

LISTEN UP & WRITE IT DOWN

One is the Loneliest Number

The Gospel According to Genesis: Beginnings

Genesis 2:18-25

March 15, 2009

III. The First Wedding

A. A model established (2:24)

1. Exclusive

2. Permanent

3. God-sealed

B. An ideal relationship (though short-lived)

C. The challenge today

1. Covenant to honor God's model

2. Commit to working toward the ideal

...Building openness, trust and integrity in the marriage relationship.

IV. Genesis points us to Christ and the Table

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Introduction

I. It Is Not Good...for man to be alone (Verse 18-20a)

II. God Acts ... He creates a "suitable helper" (Verses 20b-23)

A. A HELPER

The Hebrew word is *Ezer*. (e.g. *Ebenezer*, "stone of help."
(See 1 Samuel 7:12)

B. Not Just a helper ... a SUITABLE helper

The Hebrew word *k^enegdo*, "corresponding to him," means according to his opposite.

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Genesis 1:24-2:25 again. What general observations stand out about God, about man, and creation in general?
2. In 2:18 the Lord God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." Why?
3. What purpose do you think verses 19-20 serve in the narrative?
4. Look up the following verses: Exodus 18:4, Psalm 46:1, 121:1-2. How do these verses give us perspective on what is meant by God's statement in 2:18, "I will make a helper suitable for him"? Why was nothing else in creation "suitable" to be Adam's help?
5. What is the significance in verse 24 of the man leaving his father and mother and being united to his wife? Discuss the two ideas of "leaving" and "cleaving" (or being united).
6. What does verse 25 suggest about the relationship of Adam and Eve in the garden? Imagine yourself in the Garden. What would a relationship "Paradise" look like?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and/or challenging for you in this week's text?
2. What do we learn about the character of God and His care for us in Genesis 2:18-25?
3. Are you an extrovert or an introvert? An extrovert is outgoing and thrives on being around people, while an introvert is more inward, often shy and tends to keep to oneself. Though times of solitude are helpful for both extroverts and introverts, why do we all need others? In other words, why do we need to be in a community?
4. We are inherently relational beings, created to be in relationship to God and to other people. What can you do this week to nurture your relationship to the Lord? To deepen a relationship with a spouse, other family members, or friends? Read Colossians 3 and seek to apply it to your relationships this week.
5. Does Genesis 2:24-25 challenge your view of marriage? In what ways? Read Ephesians 5:22-33. Paul ties his comments to Genesis 2:24 and then applies them to Christ and the Church. If you are married, how does this challenge you in your own marriage?
6. What impact should the Ephesians passage (above) have on our attitude toward Christ? How should it motivate us in our relationships with each other?