

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

*"Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing...Love as distinct from 'being in love' is not merely a feeling. It is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the grace which both partners ask, and receive from God." —C.S. Lewis, **Mere Christianity***

"God & Marriage"

The Special Creation of Woman: Gen. 2:18-22

The Occasion:

"It is not good that the man should be alone..."

⇒ The man cannot fully image the Triune God in _____

Deut. 6:4—"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

2 Cor. 13:14—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

"We worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity, neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence." —From the Athanasian Creed

God's Solution:

"...a helper fit for him."

- God brought before him the animals and he exercised his dominion over them by naming them. However, none were like him.
- The term 'helper' ('ezer) used in reference to the woman is a term of **function** rather than **status**. This is clear given that the same term is used at times of God.

Ex. 18:4b—"The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh."

Ps. 33:20—"Our soul waits on the Lord. He is our help and shield."

⇒ In terms of **status** (intrinsic value) men and women are equal before the Lord.

Gen. 1:27—So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Gen. 1:28— And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion..."

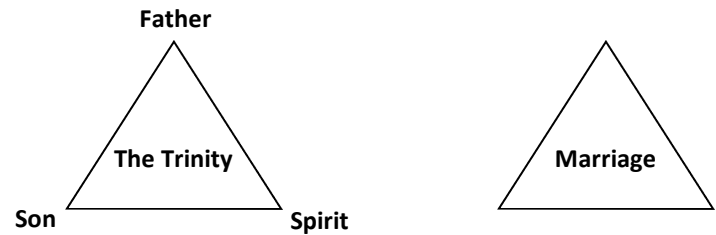
⇒ In terms of **function** within the created order, men and women are distinct from one another.

Biologically:

Roles within Marriage:

Biblical Complementarianism

- Recognition of the Trinitarian Picture of Marriage,
- Recognition of the equality of men and women in God's sight.
- Recognition of the complimentary biological and functional distinctions between men & women.



"God chose to make Eve from the rib of a man. He did not take her from Adam's head that she should rule over him. He did not take her from his foot that he should trample upon her; but from the rib that she might protect his heart."
—A Hebrew adage, quoted by John Currid in his Genesis commentary

The Institution of Marriage: Gen. 2:23-25

The Response of the Man:

"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."

The Biblical Commentary:

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

⇒ The emphasis here is on the formation of a unique _____

"...one flesh..." → "echad" is used of God's oneness and unity.

⇒ Used here to describe the complete union of husband and wife that is pictured most intimately in sex.

– Sex is to produce _____ (Gen. 1:28)

– Sex is to produce joy, intimacy, and unity between _____ and _____ (Gen. 2:24)

"...and they were not ashamed."

The Significance of Marriage

1. Marriage is the foundation of all other human _____

2. Marriage is a covenant relationship that serves as God's chosen picture of how He relates to His _____

- In the OT, God is described as husband to Israel. He entered into covenant with them, but they rejected Him (Ezek. 16:1-63)

⇒ Under the Old Covenant, God took a bride and called her to be faithful.

- In the NT, Christ is described as the Head of the Church as a husband is head of his wife.

Eph. 5:25-27—Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

⇒ Under the New Covenant, Christ seeks those who were lost and unfaithful in order that He might cleanse them from their adulteries and make them His radiant Bride.

⇒ The covenant commitment and unity between Christ and the Church is what marriage is intended to image to the world. (Eph. 5:31-32)