

He Created Them Male and Female

As His final work of creation, God created mankind: Adam. Adam held a unique position in creation because God created him in His own image. Scripture relates how God made mankind from the dust of the earth, and breathed the spirit of life into His lifeless image. Thus man became a living soul, a creature who received life from God. Mankind was created to be in unity with God.

God created the world, and it was good. But something was still missing. Not a single animal was found to be a suitable companion and helper for Adam. That's why Adam felt isolated and alone. God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Gen. 2:18). The expression "help meet" means that Adam received a partner who was an equal—a fitting companion.

God put Adam into a deep sleep, removed one of his ribs, and filled the empty place with flesh. God made a woman from this rib bone. When Adam awoke, he was filled with joy, and shouted, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man" (Gen. 2:23). Following this happy outburst, Adam said: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). Thus God established marriage.

The woman was more than a friend to Adam. She was his spouse—his wife. God charged both of them with the important duty to increase mankind. Adam gave his wife the name Eve, which means the mother of all living. Some modern feminists say that acknowledging the biblical account that woman came from man's rib is to degrade her value, raises men above her, and allows for her oppression. However, in God's Word, equality isn't at all in question. On the contrary, the biblical account of God's creation work amplifies the worth of women. She was created to be his equal, a companion on the same level. The rib bone from which woman was formed is close to the heart, and thus a wife is close to her husband's heart. The husband must use all of his strength for her benefit. In this sacrificing love, the husband's duty becomes apparent.

Sexuality Is the Richness of Life

Some people have argued that sexuality and marriage arose from the fall into sin, and that because of this, they are shameful matters. However, this is not the case. God created sexuality and established marriage before the fall into sin. They are good and beautiful matters, which are integral parts of God's creation. Nevertheless, after the fall into sin, people have come to use this God-given gift in the wrong way.

Sexuality permeates all aspects of life. It is expressed in a man's way of doing things and in a woman's way of carrying herself. We see it in women's and men's interests, in their manners of speech, and in their opinions on issues. Properly realized, sexuality is a source of strength and richness in marriage.

Sexuality is a broader concept than sexual interest. People who are unmarried can also appreciate the purpose of creation working together with God, without denying their own masculinity or femininity. Nonetheless, the core of sexuality is the uniting of man and woman together, which is meant to be take place in marriage. In the creation account, the woman is called a companion—a suitable helper for man.

The unity between man and woman is established in God's creation work. A desire to live with

Day5L4R02_ *He Created Them Male and Female*, Fortifying the Foundation

another person, face to face, smolders in the core of our being. A married man and his wife are the closest people to each other. Their natural development is to become independent from their own parents and to unite together. This is what “becoming one flesh” means in the creation story. It means spiritual growth together, as well as sexual union. One purpose is the increase of humankind.

The intimacy of marriage is revealed in Adam’s statement that woman is “bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh.” Being united thus, we want to find some central meaning to life and trust in each other. The core of the marriage relationship is honoring one another, living together for the rest of one’s life, and being faithful. Based on the Scriptural testament of creation, Jesus affirms that mankind must not separate that which God has joined together (Matt. 19:6).

Leo Värynen