

## Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:4

“7 And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 Jehovah God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground Jehovah God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 15 Then Jehovah God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." 18 And Jehovah God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 Out of the ground Jehovah God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. 21 And Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which Jehovah God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

# "Man is Given Woman"

- We are studying Chapter two of Genesis which is an expanded look at the activities of the Sixth Day of Creation with a focus on the creation of man and woman.

So far we have seen that man was given life, distinct from and more glorious than that of the animals.

Man was given work, being called upon to tend and guard the garden, name the animals & take dominion over all the earth & its creatures.

- And now for perhaps two weeks we will consider how man was given woman!
- We will look at some technical terms and how this event is used in the New Testament, but at bottom I think that Matthew Henry, who we often recommend, best captures the spirit of our text about the creation of woman:  
“[she was] Not made out 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 his beloved!”

To properly understand all that is given to us here in the expanded view of chapter two we must always remember and relate it to what was given about the creation of man in chapter one: *[words that should be VERY familiar to us all!]*

Genesis 1:26: “Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

In verse 26 God says, ‘let us make man in our image, according to Our Likeness’ and then He goes on to outline the tasks man will be given. It is important to remember that the Hebrew word for Adam is used not only as his proper name but that it is also used for a man or mankind.

We have considered what it means for man or mankind to be created in the Image of God when it comes to his life and his work and now we will consider how God created man or mankind, male and female. In verse 27 God describes the process of making man in His Image three different ways:

- God created man in His own image!
- In the image of God He created him!
- Male and female He created them!

I would argue that the first clause is the summary, followed by a statement that mankind is created in the image of God and a statement that mankind was created male and female.

- At the end of the sixth day God declares that all He has created and made is very good.

And yet here in verse 18 of chapter two we read that it was NOT good for man [meaning mankind in general] to be alone. We learn that this aloneness, is relational in the sense that the Persons of the Trinity are relational because if it was just a matter of companionship, God could just have created more Adams to keep the first Adam company! There is much more to mankind than just being a bunch of individuals, we were created in God’s Image AND He created us male and female.

Adam and Eve were true or real historical figures and they were not created as two individuals and they certainly did not EVOLVE as two individuals or even groups of individuals. Here is another place where not accepting the plain reading of the text here in the Book of Beginnings undercuts the more important teachings that it provides.

- It is here that we learn of the true nature and relationships of men & women!

Even conservative Christians who question a literal six days of creation or try to find some compromises with evolution will try to insist that you must still have a historical Adam and Eve, but just what does that mean? If we are going to trust God’s description of how He created Adam and Eve and their historical fall [*because if you don’t then Jesus coming to save us from our sins makes NO sense*] then why is believing the rest of the creation account such a problem?

When we consider how we are told in Genesis 1:27, that God created man male & female, perhaps He is in a way saying, I am not finished with the creation of mankind just yet here in Chapter two... Being alone was not being in the Image of God and so God sets about to make a helper comparable to him. That last part has been translated in various ways trying to capture the meaning:

- You see, Eve was not just to be a servant to help Adam in the garden.

The Kings James says ‘an help meet for him’ and the English Standard says, ‘a helper fit for him.’

I think the New King James that we use captures it better with “a helper comparable to him” focusing on the match in character rather than how good a worker the woman will be and the Common English Bible says “a helper that is perfect for him.” God sets out to make the perfect match for Adam and thus He declares, “Male and female created He them!”

So in verse 21 God puts Adam into a deep sleep, perhaps something similar to our surgery today! Remember we are still before the fall so pain and suffering would not have occurred.

Adam was put into a perfect sleep and woke up as if nothing had happened because God ‘closed up the flesh in its place’...

- BUT something very significant had happened!

Verse 21 says that God ‘took one of his ribs.’

We have only two references to ribs in the Old Testament and two different words are used: In Daniel 7 we have the common Hebrew word for a rib bone used when he describes the beast that was like a bear who had “three ribs in his mouth.” Here in Genesis it is the Hebrew word for side and since the ribs are there on our side that is the usual translation that is used, but I think it is linked with what God then does with Adam’s side... “Then the rib which Jehovah God had taken from man, He made into a woman!”

- The reference here is to mankind & the Hebrew word we translate ‘made’ is their word for build so what was taken is now ‘built’ into a woman.

Last week we considered at length how the Apostle Paul described the body of Christ with all the various body parts. But the Body of Christ, the Church is also often referred to as a building or temple. Christ is the chief cornerstone and we are the various bricks. When God describes the Temple in the Old Testament He often uses very human terms like the face of the temple. [mention Lusk tapes] So we can say that a part of Adam was taken and fashioned into Eve or we could also say that the side of Adam was used to build Eve and have both be very Biblical! We will see similar language as Sarah and Rachael strive to do God’s work in their own power & ways...

- They both had their husbands sleep with other woman to help them ‘build’ a family.

The woman is then brought to the man & we see Adam’s reaction in verse 23:

“And Adam said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man.”

- I have heard many summarize what Adam said as he looked at Eve, as WOW!

