

GOD MADE EVE and ordained marriage

Several thousand years have passed since Adam and Eve became man and wife, but God hasn't changed what he first instructed mankind regarding marriage in the Bible.

Did you know that God was the One who decided that man and woman should marry? In Genesis 2 we find part of the wedding service spoken in many wedding ceremonies today. Men and women and marriage and children are **very** important to God. Marriage is not just a good idea... it's a "God Idea"!

But some people don't know or don't believe what God says about marriage. They say that marriage is something to be tried out to see if it will work—depending upon how you feel about it. Many folks are even suggesting that the idea of marriage is outdated.

But what does the Bible say about marriage? Let's take a look and find out!

God decided that Adam needed a wife to help him and to be his companion.

Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

God decided that Adam should not live alone.

- God was his Creator and knew what was best for him.
- God didn't ask Adam what he wanted or thought best.
- God made the decision to make a wife for Adam.

God loved Adam and wanted him to be complete.

- God knew that Adam wouldn't continue to be happy if he remained alone.
- Because God loved Adam and wanted what was best for him, he decided to make a wife for him.
- God knows ahead of time just what our needs will be, and he also knows the best way to meet those needs.

It is important to note that God didn't create Adam's wife at the same moment or in the same way he created Adam. God created her at just the right time and in just the right way to meet Adam's needs.

God brought all of the animals before Adam to be named by him.

Genesis 2:19-20a Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

God placed Adam as master over all the animals, so God also gave Adam the responsibility of giving them all their names. God brought Adam every creature he had made, and Adam named them all. Imagine having the opportunity to name all of the beautiful creatures. Adam's ability to name all the creatures gives us insight into his perfect intelligence. At this point, Adam had not sinned, so his mind was still in the perfect state in which God had created it.

There was no suitable companion for Adam among the animals. Genesis 2:20b tells us... "*But for Adam no suitable helper was found.*" God created man very different from the animals. Man was made in God's image so he could know, love, and obey God. The animals could not know, love, and obey God like man could. Adam needed someone to whom he could talk and who could do the same things he could do. Adam couldn't do anything to provide himself with a companion and wife. Only God could make a wife for Adam. God knew that Adam would need a wife; God loved man and did not want him to be alone.

God created Eve from Adam's rib.

READ—Genesis 2:21-22 **So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.**

Only God could do this. He knows everything... he can do anything he wants to do. God made the first woman as a gift for man. When we have received a very special gift, we try to take good care of it. God gave a wife to Adam, and God expected Adam to take good care of her and to love her. Adam gave his wife the name Eve, which means lifegiver.

She, like Adam, was created by God, but God had not made her from the dust of the ground as he had made Adam. It is noteworthy, that God took woman out of man's side—to be a companion, not from man's heel—to be his slave. God had actually made her from part of Adam's own body, Adam's rib. How precious and close she must have been to Adam! God gave her a mind and emotions and a will, so she also was able to communicate with God and with Adam.

Marriage was ordained by God.

READ—Genesis 2:23-24 **The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

God made woman for man so they could be married, live together, and have children. "... *be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...*" [Genesis 1:28] This was God's command to Adam. God commanded Adam and Eve to fill the earth and to rule over it. To Adam, uniting with his wife in marriage must have seemed very good indeed!

Because God created everything perfect, we can only imagine just how special this woman really was! And God had made her to be the perfect "suitable helper" that Adam needed. Marriage was God's perfect plan for Adam and Eve. Eve was Adam's gift from God, perfectly suited to Adam's needs. Everything God does and says is good because he is perfect. He cannot think, say, or do anything evil.

In James 1:17, the Bible tells us "*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights...*" Marriage is good because God gave marriage to man. Children and families are very special to God; it was God's idea for a husband and wife to have children.

Adam and Eve were unaware that they were naked, and were totally unembarrassed.

They were not embarrassed because they had no evil thoughts. Everything they knew was good, and they had nothing to be ashamed of. Life was perfect for Adam and Eve; God had given them everything they needed.

Man—the friend of God.

God was committed to the well-being of Adam and Eve... he was there to fill their every need.

