



Presence

STARTING THE YEAR WITH WHAT MATTERS MOST

Genesis 2:18 – 25; Ephesians 5:23 – 27

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MESSAGE NOTES

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him ..." Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

– Genesis 2:18 – 25 (ESV)

Principles from marriage that translate to the rest of life:

- **Only God meets our deepest hopes**

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle ... For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ... – Ephesians 5:25 – 29 (ESV)

- **Only patience brings true closeness**

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."
– Genesis 2:18 (ESV)

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. – Genesis 2:24 (ESV)

Love is patient ... – 1 Corinthians 13:4 (ESV)

- **Only sacrificial love wins**

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone ..." – Genesis 2:18 (ESV)

He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. – John 1:11 (ESV)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This message explored Genesis 2 as the first wedding and showed how marriage points us to the gospel and God's ongoing presence with us. Adam's "at last" reveals both the beauty of human love and the danger of placing ultimate hope on another person, something only God can carry. The passage teaches that true oneness requires patience, as God uses our differences to shape us over time, and that real love is sacrificial. All of this points us to Jesus, the true Bridegroom, who pursued His unfaithful bride and stayed on the cross to make us lovely. From that love, we learn how to love others: only God meets our deepest hopes, only patience brings true closeness, and only sacrificial love wins.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use as many or as few of these questions as are helpful for your group or family discussion.

- Discussion Starter: If you had to plan your dream wedding in the Garden of Eden, what would it look like, and what would you want for dessert?
- Read Genesis 2:18, 24 and 1 Corinthians 13:4. What does it mean to hold fast and become one flesh? How does patience play a role in building true closeness in marriage, friendships, or community?
- Share why patience can be so hard in marriage and friendships at times. How can understanding God's patience with us empower our patience with others?
- Read John 1:11 and Genesis 2:18–25. How did Jesus' sacrificial love model being the ultimate helper for us? Why does sacrifice matter more than simply feelings or convenience in relationships?
- What is one way you can sacrificially love someone in your life this week (family, friends, coworkers, or spouse)?
- Read Ephesians 5:25–29 and Revelation 19:7–9. How does marriage point us to the Gospel? How does the Gospel (the good news of Christ) teach us how to love?
- In what ways have you looked to a spouse, friend, or family member to meet a need only God can meet? How can you shift your hope back to God first, and what does that look like?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to show patience or sacrificial love in a challenging relationship? Take some time to pray as a group for that situation.