

Beautiful Opposite Similarity Genesis 2:18-25

1:31, God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed.

2:18, Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.”

Ha’adam is created from ha’adamah (the ground).

vs. 19, brought each to the Man to see what he would call it.

vs. 20, but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him.

A helper -> ezer (עֵזֶר)

The word ezer is most often used for God.

Psalm 33:20 We wait for the Lord; he is our help and shield.

Deuteronomy 33:20 How happy you are, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? He is the shield (ezer) that protects you, the sword you boast in. Your enemies will cringe before you, and you will tread on their backs.

In a military context it is best translated “ally”.

Corresponding / Suitable -> kenegdo (כְּנֶגְדּוֹ)

Same as / likeness

Opposite / difference

The togetherness of man and woman is essential to accomplish what God had blessed them to participate in.

1:28, God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.

Humanity (male and female) are dependent on one another.

1 Corinthians 11:8-9 For man did not come from woman, but woman came from man. **9** Neither was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man.

The man and woman are created equally in the image of God, and equally given a responsibility by God to exercise stewardship over creation.

- Stewarding Creation
- Nurturing Children

Both are a mutually cooperative shared tasks.

There’s nothing in Genesis 1 or 2 to suggest that God allocates domesticity to Eve and dominion to Adam.

The narrative continues...

Humanity is not meant to exist in solitude.

It is essential to have companionship.

vs. 19-20, No other creature meets the need.

Not fulfilled “only by God”.

Not fulfilled through “self-reliance”.

Not fulfilled by any other creature.

vs. 21-22, Woman was created out of the very center of humanity (man).

“It is significant that she is taken not from his head, indicating superiority, nor from his feet, indicating servitude, but from his side, near his heart, signifying equality. She is his companion and partner, taken from his side to be always at his side.” ~ Mary Healy

vs. 23 -> Sexuality is not introduced into the text until the creation of woman.

This one, at last, is bone of my bone
and flesh of my flesh;
this one will be called “woman,”
for she was taken from man.

She will be called -> ʾiššāh (אִשָּׁה)

Sharing the same root word meaning man -> ʾiš (אִישׁ)

vs. 24-25, God makes a partner for the first human by creating sexuality.

Unity is highlighted through the man bonding with his wife and they become one flesh.

Naked and without shame

Genesis 2 ends with an emphasis on the harmony between humanity and God and among humans and all of creation.

Marriage -> the result of sexual attraction which comes from God and leads to living together.

The foundation of marriage is similarity (human) and difference (male and female).

Everything provided by God for human flourishing. Both man and woman are without need.

- They have their Creator (Elohim / Yahweh).
- They have each other.
- They have the beauty and benefit of all of creation.

Jesus reveals to us that marriage is not the ultimate goal of human existence.

- Jesus had an abiding relationship with God.
- Jesus did not have a spouse, but made community (family) a priority.
- Jesus delighted in the beauty and abundance of creation.

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven.

Colossians 3:12-15 Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. **14** Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. **15** And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful.

Communal necessity -> working backwards from verse 15.

- Thankfulness
- Living in the abundance of the peace of Christ (discovered and encouraged in “one body” / the church. Let this be the rule of your hearts!
- Love - the perfect bond of unity.
- Perseverance- bearing with one another, forgiving one another (compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience)
- Recognizing and growing in confidence your God given identity. You were made in the image and likeness of God. You are chosen and dearly loved!

Question: Are you able to trust God’s design for human flourishing? In what areas do you struggle concerning this topic?

Are you building routines which incorporate communal necessity? Who are the people that stoke Jesus centrality in your life?