

Twentieth after Pentecost
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Genesis 2:18-25
The Essential Building Blocks for Intimate Union
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After God called the universe into existence and formed the Earth, he seeded it with a man and a woman to create society. God then seeded society with marriage and family as its principle unit. From society with marriage and family, God would build earthly happiness literally from the ground up.

We must view marriage and family through the lens of God's revelation that is his holy Word. It is not a human creation. So, we are not free to tinker with it. What the Holy Spirit prescribes through Moses' pen are the **Essentials of the Intimate Union, Marriage and Family**. First, man and woman are corresponding allies. Second, they form God's unique family unit

A police officer shines a bright flashlight beam into the darkness to expose someone up to no good. The Word of God shines the radiant beam of truth to expose the lie of man's evolution from animals. That lie is up to no good. The lie gives people the false impression that nothing is sacred; nothing is essentially right or wrong. The Great Lie deceives its believers into thinking, "I can use or discard anything and everything by self-determination." This false belief has done great damage to God's intimate union.

God created society with the man and the woman as corresponding allies. God created male and female. He did not create them at the same time or by the same action. God did not create man and woman for the same roles in society, or in the family.

God made the man first, out of the dust of the earth in his image, holy. This is something the woman shared with the man. God created Eve out of Adam's rib yet also in God's image. God created the man as the head of the coming society. After he created the man "The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'" God made the woman from the man for the man. Man and woman are corresponding allies, the essential building blocks of society and later for the intimate union in marriage and family.

It is impossible to appreciate this when we look through the eyes of our sinful flesh. At the same time, children of God look at God's Word through the eyes of faith in Christ who paid for our sins on his cross so we can view things correctly. Our New Man focuses on Jesus' cross and empty tomb and confesses, "Everything God made is very good, just as God declared it at the end of the six days."

Not incidentally, God first uses his name, the LORD, all capital letters. This name is the gospel, the good news of God's love that not only created man and woman but would redeem us and sanctify us after Adam and Eve lost their holiness and ours through doubt and disobedience.

One of the first things the caretaker of Eden did was name the animals the LORD brought before him. Adam noticed there was no female for him. "...no suitable helper was found." God showed the man that things were not "very good" yet since he had no counterpart, no ally, and no companion. Something necessary was missing. Therefore, "The LORD God took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib."

God made society to have two genders. They would complement one another. Even after the fall into sin, a society of all men or all women seems strange and unnatural. Even living in this fallen world, men and women work together bringing their particular strengths and qualities to the table in mutual cooperation.

Adam and Eve were the first of their genders in the new world; man as the head and woman as his suitable companion, his counterpart and ally. Nothing in that even hints at Eve being inferior or less. Even the word helper does not say that. How could that be when the Psalmist confesses of the almighty God in Psalm 46, that God is "a very present help in trouble?" We must look with the eyes of faith and not the eyes of sin.

God had put into place the essential building blocks for intimate union. He had his corresponding allies. “Then the LORD God...brought her to the man.” The LORD God brought Eve to Adam in the creation of marriage to form the family unit.

Adam had a deep respect for Eve as God’s and the dignity she brought as his ally. Adam knew Eve was “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.” He loved her as he loved his body. Paul speaks of this love as we live in a sinful world, “husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.”

Whether Adam, or Moses, speaks of marriage and family in the future. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” Adam and Eve now were more than corresponding allies in society. They moved into a complementary alliance in the family unit through marriage.

God intends the family to have a man and woman as husband and wife. He may also give the family the blessing of children along with marriage’s other purposes of companionship and the only place for God pleasing expression of sexual intimacy. In our gospel, we heard our Savior Jesus hold this union sacred and declared, “Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate.” Literally, “Man, do not separate.”

The family unit is the place to mutually encourage, love, and forgive one another in Christ. Marriage and family is where we bring our children to Jesus so he can bless them through Holy Baptism and his Word. We know not every family has husband and wife, mother and father for a variety of reasons. It is still a family but a family missing a crucial part God intended for its good.

Eve’s voice is silent. Nevertheless, her actions along with her husband’s tell the story. “The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.” Adam and Eve enjoyed the purity of becoming one flesh sexually in their marriage. This act followed a commitment that recognized each was God’s gift to the other. It is the lack of this commitment as well as the lack of public legal declaration of this commitment that make sexual relationships apart from marriage sin.

The family marriage creates is an intimate union. Family is sharing and growing in the love of Christ. The love of Christ produces such deep affection and sacrifice for the other family members that when one is hurt or dies the others feel as if part of their own heart has died.

Our Savior, Jesus Christ is the beating heart that gives life to marriage and the family. Adam and Eve did not need this yet but soon they would. They and now we have the promise of forgiveness of sins by the sacrifice of Eve’s seed on the cross where he would destroy Satan’s power.

Whether you are male or female, single or married, parents or not parents have this promise fill your hearts and minds. It gives true meaning to life; meaning that enables us to live as our Creator intended. Amen. <SDG>