

God's Design for Marriage

Genesis 2:18-25
4/23/2017

**** Let the Designer Himself show you His plan for Marital Harmony!***

I. God created Eve _____ Adam…

to express the _____ He desires for the Husband & Wife (v.18-20)

A. Eve was Created to be Adam's _____ (v.18a)
("It is not good that the man should be alone")

B. Eve was Created to be Adam's _____ (v.18b-20)
("I will make him an help meet for him")

II. God created Eve _____ Adam…

to express the _____ (unity) He desires between Husband & Wife (v.21-25)

A. Woman's _____ shows the oneness God desires in marriage (v.21-22) *"And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman"*
(Marital unity is _____ by creation)

B. Adam's _____ shows the oneness God desires in marriage (v.23) *"This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh"*
(Marital unity is _____ by Adam)

C. God's _____ shows the oneness He desires in marriage (v.24) *"Leave…and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh"*
(Marital unity is _____ by God)

Conclusion: God created marriage to illustrate the relationship and unity that Christ has with His bride (the believing Church) (Ephesians 5:29-32)

The First Marriage

(God's Design for Marriage - Genesis 2:18-25)
10/26/97

INTRODUCTION:

In chapter 1, God gave us a brief synopsis of His creation of man and woman on Day 6 (So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.)

Now, in 2:18ff, God details how He did it and why.

This account is not a fanciful fictitious story but the way it really happened, according to Jesus Christ (cp. Gen. 1:27 & 2:24 with Matthew 19:3-6, Mark 10:2-9).

"It is quite wrong to imagine that somewhere in a cave around the flickering light of a fire, a group of previously promiscuous people decided that marriage might be a good idea" (Jay Adams).

The home was established by God!

We have so-called "experts" today who think they have all the answers to the needs of families and marriages. However, the only true, trustworthy answers can come from the Designer Himself. ILLUS: The one who knows a machine, product, etc., best is the designer.

ILLUS: In the early days of the automobile, a man's Model-T Ford stalled in the middle of the road. He couldn't get it started no matter how hard he cranked nor how much he tried to advance the spark or adjust things under the hood. Just then a chauffeured limousine pulled up behind him, and a wiry, energetic man stepped out from the back seat and offered his assistance. After tinkering for a few moments, the stranger said, "Now try it!" Immediately the engine leaped to life. The well-dressed individual then identified himself as Henry Ford. "I designed and built these cars," he said, "so I know what to do when something goes wrong." God, as our Creator, knows how to "fix" us when our lives are broken by sin.

**** Let the Designer Himself show you His plan for Marital Harmony!***

I. God created Eve <u>FOR</u> Adam…

to express the <u>Roles</u> He desires for the Husband & Wife (v.18-20)

A. Eve was Created to be Adam's <u>Companion</u> (v.18a)

("It is not good that the man should be alone")

This is the only time in creation account that God said that something was <u>not</u> good (v. 10, 12 Earth=good; v. 18 Sun & moon=good; v. 21 sea life=good; and v. 25 animals=good)

"The skies without the luminaries and birds are incomplete. The seas without the fish are incomplete. Without mankind and land animals he earth is incomplete" (Hamilton, p.175). And now with woman, the man is incomplete.

"<u>Not good</u> that the man should be alone" - The Apostle Paul states that singleness is "good" in certain cases (so a believer who has the "gift of celibacy" [Mt. 19:11-12; I Cor. 7:7-9] would be able to serve the Lord without distraction [cp. I Cor. 7:32-35]), but as a general pattern of God's order marriage is the preferred option. It is "good."

"Alone" = to be solitary, to live separate from others, to be isolated, to be all by yourself.

In what sense was it <u>not</u> good for Adam to be alone?

1. No <u>communication</u>
2. No <u>helper</u> ("two are better than one" - Eccl.)
3. No ability to <u>procreate</u> on his own

God created man in God's own image and likeness - READ 1:26-27.

The Triune Godhead is a <u>social</u> being. The Bible describes the members of the Trinity as communicating with each other (EX: "Let <u>us</u> make man in <u>our</u> image" - Gen. 1:26; "Whom shall I send and who will go for <u>us</u>?" - Is. 6:8; cp. Gen. 3:22, 11:7; Eccl. 12:1).

