

## ***INTIMATE CONNECTIONS, GENESIS 2***

◆**Intro:** Someone once sent me a list of kids answers to questions about marriage. Here are just a few:

◆**HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?** No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

◆**WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?** No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

◆**WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?** Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8. On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

◆**IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?** It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

◆**HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?** Tell your wife that she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck. - Ricky, age 10

◆**HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN YOU MARRY?** - A Christian should have only one spouse. This is called holy monotony.

◆Our text today is often used to ponder marriage. But it's more. It gives us a different angle on the same creation in Genesis 1. [It

## ***INTIMATE CONNECTIONS, GENESIS 2***

apparently all takes place on Day Six, which would certainly allow for much more than a 24 hours day in which for Adam to name all 4500 bird and animal species that the fossil record indicates inhabited the area. All that takes place before God ever gets to creating Eve, so there is textual support for the days of creation taking long periods of time.] And while there are multiple teaching topics in chapter 2...

- ◆our responsibility as stewards of the earth
  - ◆animal husbandry
  - ◆the equality of male and female
  - ◆the foundation of monogamous marriage
- ◆...I'd like to address the broad spiritual theme of the chapter. Why does God inspire Moses to tell the creation story again from different angle than the sequence in chapter 1?
- ◆1. Genesis is a record of origins: where did we come from and what is our place in the universe? The Hebrews were not the first to address origins. Moses is again giving us God's true account versus the mistaken views of the pagan peoples.
- ◆The Gilgamesh Epic for example, refers to a divine garden, colorful trees, a goddess that takes clay and creates mankind. Other pagan tales speak of a serpent, a tree of life, angels. Some of them even predate Genesis by 2000 years! So at first glance one might think Moses is copying other myths that teach things like -we are all one with Brother Bear, and the Spirit of the River, and all come from the same ground, etc.

## ***INTIMATE CONNECTIONS, GENESIS 2***

◆ *But there are significant and noticeable differences between pagan myths and the Genesis account.* In the Gilgamesh Epic the goddess Aruru washes her hands, nips off a bit of clay, casts it on the ground builds from it Enkidu the Hero. While various passages in the Bible speak of man as clay in God's hands, Genesis does not use this image. God takes mere dust, the crumbs of the ground. No mention of hands, but there is mouth to mouth resuscitation! Pagan stories refer to creation of the masses, but Genesis tells of one, single, distinct pair from which everyone else comes. (BTW one physicist says, "Mitochondrial DNA studies confirm that the human species is traceable back to a single woman who lived about 50,000 years ago ...Y-chromosome DNA studies confirm that the human species is traceable back to a single man who lived between 40,000 and 60,000 years ago.)

◆ In addition, no other ancient creation account gives any attention to the creation of the female, as Genesis does!

◆ This account is of humanity as the apex of creation and the universe itself. Note...

◆ *v4 this is the account of the heavens and the earth...*

◆ Not "the account of Adam and Eve". That comes in Chapter 5. In fact there are ten divisions in Genesis, each one beginning with "This is the account of". We could say the "generations of", or that "family line of". So then Adam and Eve's union of man and woman is central to the story of origins of the universe itself. How important?

## ***INTIMATE CONNECTIONS, GENESIS 2***

◆ **2. The Connection of People and Planets.** The story of the Universe is the story of mankind.

◆ Genesis is very personal. God breathes into Adam. It's a face to face thing. It's the image of God's lips touching man's. It's a claim that none of what we see and study is mere accident. It's intelligent design. Mankind is also intimately connected to the created order! The term for "man" in Hebrew is "adam". The term for ground is "adamah". Adam was made from the adamah. Adam would till and care for the adamah. Yes, Genesis 1 records that the adamah produced animals, who also are said to have "the breath of life". Yes trees come up from the adamah (v9). But Adam is told to rule the over all that. Adam is king on the earth, not some lion in Africa. Male human, and female human are the image of God in the creation. They are the viceroys of heaven. The God's flag staked in the ground. This is the significance of Adam naming the animals. Mankind is God's overseeing agent in the universe. (Talk about a job assignment!)

◆ In fact, all of created reality will be affected by what men and women chose to do! The physical realm and the spiritual realm intersect in humanity. And the created world is uniquely tied to spiritual state of the human creature.

◆ *"The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to*

## ***INTIMATE CONNECTIONS, GENESIS 2***

*decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.” Romans 8:19-23, NIV.*

◆ So friends, we have responsibility in this world that runs the whole gamut. On the less complicated end we do not pollute or litter because we are the Earth’s stewards, not simply because we think it fair that our great grand kids get to see whales too.

Getting a little deeper, the pursuits of disciplines like geology, physics, molecular biology -really all learning about the world God gave us, and pointing to this reality- is all ministry of sorts, callings of God. So get your education, young people! Pursue the unknown. Be fascinated by the world. God put you here for that. It is the Christian endeavor! That’s why wherever you find followers of God, you also find schools, and learning.

