

PRIORITY AND PURSUIT

T H E
V O W

Genesis 2:18, 21-25, ESV – 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.”

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.

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of October 20, 2019

Genesis 2:18, 21-25

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This weekend we were reminded that God has a purpose for marriage. Based on Genesis two, how would you describe that purpose?

2 We are also reminded that God should be our first priority and our spouse should be our second priority. How are you making God first priority in your life? How are you making your spouse second priority in your life?

3 Share an example of how you have pursued your spouse. Why is pursuing your spouse an important aspect of a marriage?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Deut 6:4-9, ESV** – ⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

4 Looking at the passage above, what does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, and might?

5 Why is it important to teach these principles to our children? How do you teach these principles to your children?

B *Mark 12:28-31, ESV – ²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

6 When reading passages about God’s priorities, we see that loving God must be first and loving our neighbors is second. How does loving God first make it easier to love our neighbors?

7 Why does Jesus command us to love our neighbors as ourselves?

8 Understanding that our spouse is our closest neighbor, how should we love them?

C *Eph 5:28-31, ESV – ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

9 What does it mean to “become one flesh” with our spouse?

10 Looking back to Genesis 2:24 and the sermon, we learned that “hold fast” can mean to catch by pursuit or to pursue hard with affection and devotion. How can a couple keep the pursuit going after the honeymoon is over?

TAKING IT HOME

What are you going to do this week to make God first and your spouse second? What are you going to do in pursuit of your spouse? Share with your accountability partner and pray for God's guidance within your marriage.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Exodus 34:13-14

Matt 6:33

Heb 3:13

James 4:17