

Genesis 2:4-25

Relationships: God Creates Man and Woman

Section 1: 2:4-7 – The Origins of Man

Man is unique among all of creation because man is made in the image of God. Not only is man made in the image of God...man was formed by the hands of God. In verse 7 we see the Hebrew word for “formed” was a word used for a potter forming clay. God literally formed man with His own hands. As it says in Psalm 119:73 (CSB): *Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding so that I can learn your commands.* And in Isaiah 64:8 (CSB) *Yet Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we all are the work of your hands.*

What do we take away from the realization that God personally formed us? God is the King...not us. God is in control...not us. God is supreme...not us. God calls the shots...not us. Romans 9:19-24 (CSB):

¹⁹ You will say to me, therefore, “Why then does he still find fault? For who resists his will?” ²⁰ On the contrary, who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? Will what is formed say to the one who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?” ²¹ Or has the potter no right over the clay, to make from the same lump one piece of pottery for honor and another for dishonor? ²² And what if God, wanting to display his wrath and to make his power known, endured with much patience objects of wrath prepared for destruction? ²³ And what if he did this to make known the riches of his glory on objects of mercy that he prepared beforehand for glory— ²⁴ on us, the ones he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

Understanding that God has formed us should cause us to place God above ourselves. Above our desires, feelings, experiences, wishes, thoughts, goals, dreams, family, career, friends...God is first above all things.

Our reaction to verses 4-7 should be an echo of Psalm 8 (CSB).

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How does it impact your faith to know that God has personally formed and fashioned you?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember that God is the potter and we are the clay?
- ❖ How does Psalm 8 proclaim the glory of God?

Section 2: 2:8-14 – The Garden of God – A Place for Relationship

God spoke all vegetation into being on day 3. Then on day six He plants a garden for man. God established a place for man and Himself to have a relationship. God provided everything man needed to know Him and enjoy Him. [*Isaiah 43:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 5:16; Revelation 4:11; Romans 11:36; 1 Peter 2:12; Colossians 1:16; 1 Corinthians 6:20*]

This moment of enjoyed fellowship between God and man was short and ended. But praise be to God that through the gospel another time of enjoyed fellowship between God and man is coming. [Revelation 21:22-27]

The Garden of Eden is giving us a glimpse of the glorious new earth that await us in eternity. We see types like this with Moses and Solomon.

Moses built the tabernacle and Solomon built the temple after the patterns God showed them...then in Revelation you see there is a temple in heaven. The tabernacle and temple were types of the temple in heaven.

I personally believe that the Garden of Eden is a type (or picture) of what is to come with the new earth described in Revelation 21 & 22.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ God has given us a place (earth) so that we can know Him. How are you using creation to experience a relationship with your heavenly Father?
- ❖ How does the Garden of Eden excited you for the New Earth spoken of in Revelation 21-22?

Section 3: 2:15-22 – The Origins of Woman

Observations:

- Man was to work...even before sin.
 - Work and responsibility were created by God in the very beginning. And since this was before sin entered the world, this may be a sneak peek into what we will be doing on the new earth for eternity.
- Adam was given clear instructions concerning the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil”.
 - God is clear in His instructions to His people. Yet time and time again we ignore, change, debate and even remove His clear commands.
- Adam is set apart from animals.
 - Man did not evolve from animals. Mankind and animals were never corresponding. Always different.
- God created woman from man.
 - Man and woman were clearly created for one another. Man and woman are created to be compatible...to be joined together.

God does not do random. Man, woman, the garden and the trees of life and knowledge of good and evil were all created with great care and purpose. We can trust that if God has created it...it has a significant roll in His story of redemption.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is a strong work ethic expected by God?
- ❖ God gives us clear commands. What commands of God do you struggle with? How can we become more faithful to following God’s commands?
- ❖ Why is it important in our culture today to believe that man and woman were created for one another?

Section 4: 2:23-25 – The Relationship of Man and Woman

Marriage was the first relationship between man and woman. Marriage was designed and defined by God. Marriage is not a man-made institution.

Since marriage is designed and defined by God...we are not qualified or sanctioned to change marriage. Again...the clay can’t say to the potter I don’t like what you’ve made.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Who designed and defined marriage? Why is the “who” important?
- ❖ Why is it sinful to change the design and definition of marriage?