◆ When I was getting trained in SCUBA last month, I noticed how devoted the organizations like PADI are to preserving our oceans. My instructor told me that when he brings me close to a coral, or a creature on the bottom to observe, I was not to touch the sea bed. I was to touch only him, and he would balance only one finger on the object, because ocean life is fragile, and much is disappearing. I observed to

## ***INTIMATE CONNECTIONS, GENESIS 2***

him that he was teaching me Christian principles right out of Genesis 1-2!

◆ It is a God principle not to use and abuse our natural resources. It is also a God principle not to use and abuse each other.

◆ **3. The connection of People to People:** We've seen that God has placed man in an intimate connection to the Earth itself. Now we observe that all of mankind is intended to have an intimate connection to each other. Now I'm not talking about any kind of intimacy. God's word is clear enough that marriage is between a man and a woman. Jesus quotes our very text in reference to marriage. And Scripture repeatedly places sex in only one legitimate place; marriage. Our culture will tell you otherwise. They will say "love is love" as though that makes having confused sexual desires suddenly legitimate. It does not. Loving someone is no justification for immoral sexual activity. So when I say that we were made for intimacy, I mean all forms of godly intimacy. That starts in the family. The fitting together of a male and a female and the gift thereof is a major content of "the account of the heavens and the earth." (v4)

◆ We may credit Christianity above all else in elevating the value and place of women in culture as well as other rights. It was followers of God behind the rescuing of Roman abortions. It was followers of Jesus behind the abolishment of slavery. It was followers of Jesus that brought the woman's suffrage movement.

## ***INTIMATE CONNECTIONS, GENESIS 2***

It was followers of Jesus that developed the whole idea of hospitals.

◆ Genesis tells us that God's image is jointly in men and women alike. In fact, we cannot claim that males have all of God's image. Females have parts of it we do not. It is together that we are the image of God on the earth.

◆ 1 Corinthians 11:11-12 (NIV 1984) In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

◆ Just as "adam" came from the "adamah", and so "woman" came from "man". The Hebrew language also preserves this observation. Man is "ish", and woman is "ishah". Some women claim God made women because after he made man he thought, "I can do better." But that of course is not biblical.

◆ *Genesis 1:27-28 (NASB) God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

◆ Did you notice he made "them" the rulers? He gave "them" the commission. Augustine (some say Matthew Henry) is quoted as saying that God made woman from the "side" of man. Not from his head to rule him. Not from his feet to serve him, but from his side as he necessary equal. Now all of this doesn't mean you

## ***INTIMATE CONNECTIONS, GENESIS 2***

need to be married to be complete. It does mean that we need the presence of both males and females for healthy human culture. Where one is rejected or pushed aside we will find abuse and illness.

◆ Perhaps the best example of God's design for intimacy is the family. Nobody gets born without a contribution from both a man and a woman. No woman has a baby with another woman. No man carries a baby at all, contrary to Facebook's pregnant man emoji. That's just ignorance and posturing. Even all the scientific studies affirm that children thrive and learn best in homes with a dad and mom. Where one is missing children need other's to step in as mentors, or close friends. We call that being a larger family, or society. How blessed we are that the Church is a built in family for each other. We make promises to each other's children! We have Kid's Hope mentoring at the public school because we recognize God designed us all to need human intimacy, and sometimes the home environment is just too taxed to be able to provide enough. Parenting is hard enough with a dad and a mom. It's doubly challenging for someone who finds themselves parenting alone.

◆ Aloneness is the source of much human suffering. Our addictions start in aloneness and are fertilized by secrecy and independence. Our unaddressed, self-carried hurts are what cause us to hurt other people. Look at how many stories of violence and shootings are perpetrated by persons who were



## ***INTIMATE CONNECTIONS, GENESIS 2***

outcasts, “kept to themselves”, or basically left alone. Kids whose love tanks are not constantly being filled at home look for it somewhere else. Every human is desperate for significance and to be loved. The lonely search for value is often where workaholism begins, especially for men. Sexual temptation multiplies in loneliness. Poverty for some and abundance for others all stem from our inherent failure to see that we have a responsibility to each other. It’s often a choice for being alone with ourselves. It’s not God’s way. People cannot live a healthy, moral, God-glorifying life alone.

◆**Conclusion:** So, in Genesis 2 God is saying, “In case you missed it in chapter one, there is a progression in creation.” God created the land/sea/sky and it was good; Adam comes from the land. God created plant life and animal life; Adam eats the plants and names the animals. God created human intimacy; Adam gets a wife. In Genesis 1 the constant refrain is “it was good.” In Genesis 2 we get the first “it is not good” in v18, about Adam being alone. Do you see the extreme importance of human beings in the universe of God? It is God that endows life and liberty as inalienable rights. It is humans that history is about. Not how much you died and left to your kids. Not your freedom to do what makes you feel good, or to buy what everyone else has. No. Good in God’s eyes, is your human life in fellowship with others and most importantly, with him.

## ***INTIMATE CONNECTIONS, GENESIS 2***

◆ Again, when God stepped into the created world personally in his son Jesus, he did not come as a talking ape or even as an angel. The Book of Hebrews says it is not angels God helps, but Abraham's descendants! You. People, who can be his eternal family because of Christ. Turn to him. Seek him. He is not far away.