



Men and Women in relationships

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Read about it

Refer back to Genesis 1:26-28.

1 What does this passage teach us about men, women and marriage?

Read Genesis 2:18-25.

2 a) What is “not good” in a world which is otherwise “very good”? (1:31)

b) What does the Lord do about this?

Understanding it

The typical English translation in Gen 2:18—that the woman was made as a ‘helper’ for the man—is unfortunate. In English, the word ‘helper’ typically denotes a subordinate, inferior or servile role. The underlying Hebrew word (*‘ezer*) does not necessarily have this connotation—in fact, the word is often used to refer to God as Israel’s ‘helper’, which clearly in no way implies that God is inferior or servile. Woman is not created to be a servant for man: Adam’s problem in the garden is NOT

that he needs someone to do the dishes; Adam’s problem is that he is alone, and so the woman is created as a perfect companion.

3 What does this passage teach us about men, women and marriage?

4 1 Corinthians 11:3 says that “the head of the woman is man”, arising from the order in which they were created (see also 11:7-9). According to Ephesians 5:22-33, how is male “headship” expressed in the context of the marriage relationship?

Singleness

Even though it is “good for man not to be alone”, the New Testament shows us that a marriage relationship is not for everyone.

5 What do the passages below teach us about marriage and singleness?

- 1 Corinthians 7:8-9, 25-35
- Matthew 19:11-12
- Matthew 22:30

Marriage & Divorce

6 Read Matthew 19:3-9. How does Jesus apply Genesis 2 to the issue of divorce?

7 Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-16. What does this teach us about marriage and divorce?

Think about it

How does this biblical teaching on men & women apply to my relationships?