God gave man a social nature that craved companionship.

Most everyone naturally craves meaningful relationships.
--Children need friends
--Some men go to the bar to find it.
--Others look in classified ads to find it.

A companion was needed for <u>fellowship</u> (communication is important)

Next to fellowship with the Lord, your fellowship with your mate should be the closest, most intimate, enjoyable, and rewarding relationship in your life.

We all need someone to share our joys and burdens, triumphs and defeats.

God designed the format of marriage to provide a setting for the most intimate fellowship between two people.

ILLUS: the natural desire for dating couples is to be together. They sacrifice greatly to be together. Why does this seem to change after marriage?

--Discontentment, disturbances (little problems that could be worked out when dating now go undealt with)

B. Eve was Created to be Adam's <u>Completer</u> (v.18b-20)
("I will make him an help meet for him")

This naming of the animals took place on the sixth day of creation.
1) creation of man,
2) naming of animals, and
3) the making of woman all happened on the sixth day (cp. 1:27)

<u>Not all</u> of the animals "of the <u>earth</u>" (1:24) were brought to Adam, but the animals "of the <u>field</u>" (hassadheh). (Leopold, p.131)

God does not command Adam to name them, but by bringing the animals before him, he gives Adam the opportunity to express his deep and direct mental insight into the <u>nature</u> of animals.

1) he would see their <u>distinctiveness</u> from himself
(Different size, shape, & appearance)

2) he would see their <u>impersonal nature</u>
(You may talk to your dog or cat, but they don't talk back!)

God deliberately made Adam wait a while before He created Eve, so as to bring Adam to the realization that he needed a counterpart (and thus would appreciate her more once received).

Singles, maybe this is one reason why God has not yet given you a spouse.

--He may want you to <u>remember</u> what it was like to be alone so that you will appreciate your spouse.

--He may want to mature some area of your life so that you will be better suited for the responsibilities of marriage.

God made it evident that man needed woman. She was to provide him assistance; be the "missing links" of his life so as to enable him ("complete him") to fulfill God's plan for his life.

"Help" - Ezer = to aid, assist

"Meet" - Kenegdo = suitable for, corresponding to similar but opposite

The woman would be “meet” or suitable (agreeable; matching) to man [not an inferior being]

(God made you to support man's other side - this phrase points to "a complement, or "completer")

"Completer" - man by himself is like cookies without sugar, like a car without a motor, like pie without fruit, like rice without beans; like coffee without cream etc.
. . . He's only "half-baked"!!

“The creation of this helper will form one-half of a polarity, and will be to man as he south pole is to he north pole” (Hamilton, p.175).

Men and women are different emotionally (she cries more easily), psychologically (their interests differ), physically ("weaker vessel" - I Pet. 3).

This difference is not bad but good; Its by design.

The woman is what is missing in the man, and the man is what is missing in the woman.

MAN (DOER)	**Woman (be-er)**
1) achiever 2) work-oriented (interested) 3) more independent 4) provides for children 5) more rational	1) helper 2) home-oriented (interested) 3) more dependent (needs frequent reassurance 4) produces children 5) more emotional

It amazes me how opposites tend to attract. A tall guy will marry a short girl. An intelligent girl will marry a not-so-intelligent man. A quiet person marries an out-going person. Etc.

A good wife will fill in your weak spots, will strengthen your areas of need.

A good husband will not be too proud to let her.

God created Eve in such a way that she would correspond to Adam physically, socially, and spiritually (Ross, p. 126).

She would be the missing piece of the two-piece puzzle.

A wife finds her fulfillment in life by fulfilling her husband. Her needs are met in large part by meeting his.

“Woman goes to an incomplete man, completes him, and then receives the benefits of his completeness.” (Jack Hyles)

Ladies, you will never find fulfillment in life until you fulfill the purpose for which you were made.

How does the wife help complete the man?