We saw in a previous message the Bible revealed, *Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.*

The Bible speaks of God coming in the cool of the evening to walk with man. Adam and Eve were able to do this, as they were innocent of any sort of evil or wrong—they had a perfection that allowed them to be in God’s company. Only perfect people can live in the presence of a perfect God.

What an experience it must have been for this new couple—to stroll in the garden with the creator of the universe! It’s quite conceivable that God spent time explaining in detail how he made things, imparting profound knowledge on intricate flowers, calling down birds concealed high in treetops, introducing secluded forest animals—pointing out things that had escaped their notice. No doubt he explained the laws that kept everything running so precisely.

What an education and what an Educator! No one could have better informed them as to how to care for the garden. The world was a perfect place to live. But God wasn’t some sort of crusty, distant super-professor. The Creator was Adam’s and Eve’s best friend.

In life, the ideal family relationship is one in which the parents give loving care, and a child in turn gives honor to his parents by loving obedience. This was the relationship Adam and Eve had with God. God lovingly provided for them, and they lovingly obeyed the Lord—honoring him. It was the way God created things to be.

READ—Genesis 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Creation was done.

The Bible tells us that God rested on the seventh day, not because he was tired, but because his creation was complete. It was time to lean back and enjoy!

Creation ended with God’s stamp of approval—he pronounced it *very good*.

- All was in order.
- There was no pain, no disease, no struggle for the survival of the fittest, no discord, and above all, no death.
- Between God and man there was a unique relationship, a fellowship, a friendship.
- Eden was the perfect place to live—everything was good.

But today we have pain and disease and only the fittest survive.

- Everything runs down, breaks down, or wears out.
- From every corner of the animal kingdom to all mankind, life involves perpetual struggle.
- The world is *not a very good* place—what happened?

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1

However, today we have pain and disease and only the fittest survive.

- Everything runs down, breaks down, or wears out.
- From every corner of the animal kingdom to all mankind, life involves perpetual struggle.
 - Today’s world is not a very good place—what happened?

We find the answer to this question in Chapter 3 of Genesis... a chapter with the sub-heading—The Fall of Man.

Marriage and the Fall.

The Old Testament and the New Testament explore the damage Adam's fall inflicted on creation. The universe itself (Romans 8:20-22), plant life (Genesis 3:17-19), animal life (Isaiah 65:25), and every human experience were dramatically affected by the entry of sin. It is hardly surprising that marriage did not escape.

The distortion of the sinless harmony that existed prior to the Fall can be seen in the first recorded dialogue of the first couple, as the husband accused and blamed his wife (Genesis 3:8-13). We see it likewise in God's announcement of the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience.

Several aspects of marital distortion are suggested in Genesis 3:

Genesis 3:16a. "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing." The pains of childbirth are proverbial in their unique intensity. This curse may also refer to a modification of the menstrual cycle, imposing a monthly pattern.

Genesis 3:16b. "Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." The word translated "desire" is *tesuqah*... it occurs only three times in the Old Testament. Here, in the context of judgment, it is in parallel with "rule." Together, "desire" and "rule" describe a change in the psychological and social order. In sin-warped human society, the woman will seek refuge in her relationship with her husband, while her husband will dominate the marriage.

Genesis 3:17-19. The curse on the ground is addressed to Adam. In the new order, Adam, who will dominate his wife, must also take responsibility to wrest a living from a resistant earth. Man's brief life span will be marked by toil and struggle, as well as by pain-filled distortions of the husband/wife relationship.

This seemingly grim interpretation of Genesis 3 is not intended to suggest that God sanctions any shift of marriage away from the ideal. In Genesis 3 we simply see foreshadowed what history (including sacred history) documents. Sin distorts every relationship, and we must not draw conclusions about what should be in marriage, or in any other realm, from Old Testament descriptions of what actually was. Just as we make the land productive by whatever means possible, so we must with all our effort seek to counteract the effects of the curse on our own marriage.

In the New Testament, God, directed Paul to record these commands for married believers...

***Wives**, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

Husbands**, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. **Ephesians 5:22-33