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Genesis 2

“Adam, meet Madam”

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Last week’s message ended on the note that mankind was the crowning jewel of God’s creation. After each day of creation, God said that it was good, but at the end of Day Six, when God created man, he said that it was very good. That’s because God took special pride in his creation of man. He did something for man that he had not done for the plant or animal kingdoms; he created man in his image and likeness.¹

In order to understand why the creation of man is distinctly different, it will be important to look at the plant and animal kingdoms in more detail. God created plants as living organisms, however, they have no capacity to think, reason or feel; they just exist. They have no emotion or feeling; they are not afraid and they don’t feel pain when someone prunes a leaf, nor are they aren’t insulted if someone were to exclaim, “Wow, that’s an ugly plant!”

Obviously, unlike the plant kingdom, animals were given the ability to think, reason and feel. If you were to scold a dog, for example, it would show emotion, and if you were to clip a dog’s nails too short, it would feel pain. Animals become angry, feel pain, experience happiness and fear. Dogs even show a conscience when they’re in trouble because their head drops, almost like they’re ashamed.

Animals have emotional and physical feelings, and they have a measure of intelligence, too. Plants, on the other hand, have none of these things; they just exist. The reason animals and plants are different is because animals were given a soul. In [Genesis 1:20, 24](#), the word for “creature,” is *nepesh*. This Hebrew word means, soul, which is the seat of emotion.

¹ [Genesis 1:26](#)

The same is true of mankind. God has created each person with a *nephesh*, which means human beings can think, reason and feel emotion. However, there is something more that God did for man beyond what he had done for plants and animals; he gave man a spirit! ² Each person is created with a body, soul and spirit. This is the reason that mankind is distinguished from the rest of creation, and it explains how we were created in God's image ³ and likeness. ⁴

We were created as spiritual beings with the capacity to think, reason, feel, and have fellowship with God. We've been given a spirit so we'd have the ability to commune with God and to have eternal relationship with him. This is why we are the exceptional part of his creation, because we were designed to have fellowship and relationship with the Creator.

God fashioned Adam from the dust of the ground, which is consistent with science, because we know that our bodies are made up of the same 17 chemical elements as dirt! ⁵ In fact, the word human comes from the Latin word *humus*, which means ground or soil.

When God created Adam he placed him in a spectacular garden, which God created specifically for him. ⁶ **Genesis 2:18** tells us that God was concerned about Adam's well-being, and God took note of Adam's lack of companionship. God said, "*It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him,*" ⁷ so God created woman ⁸ and presented her to Adam. ⁹ When God joined Adam and Eve together in the "first marriage," he established four principles for marriage.

In this study Pastor Gary focuses on four important aspects of the marriage relationship between a husband and wife: spousal loyalty, marital unity, sexual intimacy, and moral purity.

Spousal Loyalty

1. **Genesis 2:24a** - "*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother...*"

² **Genesis 2:7** says that "*the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [the Hebrew word is *chaiyim*, which means "lives"], and the man became a living being.*"

³ The Hebrew word for "*image*," is *tselem*, which means "essential nature," like God (spirit).

⁴ The Hebrew word for "*likeness*" is *demuwth*, which means, "pattern." God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Man is created with body, soul and spirit.

⁵ Primarily, human beings are made of hydrogen, carbon, oxygen and 14 trace elements.

⁶ **Genesis 2:8-17**

⁷ **Genesis 2:18**

⁸ Adam later named her Eve, which means "living." (**Genesis 3:20**)

⁹ **Genesis 2:22**

2. Adam had no father and mother, so obviously God is looking ahead to the future family and advising that there needs to be a clean break from your family of origin.
3. This doesn't mean that we're to cut off contact or avoid holidays or become unsociable with the ones we love.
4. It does mean that the priority becomes your spouse and the home you're establishing, not your parents or siblings, but each other.
5. It also means that parents and in-laws must respect the new couples' privacy and respect the couples' decisions regarding the way they choose to run their own home or parent their children.
6. Parental advise, yes, but parental interference, no!

Marital Unity

7. **Genesis 2:24b** - "... and be united to his wife..."
 - a. The KJV uses "to cleave."
 - b. The Hebrew word *davaq*, means "to cling" or "to join with," and it yields the noun form for "glue."
8. Man and woman are two elements of the same original union, and marriage is a reunion of what was once a single entity, which is the purpose of marriage.
 - a. This reunion is a completion, not a competition.
 - b. The problem, however, is that no two individuals are the same, to say nothing of the fact that men are different from women, and those differences can lead to competition instead of completion.
9. While it's generally true that "Birds of a feather flock together," which is the way you choose friends, it's not the case when it comes to marriage.
 - a. Opposites do attract, and that's how you fall in love; you're attracted to what's missing in you.
 - b. The differences, however, can sometimes be the source of conflict in the relationship.
 - c. It's important for husbands and wives to appreciate their differences, because the differences are actually complementary, and one's weakness is usually the other's strength and vice-versa.

Sexual Intimacy

10. **Genesis 2:24b** - *"... and they will become one flesh."*
11. Paul quotes this verse when he warns about sexual sin.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 6:16** - *"Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, 'The two will become one flesh.' "*
12. There is a spiritual oneness that occurs in a sexual relationship, and that's why it's important that you give yourself to you're your spouse in the context of marriage.
13. God's design is that the sexual union of a husband and a wife would be a natural bond to bring them into spiritual oneness, not just physical oneness, but a spiritual oneness.
14. Sexual intimacy is an important component of marriage, so should sex should never be used to punish or manipulate a spouse.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 7:3-5** - *"The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."*

Moral Purity

15. **Genesis 2:25** - *"The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."*
16. There was an innocence Adam and Eve's relationship, that in reality, we will never be able to replicate, because sin has robbed us of that innocence.
17. However, in principle, this innocence speaks to the fact that nothing was hidden; they had an open, honest, and pure relationship with God and with each other.

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Genesis 2:1-25](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. Allow the people in your group to talk about their experiences with premarital counseling.
 - a. Were you a Christian when you got married?
 - b. What did the pastor or counselor share regarding these four principles?
4. Have you been able to set appropriate boundaries with your parents/in-laws?
 - a. If you haven't been successful in "leaving and cleaving," what steps can you take to ensure there will be appropriate boundaries going forward?
5. How do you work out the details of family get-togethers and holidays?
 - a. Have you been able to work things out with your parents/in-laws so there are no hard feelings or damaged relationships?
6. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences regarding things they've learned about their spouse since they've been married. NOTE: Leaders - Be prepared to use humor to set the tone and create discussion, and make sure this time doesn't turn into a "gripe session."
7. How have you grown in your marriage relationship that demonstrates that you've been "glued" to your spouse? (See #7b above)
8. What are some of the ways that you complement your spouse?
 - a. Who is the "financial genius" in your marriage?
 - b. Do you have assigned responsibilities?
 - c. Who is the primary caregiver for your children?
 - d. Share experiences about the ways you've grown in your marriage and how the Lord has helped you in each stage of your married life together.
9. Read and discuss [1 Corinthians 7:3-5](#).
10. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: recognize the Lord's design for marriage (one man and one woman); be open to the changes the Lord wants to make in your marriage that will enhance your relationship with your spouse; be willing to work together to make your

marriage all it should be, so that your marriage would be a testimony and a witness to others of what a Christian marriage should be.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).