

PP The Fellowship of the Ring: The Perfect Fit
from The Lord of the Rings series, part 2 (Genesis 2:18)

Illus Thomas Wheeler, former CEO of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, tells a story about a time he and his wife pulled into a rundown gas station outside of his town. While the lone filled the tank he went for a short walk to stretch his legs. He returned to see the attendant and his wife in an animated conversation. As he was getting back into the car, he saw the guy wave to her and heard him say, "It was great talking to you." As they drove away, Wheeler asked his wife if she knew the man. She did. They had gone to high school together and had dated for about a year. "*Boy, were you lucky that I came along,*" bragged Wheeler. "*If you had married him, you'd be the wife of a gas station attendant instead of the wife of a chief executive officer.*" "*Honey,*" replied his wife, "*if I had married him, he'd be the CEO and you'd be pumping gas.*" Bits and Pieces, January 9, 1992, pp. 3-4

Friends, listen, whether you are married now or one day will be, what I'm about to tell
you can completely change a marriage
PP There is no greater human tool in God's toolbox that will be used for your spiritual
growth and higher blessings than your spouse
And that is exactly what God designed marriage to be
If we can understand this truth, it will enable us to view our spouses in a way that we may
never have before
God wants to conform us to His image
Because our greatest joy, satisfaction, and influence will be realized when our character
is most like that of Christ
And He has designed marriage to chisel, help, encouraged, and enable us to be more like
Him
Genesis 2 is, to me, one of the most exciting, riveting and endlessly deep sections of the
entire Bible
No matter how often I read it, I seem to find new truths that I missed the times before
If we are to gain an understanding of what marriage was originally intended to be, here is
where we need to look

PP 1-We are created to enjoy relationships

"It is not good for the man to be alone." 2:18a

This statement, if you are really familiar with chapter one, is deafeningly noticeable
Because there are two parts in it and each go against the very fabric of God's original
design His creations

"It is not good" had never been uttered from the lips of God in Scripture prior to this
Five times in chapter one, we read God stamping His approval upon creation with the
statement, ***"And God saw that it was good"***

After looking at all He had made at the end of the 6th day, He said even more greatly, ***"it
was very good"*** (31)

And when God sees what is good to Him, He blesses it and this is exactly what He did in
Genesis 1:28

To be blessed by God is to live within His favor and peace, and to have the confidence to know that we are loved by our God
When we get to chapter two, starting in verse 4, we are zoomed in close to the creation of humanity
God created Adam, forming him out of the dust and breathing life into him
It is the Hebrew equivalent of blowing hard on a bed of coals to bring the flame to life
And God places the man into Eden to tend it, keep it, and enjoy it
But Adam is the only human being on the planet and so we come to our text in 2:18, and we are allowed to eavesdrop on a conversation by God: ***“It is not good”***
God saw Adam, who had no one after his kind, and said, startlingly, this is not good
The reason it was not good is that it went against the very nature of Who God is

And that leads us to the second part of this phrase, ***“for the man to be alone”***
All through chapter one, we read: ***“And God said, “Let there be light”, or “And God said, Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures”***
God is speaking in the singular third person narrative, from the viewpoint outside of the story
But in 1:26 we read: ***“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”*** **Genesis 1:26**
The narrative changed to first person plural, meaning the narrator is now involved within the story
Do you know what name for ***‘God’*** is used here?
PP It is *Elohim*, and *Elohim* is plural, a name for the Tri-une God, the Father, Son and Spirit
The Tri-une God is intimately involved in the creation of humanity in a way the trinity wasn’t with the rest of creation
Because unlike anything else in creation, humanity is created in their likeness and image
And one of the ways He creates people to image Him is to exist in free relationship
Why is it not good for man to be alone?
Because men and women were, and listen, are, brought into existence to enjoy personal relationships
This is true for single men and women and it is true for married: we are created to supremely enjoy relationships with others of our own kind
For you who are single, God does call certain people to singleness, for a time or for a life
And this calling is no call to a half-life of existence
There are beautiful, gregarious people who do not marry and instead find fulfillment in friendships and deep satisfaction
But Adam in 2:18, is not just single, but utterly alone, with no one available like Him
And God said it is not good for him to be ***‘alone’***, *separated to himself*
PP ***‘not good’*** is more than the absence of something good, rather a *substantial deficiency*
Despite living in a Eden, with an incredible array of life all around him, there was something missing for Adam
It couldn’t be supplied by a pet
Arnold Toynbee pointed out that it is possible for a man and a dog to have great

Fellowship, spending many enjoyable hours together and playing games, giving and showing affection. But the fellowship must be on the dog's level because the dog can only communicate on that level

Adam had no one on his level to share life with

He began to realize this when God brought the animals to Adam to name them

So why wasn't it good for Adam to be alone?

Is it because the garden was too big for Adam to take care of it by himself?

The answer is not that he needed her help to tend the garden and care for it, he needed her *to enjoy living in the garden and keeping it*

Because God means for life to be lived in relationship, and the highest expression of this relationship on earth is seen in marriage

God created Eve and gave her to Adam in marriage so that they could live in His image

To become as one with each other as the Father is with the Son and the Spirit

Do you remember what John 1:1 says?

John says that in the beginning was Jesus, He was **'with'** God and was God

'With' here means facing toward

Jesus has been, for all eternity, in face to face intimacy with His Father

This is what Adam and Eve enjoyed as they perfectly imaged God and lived after His likeness

Ladies, what's it like to go out to dinner with the man you love and have him rarely look at you?

