

In The Beginning...

Not Alone In God's Garden
Genesis 2:18-25

Not Good to be Alone

The 'not-goodness' of aloneness

- *Fellowship, relationship, communion, and interpersonal intimacy* – these are necessary to be fully human, reflecting God's image/likeness.
- *Isolation and alienation* are the awful fruit we reap from individualism and aloneness.

Not Good to be Alone

The 'not-goodness' of aloneness

A helper 'fit' for him

- “Helper” is not an inferior, but one who provides what the other person needs/lacks. Often used of God.
- “Fit / Suitable” for = one who corresponds to or complements. Not as a clone but as counter-part.
- Interlocking pieces...

Not Good to be Alone

The 'not-goodness' of aloneness

A helper 'fit' for him

Adam names the animals

Made for each other

- 'one of his ribs'
- 'Here, at last!'
- 'naked and not ashamed'
- 'leave, cleave, become one...'

Not Good to be Alone

Genesis: Image, Gender & Sexuality

We must take image & likeness seriously

- The equality, value and dignity of *all* human beings regardless of gender, life situation, life-style or sexual orientation.
- Two genders: different, equal, and complementary. Humanity was created bi-polar (not androgynous!) and the blurring of sexual identity is not God's way.

Not Good to be Alone

Genesis: Image, Gender & Sexuality

We must take image & likeness seriously

Sexuality is *relational* by God's design

- Sex devoid of relationship is less than fully human.
- Christian heterosexual marriage is God's intended place for free and joyous sexual intimacy.

Marriage in the bible is understood to be a 'covenant of companionship' defined as one man and one woman, one flesh, for life!

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Marriage is just *one* answer to the problem

- The Christian community and spiritual friendships!
- The church must be a family of friends and a community of faith – not a clique of couples.
- We must learn and model deep, warm, affectionate relationships that are not erotic.

Think of David and Jonathan!