

Genesis 2C

[Gen. 2:16](#) The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

[Gen. 2:17](#) but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

- Knowledge of good and evil?
 - What does good and evil mean? (Address in a minute)
 - What does it mean to know good? Evil?
 - Only by contrast can you know them
 - One by itself leaves one with no appreciation of the other
 - Adam and woman were good, but they couldn't appreciate it
 - The fruit of that tree would open their eyes to the reality of both good and evil
 - Why put such a tree in the garden?
 - Without such a tree, what would be different?
 - A man with no knowledge of good and evil
 - And why does God create the world? And why create man? And why does He want a relationship with man?
 - To express His nature and character to His creation
 - That we might know Him in His fullness
 - Without the possibility of understanding evil, we can't hope to understand good and appreciate it
 - Without the tree, Adam would never had been faced with any choice to follow God
 - No choice to appeal to His goodness, no sense of grace when rescued from his own demise

- No appreciation of God's love when He sent His son to save us from that sin

[1John 4:9](#) By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so **that we might** live through Him.

- God's love was made manifest to us
- The death of Christ on the cross wasn't some unfortunate detour off God's plan
 - If only Adam hadn't done what he did, God would never had needed to sacrifice His Son – wrong

[Eph. 1:3](#) ¶ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,
[Eph. 1:4](#) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
[Eph. 1:5](#) He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
[Eph. 1:6](#) to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

- God the father chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
 - Before this creation story started, He had a plan to redeem men through the death of His Son
 - Why did He do this? Verse 4, because of love
- God predetermined that He would adopt sons to Himself...
 - Notice that He intended this plan would require that the adoption be made through His Son
 - Again, why? Verse 6, to elicit praise to His glory of His grace
 - No fall, no sin, no sin, no redemption, no redemption, no praise for His grace and love
- Are we saying that this tree is nothing but a big trap for Adam?
 - Far from it...look at verses 16&17 – God warns Adam in no uncertain terms

- There is no subterfuge here, no attempt to bait Adam
- Nevertheless, if not Adam, perhaps Cain, perhaps Abel, perhaps Abraham, perhaps you or I
- Sooner or later some man falls, it happened to be the first man
 - Secondly, men are responsible for their own actions...

[Deut. 24:16](#) ¶ “Fathers shall not be put to death for *their* sons, nor shall sons be put to death for *their* fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin.

[Ezek. 18:20](#) “The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

- The act of disobeying the word of God brings unquestioned guilt

[Num. 15:28](#) ‘The priest shall make atonement before the LORD for the person who goes astray when he sins unintentionally, making atonement for him that he may be forgiven.

[Num. 15:29](#) ‘You shall have one law for him who does anything unintentionally, for him who is native among the sons of Israel and for the alien who sojourns among them.

[Num. 15:30](#) ‘But the person who does anything defiantly, whether he is native or an alien, that one is blaspheming the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from among his people.

[Num. 15:31](#) ‘Because he has despised the word of the LORD and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt will be on him.’”

- So God has determined to make man for a relationship
 - One that can appreciate His full nature and character and respond to Him accordingly, in praise and giving Him the glory that He alone deserves
 - But such a relationship requires that man be a free moral agent, always with the capacity to disobey and introduce sin requiring eternal judgment
 - To offer no opportunity to fall means no chance to appreciate God’s mercy, His grace, his forgiveness, his love
 - But by providing Adam an opportunity to fall – though God commands man against it – means that a fall is inevitable sooner or later

- So God purposes to pay the penalty for Adam's sin even as He orders Adam not to disobey
- What do you think Adam thought of God's warning that Adam would die?
 - Here again, what would the concept of death mean to someone who had never seen it or experienced it?
 - What did God mean by the word death?
 - Look at death more in detail when we reach Chapter 3
 - But why would eating the fruit require a death?
 - Bad fruit?
 - Adam was required to accept God's promise on faith
 - God promised an outcome should Adam disobey
 - Though Adam had no visible proof of the promise (the fruit looked good), he nevertheless had to believe God's word

[Heb. 11:1](#) ¶ Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

- But disobedience to the Word does bring death

[Rom. 6:23](#) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Disobedience is substituting our will and desires for God's commands
- Similar to the opening command God gave Israel before giving them the promised land

[Deut. 30:15](#) "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity;

[Deut. 30:16](#) in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.