This does not do violence to the text, but Adam is saying much more than just that he likes how Eve looks! He recognizes the fact that she was created from him rather than from the earth or sea like he and all of the other living creatures were! He gives her the name woman, just as he had named all the other animals because she was taken from him. God’s work of Creation is now complete and is summarized in verses 24 & 25... Now the commentators spend a good deal of time discussing whether these words were spoken by Adam or whether they continue the commentary of the author... I think we should go with what Jesus said, because He quotes this portion in Matthew in His debate with the religious leaders about divorce saying,

“‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.’”

So whether what we have in the following text is Adam continuing His statement or the writer’s commentary they are speaking for God & as God!

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

God’s creation is now complete and man, created as male and female is now prepared to be fruitful & multiply and fill the earth, taking dominion over all of God’s Good Creation.

- God said, “Let us make man in Our Image” and thus it should not surprise us to see a reflection of the Trinity in man!

That is just what we see when He says “in the image of God created He him followed immediately by “male and female created He them.”

Men and women are not just helpers or friends, but rather are created to be in some small human way a reflection of the relationship of the Father and Son of the Trinity.

- **The sexual act brings them together both spiritually & physically so that God can declare that the two become one flesh in marriage.**

**Now the husband and wife both get up in the morning and go about their lives as individuals, so just what exactly does being one flesh mean?**

**It is certainly mysterious, just like trying to understand the Trinity, but it is what the Bible teaches so we must allow it to inform our thinking.**

- **AND if we add to this the concept of children proceeding from these relationships as an image of the Third Person of the Trinity it becomes very profound indeed!**

**We will talk much more about marriage and how all of this relates to the Church next week, but I wanted to make sure we had laid the foundation of those discussions properly...**

**I want to close this morning with a focus on the importance of seeing the Biblical relationship of men and women which applies to ALL of us in some way or other. Here are simple principles to keep straight and believe [using our more common English]**

- **Mankind is created in the Image of God!**
- **Mankind is created male and female!**
- **The male is created first and then the female is made from the male.**

**This is confirmed in the New Testament by the Apostle Paul right in the middle of his discussion of a head covering for women during worship... Whatever you think of this issue, we should take what he says here about men & woman seriously, especially in our day & age!**

**I Corinthians 11:7 “For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man. 9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man. 10 For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. 11 Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. 12 For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.”**

**Later even after the fall of man we will see Adam name his wife Eve because he knew that she would be the mother of all living... The mother of all living as the first woman AND more importantly the mother of all living as the one whose line would bring forth the seed that would crush the seed of the serpent.**

**We will consider more of what all of that means when we get into chapter three, but as we have done in previous weeks, we must remember that the book of beginnings is giving us valuable insights to the true nature of God, of His Creation and of Mankind.**

**Men and women being the image of God, man being created first & women made from man, and men and women marrying and bearing children were all part of the original creation and God declared that all was VERY Good. As Christians who strive to walk in the works that we were created to walk in, we must understand all of this in order to see the goal of our sanctification.**

- **We strive to be more like those made in the image of God!**

**We should be those who know that relationships and love and compassion are all reflections of the eternal Triune God. We must always treat others as those created in the image of God. [Schaeffer example of the revolving door] We should be those who strive to better understand and practice the proper relationship between men and women.**

**This certainly applies to faithfulness in marriage and fleeing sexual sins, but it is also worked out in many other practical ways that we have seen in the past and need to see more of today and into the future!**

**Our men and boys must see women NOT as sex objects or maids to serve us but as ones created in the image of God and brought from Adam as our true compatible helpers in the same way that the persons of the Trinity love and serve one another!**

**This truth is why women have prospered wherever the Gospel has been believed and why they have been oppressed and abused wherever it is absent. One can find the exception in either direction, but an honest look at the history of all the world's civilizations confirms this truth.**

**Our Christian heritage gave us the concept of women and children first or had men throw their coats over the polluted mud in the horse and carriage days for a lady who needed to cross or men opening the door for a women entering an automobile or building.**

- **These are practical steps that would be much noticed in our post-Christian nation today!**
- **Imagine the impact of Paul's practice returning to our Churches!**
- **Our boys & young men, and even some older men, need these examples!**

**We must also see that even secular phrases like "behind every successful man is a good women" or "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" also reflect the Biblical truths here in the Book of Beginnings. Godly women know they are created in the image of God and that they were brought forth from man as part of the creational order. Thus they joyfully embrace the teaching of Peter in the third chapter of his first Epistle:**

**"1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-- 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror."**

**America does not need a women President or an equal number of women in the board rooms...**

- **America needs Godly women who understand what Peter is teaching here and are willing to apply it in their lives with all that is implied for the Proverbs woman!**

**America needs women like the mother of our Lord Jesus who are willing to serve God in whatever way He determines is best and who can then sing the song of Mary with regard to whatever God has done in their lives:**

**Reading from the first chapter of the Gospel according to Luke:**

**"46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."**

- **Mary was faithful and sang that song with great joy!**

**We can as well with a proper understanding of the relationship of men and women, no matter what our circumstances might be!**

**Men and boys: Let us be those who honor – love – and respect the women in our lives. The wives, friends, mothers, grandmothers & sisters.**

**I would commend to you again the words of Matthew Henry as we ponder these great truths... He said of the creation of woman: “[she was] Not made out 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 his beloved!”**

**Communion Meditation: John 20:**

**“12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." 14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'”**