— 2:24 —

******What universal application did Moses draw from all this in 2:24?**

PPT>>>ESV Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Moses taught to leave and hold fast. "**Hold fast**" (2:24) is from *dabaq* (1692), "to cling, keep close, stick together."¹⁵ A unique relationship is to exist between husband and wife, a bonding even stronger than parental ties. Once married, your relationship to your spouse must take precedence over your relationship to your parents.

PPT>>>11. In what sense should a man leave his father and mother when he gets married?

In ancient times a newly married man did not leave home physically since they all worked the family farm and he stood to eventually inherit it. The meaning here concerns allegiance, loyalty, or priority. Sometimes a husband needs to protect (shield) his wife from her mother-in-law (his mother). Some wives need to cut the umbilical cord connecting them to their own mothers.

¹⁵ Harris, *TWOT*, #398.

Parents are a wonderful source of wise counsel but they are not the authorities in their children's marriage.

PPT>>>What application should we draw from Moses' "hold fast" statement? Marriage is to be permanent for this life. Yet we must not fail in our responsibilities to our mate. Too many men stop paying attention to their wives, stop treating them as special. Too many women let themselves go, neglecting their fitness and appearance. Honoring our mate means never taking the other person for granted.

PPT>>>12. What truth about marriage did Jesus draw from 2:24 in Matthew 19:3-9?

PPT>>>ESV Matthew 19:3-6 "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

God's Ideal: Divorce is the only game in which everyone loses. Divorce is always the result of sin. God's ideal is one man, one woman, for life, separated only by death. Divorce never has been a part of God's ideal plan (but He did allow exceptions for it under certain conditions). God has made us different so He can make us one.¹⁶

Hang In There: "Sometimes the marriage that starts out as an ideal becomes an ordeal and then they are looking for a new deal" (Adrian Rogers). Studies reveal that two-thirds of unhappy marriages will become happy within five years if people stay married and do not get divorced.¹⁷ There is hope!

13. What is this one flesh statement all about, beyond that which is obviously physical (2:24)? Its physical oneness is symbolic of the complete identification of one person with the other in community as their interests and pursuits become one.¹⁸

14. What application did Paul derive from Genesis 2:24 in 1 Corinthians 6:16?

PPT>>>ESV 1 Corinthians 6:15-16 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh."

Paul understood Moses' one flesh statement to preclude extra-marital affairs. C.S. Lewis said, "Every time a man and a woman enter into a sexual relationship a spiritual bond is established between them which must be eternally enjoyed or eternally endured." John MacArthur pointed out that sexual sin shatters spiritual relationships, both human and divine.¹⁹

¹⁶ Rogers, *Adrianisms*, 189.

¹⁷ Keller, *Marriage*, 26.

¹⁸ HC Leupold, *Exposition of Genesis* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book, 1942), 137.

¹⁹ John MacArthur, "1 Corinthians", *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1984), 151.

17. What additional reason for marriage did Paul offer in 1 Corinthians 7:2?

PPT>>>ESV **1 Corinthians 7:2** ... because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

PPT>>>ESV **1 Corinthians 7:9** ... it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

Marriage is helpful to help us resist temptation in a sex crazed world.

— 2:25 —

****What interesting side comment did Moses add in 2:25?

PPT>>>ESV **Genesis 2:25** And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

PPT>>>It suggests they were at ease and had no fear of exploitation or potential for evil.²⁰

PPT>>>**Goal:** To be completely known and still be loved is the goal of marriage.²¹

15. Why is this information (2:25) important? See *Genesis 3:7-11*. This information becomes important because of what happened in chapter 3 relative to sin and the Fall of man. The nakedness suggests sinlessness.

Conclusions

PPT>>> **Patterns:** Adam and Eve serve as prototypes for marriage as God intended marriage to be: One man, one woman, for life. The pattern laid down by God in the beginning rules out unbiblical divorce, polygamy and homosexuality.

PPT>>> 16. What are some primary reasons for marriage, based on Genesis 2:18-25?

- As within the Trinity, God ordained marriage was for companionship. It is not good that man be alone.
- So that the man and wife can co-labor together in whatever task God has called the man to do. Man needs the help; woman needs to help.
- To mankind is to be fruitful and multiply, filling the earth with godly children, 1:28a.

Insights:

- Adam's creation first, before Eve, signals that the man should be the leader in the relationship.
- Eve's creation out of Adam's rib signals that husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.
- Couples are to leave the authority of their parents and become one flesh together, a new family unit.
- The one flesh union means divorce is a violation of God's good design.

²⁰ Walvoord & Zuck, "Old Testament", *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1985), 31.

²¹ Rogers, *Adrianisms*, 185.

Stephen E Atkerson
NTRF.org Revised
12/11/2022