1) By being spiritual (I Pet. 3:1-7) You will not be right with him until right with God

2) By being dependable and trustworthy ("the heart of her husband doth safely trust in her" - Prov. 31:11)

3) By being a homemaker (making your house a home - Prov. 31)

4) By being part of the team (work, plan, etc. together)

5) By being interested in his life (if he can't share his problems with you, who can he share with?)

6) By being open (discuss feelings, problems)

7) By showing confidence in him (admire him; "reverence" him - Eph. 5:33)

8) By being an encourager (His “cheer leader”)

9) By being grateful for him (don't wait until after he is dead!)

NOTE: Your husband will never deserve all of the above. But you don't deserve to be saved either!

You must obey Christ and be a helpmeet for Christ's sake.

If you don't complete your husband, he will live and die without becoming all that God had intended him to be.

"I will make him an help meet <u>for</u> him" - (v. 18) . . . **"an help meet <u>for</u> him"** (v. 20).

I Cor. 11:8-9 - For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

In this account of God's creation of woman, nothing is said of her being a "chiild bearer," although she was designed to give birth to children. All of the emphasis is on her being Adam's partner and helper. Wives, your first and foremost responsibility is to your husband (and vice versa).

II. God created Eve <u>FROM</u> Adam…

to express the <u>Oneness</u> (unity) He desires between Husband & Wife (v.21-25)

A. Woman's <u>ORIGIN</u> shows the oneness God desires in marriage (v.21-22)

"And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman"

(Marital unity is <u>illustrated</u> by creation)

"Deep sleep" = a divine anesthetic that made Adam oblivious to the surgery God was performing.

"from the <u>rib</u>" - Jokes abound today about "Adam's rib" and "Women's lib" The Hebrew word translated "rib" refers to the "side" The word encompasses both the bone and the surrounding flesh; Hence, Adam's testimony: "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" (v.23)

"He <u>made</u>" = to <u>build</u>, or fashion

The way God created woman reveals His design for a close union.

God could easily have created Eve out of the dust (as He created Adam), but He chose to make her body from his body . . .

to demonstrate the <u>unity</u> God designed for marriage
and to illustrate a woman's natural dependency on the man from whom she was created.

From the beginning, God instituted marriage to be a <u>monogamous</u> (one spouse) and <u>heterosexual</u> union.

God formed <u>one</u> woman from Adam's side, not a harem. (Polygamy is a sinful perversion of God's design).

God formed a woman not another man from Adam's side (homosexuality and lesbianism are a sinful perversion of God's design). [Their names were Adam & Eve not Adam & Steve]

Augustine said: "God did not take a bone from Adam's head from which to create Eve that she might be above him, nor a bone from his foot that she might be beneath him, but from his side that she might be **beside** him . . . close to his heart and yet under his arm for protection."

The emphasis, though, is not on where the bone was located, but is on the fact that the woman's body came from the man's body (so as to express the unity and attraction husbands would have for their wives).

Eph. 5:28 - So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

She is your flesh and blood!

1. ***"God brought her unto the man"*** -

   Every marriage must start with God.

   Every believer should get his wife from God.

   Let God bring the one He wants to you! (Seek his will)

   (NOTE: they were both spiritual and godly. Unequal yokes are never God's will - 2 Cor 6:14 - *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness*?)

   Generally a couple will believe that "God" brought them together, until trouble sets in. They say: "The devil did it."

2. ***"God brought her unto the man"*** -

   She was a gift to the man. Do you view your wife as a gift to be enjoyed or a thorn to be endured?

   Prov.18:22 - *Whoso* findeth a wife findeth a good *thing*, and obtaineth favour of the LORD

B. Adam's <u>TESTIMONY</u> shows the oneness God desires in marriage (v.23) *"This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh"*
(Marital unity is <u>identified</u> by Adam)

Without revelation from God, Adam realizes that the woman was made from himself. His words express joy and astonishment at the corresponding nature and close relationship of Eve to himself.

LIT: ***"This is now bone <u>from</u> my bones and flesh <u>from</u> my flesh."***

אדם = "Adam" - <u>man</u> as he relates to the earth (אדמה) from which he was taken.

