

# The Ideal Marriage

## Genesis 2:18-25

God provided Adam a perfect environment, including delicious food, good work to do by the voice of command, and fellowship with Him. This is an example of the purpose for all God has created. What does the last phrase of 1 Timothy 6:17 say is the reason for everything provided in creation?

In our fallen world, there is no such thing as an **ideal marriage**. In fact, someone has said there are three stages to marriage: the ideal, the ordeal, and "let's make a deal."

Some have asked, "Why did God create man first and the woman second?" Someone has suggested that perhaps it was because He didn't want any advice on how to create man. Anyway, after God created Adam and placed him in the paradise of Eden we come to...

## **The Preparation of Adam - 2:18-20**

God looks at Adam and says, "*It is not good for the man to be alone*" (2:18). This is the first time in the Bible that God says something *is not good*. At this point *the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air* (2:19). Some see a contradiction here. In Genesis 1 the animals were created before Adam, but Genesis 2:19 seems to say Adam was created first. There is no contradiction. Genesis 1 provides the order of events with God the Creator as the focal point, and Genesis 2 gives us more details with man being the focal point. Also, Genesis 2:19 says *the LORD God HAD* (past tense) *formed* the animals and brought them to Adam to be named.

God brings all the animals to Adam to be named. In his unfallen state Adam must have had brain power that would make Einstein seem like a toddler, so he would have no problem naming them. As he names and studies the animals, it is obvious God wanted him to discover there was no *helper suitable for him* (2:18). After Adam had looked over and named all the animals, what do we read in the last sentence of verse 20?

Adam realized none of the animals could meet his need for companionship. As with Adam, God made us so we need other people; we need relationships. Whether married or not, we need some close relationships. We need people who love us and care about us because God did not make us to be alone.

God wanted Adam to yearn for Eve as he notices that every other living creature had a compatible mate. God knew this would cause Adam to become lonesome and desire a mate. God never gives us a desire that He cannot and will not satisfy in His own time and way. Sin is the result of being impatient and not waiting for God's fulfillment of our desires. However, what promise do we find in Psalm 37:4?

In our fallen world it is difficult to remain pure and patiently wait for God, but just as God had a plan for Adam, He has a plan to meet every need we have. After **the preparation of Adam**, we come to...

### **The Presentation of Eve - 2:21-23**

Having completed His exhibition of the animals to Adam and causing him to desire a mate, God causes Adam *to fall into a deep sleep*. While Adam is sleeping, God takes one of Adam's ribs and closes *up the place with flesh* (2:21). Being made from the rib of man shows she was the same physically, psychologically, and spiritually.

After making a suitable partner God brings her *to the man*. Adam's reaction is *"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man"* (2:22-23). Unfortunately, no English translation adequately expresses Adam's excitement. After searching the animals from apes to zebras, can you imagine Adam's excitement when he sees Eve, who had more appeal than the latest Hollywood models all rolled into one. The phrase *this is now* would better be translated "WOW!" Adam "goes bananas" when he sees the perfect woman and exclaims in jubilant joy "She's perfect. She's just what I wanted." This is an example of what wonderful promise about God found in the last phrase of Psalm 84:11?

We have examined **the preparation of Adam** and **the presentation of Eve**. Now, let's look at...

### **The Culmination of God's Plan - 2:24-25**

Verse 24 reveals God's three-point plan for marriage: **First**, the man is to *leave his father and mother*. In ancient times a man would bring his wife home, where she became a slave of her husband's mother. In-laws are one of the top contributing factors to divorce in the United States. The less in-laws have to do with decisions in the lives of newlyweds the better, unless the advice is mutually solicited by the couple.

**Second, verse 24** says, *be united to his wife*. This means a whole-hearted permanent attachment to each other. Only the sin of idolatry is more frequently condemned in the Bible than the sin of adultery. Sex outside marriage is the number one condemned sin in the NT because it is an attack on marriage, the first and basic institution of the human race. That's why God gives what basic command in Exodus 20:14?

This commandment does not prohibit sex; it protects sex. According to the Bible, sex originated with God. He thought it all up. The gift of sex comes from God, who created the human race as male and female. There is nothing dirty or dangerous about sex the way God designed it. However, we are living in a world that has changed sex from God's original design, and therefore "sex" is usually associated with perversion, prostitution, rape, child molestation, VD, AIDS, etc. As with the forbidden fruit in the garden, God tells us of the blessings of obedience and the consequences of sin. What warning does God give us in Proverbs 6:32?

A person who commits adultery certainly *lacks judgment* (isn't very smart) because of the high cost of adultery. Someone might say, "Bill, it's too late for me. I didn't hear this soon enough." It is not too late.

In John 8:3-11 the story is told of a woman caught in the very act of adultery and brought to Jesus. I have often wondered where the man was. God's law commanded that both were to be stoned. It is just as sinful for a man to commit adultery as it is a woman. When they bring this woman to Jesus to be stoned Jesus says, *"If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her"* (John 8:7). As the accusers think about that statement, they drop their stones and walk away. Then Jesus asks her, *"Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you!"* She replies, *"No one, sir"* (8:10-11). Then, what does Jesus say in John 8:11?

Unfortunately many people seem to think if you are guilty of sexual sins, you can never be forgiven. However, if you will confess your sin, whether it is sexual or whatever, Jesus will say to you the same thing He said to the woman caught in adultery: *"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more"* (John 8:11, NKJV).

**Third,** Genesis 2:24 says, *they will become one flesh*. God created us as a trinity of body, soul, and spirit. A husband and wife must be united in each of these areas. To *become one* physically or sexually is a marriage of body alone. When the physical attraction wears off, the marriage is doomed. Becoming one also involves becoming one soul, which involves the intellect, emotions, and will. They must be compatible intellectually, emotionally, and morally. Finally, there must be a union of spirit. This means both must be Christians. That's why we find what command in 2 Corinthians 6:14a?

To marry a non-Christian is willfully choosing much heartache and unhappiness. It is also choosing loneliness because you will be unable to share important personal spiritual matters freely with your mate.

The section concludes: *The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame (2:25)*. This means they were free from shame and moral corruption.

We find the principles for an **ideal marriage** in **the preparation of Adam, the presentation of Eve, and the culmination of God's plan.**

God made us for personal human relationships, and unless we engage in them, we are not complete. What human relationships do you need to improve, and when and how will you do it?