

SERMON: The Creation of Man and Woman
SERIES: Genesis the Beginning of the Gospel
SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

October 7, 2018

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2:18-25

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

*"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."*

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. Creation and Gender
- II. Confusion and Gender
- III. Church and Gender
- IV. Christ and Gender

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Re-read Genesis 1:27-28. The image of God includes two distinct genders. What does this truth tell us about God? What does it tell us about man?

For further study: How do these scriptures show both the masculine and feminine characteristics of God -

Psalm 18:13-15; Isaiah 66:13; Deut. 32:9-11; Hebrews 12:7-10; Psalm 22:9-10; Hosea 2:16; Hosea 13:8a Matthew 6:9; Psalm 47:7; Luke 13:34; Luke 11:11-12; Isaiah 49:15.

2. Read Genesis 2:25. Adam and Eve lived for a while without shame. In what ways have you seen men and women shame each other? Can you identify as a man or woman what some of your sources of shame might be? Can you rejoice today that Jesus removes all of our shame, including our gender shame?

Note: Shame expert Brene Brown defines shame as: "the intensely painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed and therefore unworthy of love and belonging."

3. Men are called to image God in their incarnational, pursuing, sacrificial love. Women are called to image God in their invitational, responsive, sheltering love. Where have you seen godly examples of this kind of biblical masculinity and femininity? As a man or woman where have you seen this biblical masculinity or femininity in your own life? In what ways do you need to trust God more in this?

Note: Genesis 1:28. Male = *Zakar* – to remember, to mark, to impact, **GIVING**. Female = *Neqebah* – to be pierced, to be open, **RECEIVING**.

4. Read Genesis 2:18 and the note below. How does the creation of woman specifically image God/ Christ? Does this change how you see women?

Note: the woman is a "helper fit for him." Helper = *Ezer* – support, surrounds, an ally. This word is most often used to describe God. Fit for him = *Kenegdo* – like and opposite, face to face intimacy.

5. Read Genesis 2:24. The language used in this verse is covenant language. Why is it so important to see marriage as a covenant? Discuss these ideas about the purpose of marriage:

- Marriage images God (his love and faithfulness)
- Marriage brings intimacy (joy through interdependence)
- Marriage brings impact (purpose through fruitfulness)

How can these truths be applied to singleness and our ultimate marriage to Christ?

6. Jesus is the fulfillment of Genesis 2:18-25. Discuss how Jesus fulfills these ideas.

- "It is not good for man to be alone; I will make a helper fit for him"
- Masculinity: to remember and move towards, to pursue, sacrificial love.
- Femininity: to receive and respond in love, to nourish, sheltering love.
- The covenantal love of marriage (read Ephesians 5:31-33).
- The interdependence of the genders (read 1 Corinthians 11:11-12)
- The spiritual union of the sexes in marriage (read 1 Corinthians 6:16-17)

Note: Genesis 2:24 "one flesh" is much more than a physical union, it is whole life union including spiritual, as seen in 1 Corinthians 6:16-17. Our spiritual union with Christ applies to the married and the single.

Prayer: Pray whole heartedly for reconciliation between the sexes. Ask God to restore marriages. Pray for Christ to be our supremacy and source of love and identity in all our relationships.