

The Struggle is Real

Gregg Brenes

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ... ¹⁸ The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." ... ²⁰ But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." ²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Genesis 2:15-24

To really be fulfilled in life, you have to find the One.

- If you want something different, you have to take a different path.

Jesus is _____, and your spouse is _____.

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it Love your neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 22:37-39

Pursuing marriage more than pursuing God is idolatry.

You must worship no other gods, but only the LORD, for he is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you. Exodus 34:14 NLT

Will this relationship lead me to greater devotion to The One?

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and then everything else will be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

Connect

What qualities do you feel are most important in a relationship?

Word and Reflection

God created us for relationship—to experience friendship, intimacy and community. To really be fulfilled in life, you have to find *the one*. People are getting married later in life, with more reservations and less success. If you want something different, you have to take a different road. Jesus taught that God should be our most important relationship. Jesus should be The One, and your spouse should be The Two.

Genesis 2:15-24; Matthew 22:36-39; Exodus 34:14; Matthew 6:33

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Genesis 2:15-24. Pastor Gregg said, "If you want something different, you have to take a different path." What is it about dating (the way it's typically done) that isn't working today? In our modern-day dating culture, what would a better approach to dating look like?
- Read Exodus 34:14. If a stranger looked at your calendar and budget this week, what would they think your life centers around?
- Read Matthew 22:36-39 and Matthew 6:33. What number is Christ in your life? If Christ is not *The One*, who or what is ahead of him?
- How can putting Christ first in your life change the dynamic of your relationships? How does this help to keep all of our priorities in order?

Action

- What simple step will you take this week to make Christ your One?
- If you're married or in relationship, commit to pray together daily.
- If you're single, commit to pray for God to be first in every area of your life and pray for your future Two.

Prayer

- Pray for God to be first in every area of your life.
- Pray for the people in your group and for those to whom you're reaching out.