

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."...  
And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

## Week 2 Devotion: God's View of Marriage



Denise and I have been in pastoral ministry for 35 years, and during that time

I have had the privilege of officiating some 30+ weddings. Most of the time Denise and I have

worked together with her coordinating the wedding rehearsals and then making sure the wedding party enters the Sanctuary properly at the ceremony itself. It has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of our ministry together.

That is because most weddings are filled with excitement and joy. Then, after the honeymoon comes the challenge – building a biblically healthy marriage. The newlywed couple will spend a lifetime together, building their relationship with God and each other.

As I prepare for a wedding rehearsal, I often think about Genesis 2 and the fact that God Himself officiated over the first wedding ceremony, and the honor it is to have that privilege. We are not told much about that moment except that God brought Eve to Adam. But God did far more than officiate over a wedding. He also designed the marriage. We see the foundation of that design in Genesis 2:18-25.

- The word 'helper' in verse 18 means one who brings completion to another. A husband and wife are gifts to one another, used by God to make us more together than we can be by ourselves.
- Then the word 'fit for' means to complement or fit together. Think of two gears that mesh together. I think this refers to the gender distinctions that make us uniquely male and female. If we are not careful, these distinctions can cause conflict in a marriage. God's intention is that they complement each other.
- Then there is 'hold fast' in verse 24. This means to be 'glued together', like two pieces of wood glued together to make one. Marriage is to be permanent – we are to be totally committed to one another.
- Finally we see that they are to 'become one flesh'. Though a husband and wife both maintain their individuality, they also are seen by God as one. They are now 'doing life' together.

God has designed marriage to be a man and woman coming together to share life as one through a committed, lifelong covenant relationship. Their unique gifts and personalities mesh together to bring completion, as they become more together than they would be separately. This relationship is sealed before and blessed by God, making this a sacred bond that brings glory to Him. Just as the Lord keeps His covenant promises to us, a husband and wife are committed to keeping their covenant promises to each other. As Jesus said, "So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matthew 19:6).

The Bible is filled with commands and principles that help a husband and wife grow a God honoring and Christ reflecting marriage. One of the best places to find this wisdom is the book of Proverbs. Here are just a few areas of life that are addressed in this treasure trove of wisdom.

- The words we use with each other and resolving conflict – Prov. 10:18-21; 16:24; 12:18; 15:1; 15:4
- Our attitude towards and use of money – Prov. 11:28; 23:4-5; 22:9; 22:7; 21:20; 10:4
- Making prayerful plans for the future – Proverbs 13:16; 16:9; 27:23
- Our marriage relationship – Prov. 18:22; 19:14; 31:10; 24:3-4

Building a godly marriage, like building a godly life will not happen by accident. We bring an open heart that desires to grow in our love for God and each other to Him and His Word. The Holy Spirit then uses the Word of God to make us more like Christ. As a husband and wife do that together, the Lord creates a biblical marriage as they experience the covenant relationship He designed back in Eden.

### For Discussion



Read Genesis 2:18-25 as if God is speaking to you about your marriage. What stands out to you?



Read some of the Proverbs above. What principles are being taught about:

- Our words
- Money
- Planning ahead
- Our marriage



What adjustments do you need to make in order to line up with them?



What are some other verses in Proverbs that are helpful for building a biblically healthy marriage?



So often Jesus taught with stories - He knew that we learn really well that way!

The TRUE story we have for this week’s Kahoot! is from Genesis 1 and 2, the creation of Adam and Eve. Watch the June 14th sermon from Pastor Niall, read Proverbs 31 and Genesis 1-2, go deeper with Pastor Len’s devotion and study for the Kahoot! which will be open from Wednesday through Saturday. Thanks to Caleigh for writing these quiz questions and to Dawn for administering all of the pieces!

We invite families to involve their children in this study and the Kahoot! The questions are written so that all ages can participate—quiz together as a family and plan to come out for Trivia Night on July 1st! Miss Kelly

Memory Verse
“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27

Questions	Answers
The Bible describes Adam’s home as a what?	Garden
Even with access to all of creation, what was Adam still missing?	A helper fit for him
Who thought this was a problem and determined to fix it?	God
What are three things that this shows us about God?	Possible answers may include: He knows our needs, He doesn’t want us to be lonely, He wanted Adam to know what he was missing, family is a really big deal, God chooses our family more than we do
Describe how God created Eve.	He put Adam into a deep sleep, took a rib (or part of his side), closed the spot, and used that part to form Eve.
How is the creation of people different from animals?	God made them “in His image”
What were God’s words about how people (the first husband and wife) turned out?	<i>Very good</i>
“That is why a man leaves his ____ and ____ and is united to his wife. . .” Genesis 2:24	Father and Mother
This married unity is a picture of	A Christian’s unity with Jesus
God’s intention for marriage is that it lasts until what?	Heaven