[Deut. 30:17](#) "But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them,

[Deut. 30:18](#) I declare to you today that you shall surely perish...

- God's pure nature and character can't encounter sin without bringing judgment upon it
 - Adam must respect God's word or suffer judgment for disobedience

[Gen. 2:18](#) ¶ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

[Gen. 2:19](#) Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

[Gen. 2:20](#) The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

- Man we're told should not be alone
 - God will make a suitable helper for him

[Prov. 19:14](#) House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers,
But a prudent wife is from the LORD.

- It's worth pointing out here we're talking about a wife here
 - We'll get to the description of her creation in a minute, but understand this isn't a girlfriend, a domestic partner, not a servant
 - The word is ezer, which means help but in the sense of the assistant himself; and more specifically divine assistance

[Psa. 121:1](#) I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;
From where shall my help come?

[Psa. 121:2](#) My help *comes* from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.

- The wife is the divinely appointed source of assistance to a man
 - But in the same sense that the Holy Spirit is a considered the helper

[John 14:26](#) "But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

- Suitable is even more interesting
 - Neged, which means in front of; opposite
 - Think of two halves of a ball put together
 - It's how God defines suitable and how He reinforces that it's "not good" that man remain alone
 - Is it any wonder that men and women spend so much time seeking relationships?
- So now God sets forth to provide that helper

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- Here the account of Chap 2 adds some richness to the creation account in Chap 1
 - The animals, both the birds from Day 5 and the beasts from Day 6, were created ultimately as companions and servants to man
 - Yet none could serve the ultimate purpose God intended for Adam
 - A lifelong mate who could assist Adam and participate in reproduction
- In the process, Adam is asked to name all the animals
 - Could he do it?
 - Actually yes, especially if we assume he's naming kinds and not necessarily every variant we now know
 - More importantly, why is God asking Adam to name animals?
 - It communicates dominion

[Gen. 2:21](#) So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

[Gen. 2:22](#) The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

[Gen. 2:23](#) The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”

[Gen. 2:24](#) For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

[Gen. 2:25](#) And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- So God begins to provide again for Adam
 - He puts Adam into a sleep
 - The first surgery
 - Often time when a new relationship is established in scripture, God is prone to placing men to sleep and performing all the work Himself
 - Abraham in 15, Jacob in 28
- God makes woman from Adam’s flesh
 - And Adam exclaims that she is made of his own body
 - Why such an odd way to make woman?
 - Why not from the earth also?
 - Becomes a huge factor in Chapter 3, but for now we can say that it was grace to Adam
- Then Moses offers commentary on the events with the final two verses of Chapter 2
 - The marriage relationship is considered inviolate in God’s view because of how the first marriage was ordained
 - They were literally made out of the same flesh
 - How could they ever consider themselves to be two distinct people?
 - No more than you could consider your own arm to be foreign to the rest of your body
 - This verse is one of the most important in the Bible not only for establishing marriage

- But it also forms the perfect picture of how we are joined to Christ – permanently as a single Body never to be separated
- The second relationship to come into existence after our relationship with God Himself
- So what would be a good working definition of marriage?
 - Physical consummation is involved – no sex and you have no marriage
 - But it's not enough for a true marriage

[1Cor. 6:15](#) Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be!

[1Cor. 6:16](#) Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body *with her*? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."

- To engage in a sexual act restricted for marriage is to produce a marriage, but still an illegitimate one
 - One that won't necessarily include the kind of public commitment required by Gen 2:24
 - A marriage culminates in the marriage bed, but it cannot start there
 - It starts with a public, sincere commitment for a man to forsake emotional and physical reliance on all else, even on his own parents, and rely on his wife to provide for all his spiritual, emotional and physical needs
 - The word for cleave (dabaq) means to hold fast
 - And it was a significant issue in the eastern culture, where women routinely left their families but men often built on to Dad's house
 - The man was to remain loyal to his wife

- So...marriage is:
 - Something God invented
 - Monogamous
 - Heterosexual (1 man, 1 woman)
 - Both physical and spiritual in union
 - A marriage exists even before children are present (not required)