

Lesson 10 Genesis 2:21-25

Genesis for Families

21 ¶ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto 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 shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Many lessons on this passage go to great lengths to explain why God chose a rib rather than some other part of man to make woman. Scripture is silent on the matter and it is of no consequence that God took a rib over a foot or some other part. If we must try and explain why the rib was chosen let us do so from a more practical viewpoint. Of all the bones in the human body the loss of one rib would cause no later complications. Man already being fully formed and adult this would not cause any sort of genetic shift for future generations as in evolution or adaptation.

In taking from man to create woman God establishes the natural order of man first then the woman. However this is not a position of lordship but of natural order. Paul says, “For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God” (1 Cor. 11:12). In other words God established the pattern or order of creation and even though that changed after Eve so all men are of woman lest men use the creation order to boast, all places within creation are of God. God providentially places all people where they are in the social order on earth. Thus it is not because of ability of one gender over the other, but because God has said this is the way it is going to be. As noted earlier we will see in chapter three where all this fuss about who is the boss in the family, or the war between the sexes as it is called, originates in sin.

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. These are the first words we have recorded of anything Adam said. We see from the Scripture that Adam named all living creatures but the actual words are not revealed. We see an equality of person as such was known and understood by the first man, Adam, as the representative of all men to follow. It should not surprise us that in recorded history it is only where God’s word has been revealed and accepted we find women have a place of respect and protection. Though even in Hebrew culture it appears women are considered less than males, they are an integral part of the covenant family and revered and protected.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. Many think Adam said this also. Some believe the previous words were of Adam and the words in this verse are from God. I prefer this view in that we do find here the shadow of a more formal or proper wedding ceremony as God creates the first family. Christ

points to this verse when explaining why divorce isn't permitted and that God never intended it to be any other way than one man and one woman for life.

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. We can see in the words that God brought the woman to Adam a foreshadow of the tradition ever since that the father gives the bride to the groom. Throughout history, though ceremonies may differ, even the pagan cultures give way to this arrangement of the father giving the bride away. God the Father and Creator of all brings His first daughter to the first man and presents her to Adam who will utter the words above concerning the eternity of the marriage bond. Here then without a big stretch or trying to make Scripture say what it doesn't, God begins the family in perfection and unity as it should be and is within the Godhead itself in perfect unity and harmony. It can be difficult in the flesh to reach this goal, but this is the standard God set for marriage. Our inability to reach such perfection or to doubt what God has said does not set aside one single dot of God's revealed word.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. This is one of the most beautiful verses in the whole Bible and points to that great day to come when under Christ's perfect reign and man's corrupt nature having put on incorruption in the resurrection the wolf lies with the lamb in peace. Some say Adam and Eve did not need clothes because they were married and there were no other people yet to need to hide from. This is a true statement.

However, the greatest truth is that without the presence of sin there is no lust in the heart and mind of man. The two could have been one among millions of couples standing there in the garden and it would have been the same. God immediately following the first sin covers Adam and Eve because from this point until the end of the world where the flesh is, evil is present and this age of innocence among men cannot ever be recovered while we exist in the flesh on earth. If the more practical idea they were married and no others existed to hide from were the meaning here, that fact is still present in that no others had been born yet. This verse points to the perfection we can know of and strive for today and will have one day only in Christ with the lifting of the curse we shall read about in the next chapter.

Application:

One of the biggest issues we have today is that of immoral sexual activities and creation of family units (marriage) between persons of the same sex. Some blind ones who claim to be teachers of the church and Bible claim the Bible doesn't define marriage as man and woman alone. They are of the seed of the devil and the Bible warns of such false teachers. Any child can see here God set the standard as one man and one woman forever. Not two men or two women or one man and several women but one man and one woman are clearly presented as God's standard forever. Homosexuality is sin period. Since it is so clear from the Bible it is a topic the church must never tolerate. It is such a clear issue in Scripture it is sinful for the church to even discuss whether to tolerate it or not much less admit such to the covenant family much less office in the church. Sin must not be tolerated!

We see here the proper relation of each member of the family and how God established the natural order not because one person is above the other but to keep all things in proper order so

peace and unity prevail. Christ who did not consider it wrong to claim the name of God for Himself always voluntarily submitted to the will of the Father. Even to death on the cross we only see Christ say to God the Father, "Thy will be done." So the Bible clearly teaches God is over all human appointments and we submit in obedience to God's command not of personal lack of ability or loss of right to be all we can be.

Questions:

- Why did God use a rib instead of some other part of man to make woman?
- What words in this passage suggest this is a marriage ceremony as such?
- Why were Adam and Eve not ashamed when they found themselves naked?
- What relationship did God appoint as being a marriage?
- Why cannot the church discuss much less permit sin that is clearly sin from the Bible?