

# On the Beginning

## 5. Marriage

NOTE ESPECIALLY Genesis 2:18-25

We notice that the first time God looked down on His creation and said “*It is not good*” is in Genesis 2:18 (Contrast this with what He said in Genesis 1:11-12). Of course, the Creator did not make anything bad. However, when He had finished making and instructing Adam, His work was not *complete*. Genesis 1:24-31 tells us what God created and made on the sixth day, including His creation of man. When He made mankind, He made them “*male and female*,” we see, and this means that what happened in Genesis 2 happened on the sixth day. God made man “*male and female*,” but He made the man *first* to show him his need of a companion. Genesis 2 tells us how man was created and marriage instituted. In Matthew 19, we learn that Jesus told people to go back to “*the beginning*” (vs. 4 and 5) to learn what marriage is really about. We would all do well to do this, and Genesis 2 is where we find what marriage originally was.

### 1. Romance in Marriage.

Really the story is very romantic. God makes a very good world, and puts Adam in a very good place. But something is missing. Adam needs a companion, a helper (vs. 15-18). The Lord tells Adam to spend the day looking among the animals He had made in order to choose one as his “*help*.” After examining every creature he could, “*there was not found an help meet [fitting] for him*” (vs. 19-20). In the process, God had Adam expand the basic language He had given him by naming the animals he examined. Language was originally given to man for him to use in communicating with God. The Lord wanted him to learn how to expand that language by inventing new words. This he did while looking for a companion, the one to whom he would also talk.

What would make a creature “*meet*” (fitting) to be Adam’s helper-companion? As we know, there are many beautiful and enjoyable animals in God’s creation, but they all lack the one quality that Adam must have in a life-partner. None of them are his *peers*. In other words, they are not his *equal*. Man must commune with an equal.

So God takes a rib from his side (not from his head or his foot) and makes the Woman (vs. 21-23). She is very different from Adam, but overall she is much the same. She is another human being, made in God’s image (Genesis 1:27). The man was delighted with the woman God made to be his partner. She was the final creature made—the Crown of Creation! How romantic! No creature was fit to be Adam’s partner, and so God made one especially for him. Marriage is a romantic thing, and the thought that the one we marry is special, and specially for us, is the basis of that romance. Never lose it!

### 2. Roles in Marriage.

Even before the Fall of Man, marriage partners had different roles. A wife is not a female husband. The husband role is different from the wife role, and fulfilling those roles is very important to keeping a marriage happy! See those roles clearly taught in Ephesians 5:22-33. At first, Adam was the gardener and his wife was his helper (Genesis 2:15 and 18). When they sinned, the difference in their roles became more pronounced (See Genesis 3:16). Whether then

or now, the truth is that fulfilling our role is the key to having a fulfilling marriage.

3. **Respect** of Marriage.

Notice that the first couple were married on the basis of a life-long, legal commitment to each other (v. 24).

*“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”*

The freedom of access to each other’s bodies was granted only after this commitment. Because physical love opens the possibility of children being born, it is only acceptable and right when practiced within marriage bonds. Hebrews 13:4 states the situation plainly.

*“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”*

Sexual conduct outside of legal marriage is always *illicit* (illegal according to God’s law)! God never allowed for children to be born into unstable (such as “shacking up”) or incomplete (such as single-parent) home situations. There had to be a solemn commitment for life before the man and the woman could morally live together. Male-female relations are all good in a Biblical marriage.

*“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”* (Genesis 2:25)

The institution of marriage is disrespected and attacked today by pre-marital sex, adultery, divorce, homosexuality, pornography, and much of our “dating” system. Marriage is exalted in the Bible as the primary human relationship, and the basic unit of human society!