

**GENESIS 2:18-25** *God has made us male and female. We are different aspects of the glory of God – in marriage we fit together to fulfill God’s plans.*

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said,

**"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."**

<sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the LORD God had 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.

<sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> 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."**

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

## I. INTRODUCTION

“Marriage: It’s what brings us together today.”

Hearing the Wisdom of God

## II. A PLAN FOR ALL HUMANITY

How does God view their relationship?

- Pattern for all human society
  - o Infancy of society
  - o Protects the “very good”
  
- Formation of the family
  - o Any number of ways
  - o One man & one woman
  
- The protection & nurture of children which belong to God

*An Aside: Singleness*

## III. HOW DOES THE PLAN WORK?

עֵזֶר “ezer” A helper, “fit,” “corresponding to,” “suitable” for him.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life. (Psalm 54)

Who is this helper?

- Not made from dust
- One from himself
- One differentiated from himself
  - o This distinction is the most fundamental among our species – these are the first words of humanity
  - o Love each other in different ways
- One who shares God's image with him
  - o My equal
  - o My own flesh & bone
- One with whom he makes his covenant

How does this helper help?

- All the animal kingdom has what it needs – man does not
- Be fruitful and multiply
- Completes him for he is only half a human without her
  - o Relationship with the rest of the animal kingdom must be on *their* level – this one is at his own level
  - o Staunch to narcissism

*But we are in the Sacramental business.....*

<sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5)

#### **IV. WHAT DOES THE STORY MEAN FOR THE CHRISTIAN?**

<sup>16</sup> "And in that day," declares the LORD, "you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.'" (Hosea 2)

<sup>5</sup> For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the LORD of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth. (Isaiah 54)

<sup>2</sup> "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, "I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. (Jeremiah 2)

<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready .... (Revelation 19)

<sup>9</sup> Then came one ... saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." (Revelation 21)

- Christ and the Church
  - o Taken from Christ's side – formed of water & blood
  - o Intimate fellowship
- Covenant of Faithfulness
- Evangelization of the World