

*Let's Start at the Beginning: Genesis 1-11*

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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### **God's Plan for Your Marriage (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:18-25)**

#### **1. Made different (1:26-27; 2:18-22)**

#### **2. Made for devotion (2:23-25)**

**For further thought and discussion:**

#### **Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

#### **Going Deeper**

2. *"God's desire for relationship with us is written into the fabric of creation."* How does the form/pattern of creation attest to God's desire for relationship with humanity (see

Genesis 1:1, 4-5, 9-10, 16-18, 26-27; 2:18-24)? How does this help us understand God's purpose in creating "*male and female*"?

3. How does the Bible's teaching on male and female keep us from both (a) *exaggerating* the differences between men and women, and (d) *denying* such differences altogether?
4. What is the one thing that is "*not good*" prior to sin entering the world (Genesis 2:18)? Why wasn't it good for Adam to be alone? How is woman a "*suitable helper*" for him (Genesis 2:18, 20)? What does this mean? Why is it important for us to understand that man and woman are *complementary* sexes rather than "*opposite*" sexes?
5. What does it mean for a man to "*leave*" and "*cleave*" (or "*hold fast*") to his wife (v. 24)? Where else do we see this language (Deuteronomy 10:20; 13:4)? Why is such covenant language significant? How does this help us understand the meaning of sex? How is a sex a symbol of the "*one flesh*" covenant of marriage (v. 24)?
6. What's the significance of Adam and Eve being "*naked and unashamed*" (v. 25)? What is the author teaching us about God's ideal for marriage?

### **Application**

7. God's intention is to create harmony/oneness within difference. How does this reality help you appreciate the differences between you and your spouse? How does this change the way we think about "*compatibility*" in marriage?
8. Marriage is a picture of Christ's covenantal commitment to us. How does this change our perspective on marital conflict, and staying committed in seasons of marital difficulty?