אישׁ = <u>"man"</u> as he relates to his strength and vitality; his pre-eminence over creation.

אשׁה = "woman" - lit. a female man

Adam is saying: "She shall be called ishah, because she was taken out of ish."

Today women do not want this distinction. . . . All I have to say about this is: "Ish!"

Unity does <u>not</u> mean uniformity!

EX: a <u>team</u> has unity yet distinct positions
an <u>army</u> " "
a <u>work place</u> " "

Just as the church is <u>one</u> body made up of varying parts (I Cor. 12), so the husband and wife are to have distinct roles, yet produce a single, harmonious unity.

NOTE: **There is a <u>oneness</u> (equality in nature) but a distinction in function** implied in these verses.

One is the <u>head</u> of the home, the other is the <u>helper</u>.

Such headship is seen by the fact that:

1) Adam was created first
(I Tim. 2:11-13 - *But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve.*)

2) God named the race after the man
(Gen. 5:2 - *Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created*.)

3) God gave Adam responsibility to "dress and keep" the garden prior to Eve's creation (2:15-17)

4) God made Eve from Adam (I Cor. 11:8 - *"For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man"*)

5) God provided Adam with a helper
(I Cor. 11:9 - *"Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."*)

**The woman was made <u>for man</u>!
a) not for children
b) not for your own job and career

6) God held the man responsible for the sin in the home
(Gen. 3:9 - And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou?)

C. God's <u>PLAN</u> shows the oneness He desires in marriage (v.24) *"Leave…and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh"*
(Marital unity is <u>instituted</u> by God)

This verse shows that celibacy is <u>not</u> a higher or holier state than marriage.

1. Make a <u>Break</u> with your parents
("Leave" = shows that marriage is a <u>priority</u> relationship)

(Cut the apron strings! And Leave your Dad and Mom from being dependent on them and leave geographically. In-law problems abound because of a failure to fulfill this principle)

2. Make a Bond with your spouse
("Cleave" = shows that marriage is a permanent relationship)

"cleave" = to stick or glue together.
to be closely joined together.

Jer. 13:11 - God uses this term to express the close union ("cleaving") into which He had brought his people (Israel and Judah) to Himself in love and favor (Wilsons, p. 79).

Divorce is no option for the believer!

Since the fall of man, this oneness (which does exist in God's eyes) can only be experienced in your marriage relationship, if you are right with God. No one who gets married is compatible! Not even Christians! They are just saved sinners! As they grow closer to the Lord, they grow closer to each other.

The more we see marriage problems all around us, the more we wonder where to look for a marriage that is working.

How about the story of a couple who not only made their marriage work but who also used their unity to assist the early church? Their names were Aquila and Priscilla.

Notice the characteristics that made them so helpful to Paul, and which, I believe, reflected the strength of their marriage.

They were selfless and brave. In Romans 16:4, Paul said they "risked their own necks" for him.

They were hospitable. A church met in their home (1 Cor. 16:19).

They were flexible. Twice they had to move--once by force from Rome (Acts 18:2) and once by choice to go on a missions trip with Paul (v.18).

They worked together. They were tentmakers (v.3).

They both were committed to Christ and teaching others about Him. They invited Apollos to their home, where they "explained to him the way of God more accurately" (v.26).

Aquila and Priscilla were a unit--a team--an inseparable twosome. That may make them an unusual couple, but it's a difference we who are married should all hope to imitate. --JDB (Radio Bible Class)

CONCLU: v.25 - Before sin entered the world, there was never an evil, lustful, selfish thought.

They were not pre-occupied with each other's nudity and distinctiveness. They accepted it. Were not carnally-minded.

Before the fall of man into sin,

--there was no guilt
--there was nothing to hide
--there was no preoccupation with vanity
--there was no self-centered lust

Before the fall, there was a marvelous oneness, no sexual obsessions, no sexual perversions.

Oneness - I Pet. 3:7 says that husband and wife are "heirs together of the grace of life"

Conclusion: God created marriage to illustrate the relationship and unity that Christ has with His bride (the believing Church) (Ephesians 5:29-32)