Men, if we are to enjoy supremely satisfying personal relationships with our wives, there is a facing toward her that is crucial

In intimate marriages, husbands and wives face, live toward one another

Men, that means your wife is the central person of your interest, not the people all around

She is the main subject of your conversation, not your job and co-workers

She is the source of your joy, not your career or hobbies

When Denise and I did our roadmap homework this week, she commented to me how much love I communicate when I will turn off the television, or put down the book to spend time with her

Do you realize how many marriages lose intimacy the longer they stay married?

The marriage begins to be lived away from each other, two separate people under one roof, and gone is the unity and intimacy of marriage

This happens because of busyness, lack of effort, career pursuits, hiding from secret sin, and many more reasons

And it doesn't take long to realize, that right in the midst of being married, you can be the loneliest person in the world

And the words of God come crashing back, *It is not good to be alone, it is not how you image Me*

God created marriage for us to *enjoy* relationships

PP 2-Marriage is a gift with a purpose

"I will make him a helper fit for him." 2:18b

Adam was alone, unable to enjoy the relationship that was experienced within the trinity, and so after he became aware of something missing in his life, God makes for him a helper
“So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man and while he slept took one of his ribs and...the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man.” 2:21-22

PP Commentator Matthew Henry wrote regarding the choice of taking a rib from Adam that Eve was *“Not made of his head to top him, not out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”*
Eve was for Adam, a ***‘helper’***

There is wonderful truth in what I am about to tell you, both for us who are married and for those who one day will be

But it incenses radical feminists

If you just follow the most cursory reading of Genesis 2, then you see that Eve was made for Adam, from Adam, and was given to Adam, and then named by Adam

This doesn't mean that every woman is to exist for every man, still less be obedient to every man

This is no argument that women cannot be heads of organizations or companies

This relationship was for Eve with Adam, and every wife for her husband

One of her roles God defined as a ***‘helper fit for him’ (2:18)***

Instead of putting women in their places, it elevates women to the God-ordained calling they have in life

Instead of lowering her self esteem, Eve thrived because she knew what a helper really was

It wasn't a slave, cook, nursemaid or launderer

PP A ***‘helper’*** was a term that denotes one who can provide what is lacking in another
What could have been lacking in Adam?

Well, for one thing, the opportunity to relate with another human being

But even more, he lacked the beauty that femininity provides

The appreciation of smells and colors that many men just do not notice

The softness of touch that brings such peace and grounding to a man

The ability to see God more completely because of the emotional and passionate strength of His love that is expressive through a wife

The responsiveness of love that is prevalent in women

Eve's passionate feelings would complement his rational style and vice versa

God had given Adam a job to do: ***“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” (2:15)***

But he was to do this within the blessing of God

And Eve was indispensable for Adam's greatest blessing for she provided what was lacking in Him

She would make it possible for him to be what could never have been, alone

PP The phrase ***‘fit for him’*** was a Hebrew expression that literally meant *according to his opposite*

Eve supplied what Adam lacked and Adam supplied what Eve lacked so that they fit together perfectly

Do you see the beauty of Eve as his helper and the wisdom of God?
The differences between a husband and a wife can either produce frustration and conflict
or they can be seen wisely as redemptive tolls to supply what is lacking in us
How often we get irritated with the differences between us in marriages
Because often my strengths are Denise's weakness and her strengths are mine
Instead of seeing God's wisdom in bringing the two of us together, how we are each His
most prominent tool to conform us to His image and help us live blessed by Him, we judge each other
and try to force the other to change
I would hate to see our family without the grace and mercy that my wife brings to it
Denise would say that she would hate to see our family without the strength and structure
I bring to it
But how often in our marriage, these differences lead to conflict, while God is saying to
us both, I brought you to each other precisely because Tim, her weaknesses need to be shored up by
your strengths, and Denise, his weaknesses are your responsibility to strengthen
It is this mindset that brings equality, unity, understanding, patience and beauty to
Marriages
Husbands and wives, God has brought to us our helpers, perfectly fit for us
Husbands, have we consistently recognized and affirmed in our wives her God-given
worth and importance in our lives?

PP That you can say with God's Word: ***"An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels."*** **Proverbs 31:10**

Wives, have you seen God's incredible wisdom in who He has given you to marry?
Until we can see the principle in Genesis 2:18, our marriages will not be either effective
tools for our spiritual growth, nor will they enable us to enjoy the full blessings of God in our lives

PP ***"It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him a helper fit for him"***

Pray

PP Application: Go out on a date with each other away from children with a piece of paper and a pen. Discuss with each other the similarities and differences that exist in your marriage. ***How are you similar to each other?*** (I.e.-We both enjoy mountains rather than beaches; Neither of us do very well talking through our frustrations; etc.) ***How are we different from each***

other? (I.e.-You are very structured and organized, I am spontaneous and adventurous; You like to talk through problems, I like space, etc.) ***What do these differences produce in us?*** Frustration, anger, contentment, thankfulness, wisdom and many more are possible answers. Finally, ***how can we partner together in God's purposes rather than oppose each other and God.*** *End this time with thankful praise that God, in His wisdom has given you a person who is your counterpart to help conform you to Him.

Caution-Set a time limit; if it becomes too difficult, stop and pick it up later; this is not an opportunity to vent, but to love!