

GOD'S GOOD DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE & SINGLENES, PT. 2

GENESIS 2:18-25

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – NOVEMBER 23, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 2:18-25 (ESV)

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 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."

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Consider these notable single men and women from both Biblical and Church history: First, there is Jesus. Then, there are John the Baptist, Paul, Silas, Luke, Titus, Apollos, Lydia, Phoebe, Philip's four not married daughters, St. Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Joan of Arc, Thomas Kempis, Francis Asbury, Amy Carmichael, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and John Stott, to name a few. Now, consider the outcome of their way of life (Heb 13:7). What might the kingdom impact of their lives convey about the potential significance of a single (i.e., not married) believer whose life is devoted to the Lord?

SERMON RECAP

Scripture presents a beautifully paralleling picture of God's words on marriage and singleness. There are striking similarities in the biblical truths related to both. Here are four truths from God's Word about singleness:

1. God designs singleness as a good gift.
 - Biblically, marriage is typical.
 - Biblically, singleness is exceptional.
2. God designs singleness as a powerful picture of the gospel.
 - Singleness uniquely portrays our ultimate identity in Christ.
 - Singleness uniquely portrays our eternal identification with the church.
3. God designs singleness to depend on His grace.
 - We need God's grace to guard against unholy sexual desires.
 - We need God's grace to guard against unholy selfish desires.
4. God designs singleness for the spread of His glory.
 - Delight in singleness because of the times we are in and the mission we are on.
 - Delight in singleness because we want to be undistracted in our affections and undivided in our devotion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read Genesis 2:18-25 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.



2. Recall the details of last week's discussions on this passage. Those discussions focused on what today's passage teaches about the nature of the relationship between the man and the woman in view of a marriage covenant. What might this same passage be specifically teaching about the relational nature and purpose for men and the women who are single?
3. How would you explain or summarize the main point of today's passage in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Read Gen 1:26-27. What does this passage prove about the identity and image of mankind? In whose image are both men and women made?
2. God designs singleness as a good gift for the sake of the kingdom. Read Matt 19:10-12 and 1 Cor 7:7-8, 38-40. In 1 Cor 7:38, what did the Apostle Paul say about those who refrain from marriage?
3. God designs singleness as a powerful picture of the gospel.
 - Read Gen 2:18. How might the phrase "helper fit for him" apply to single men and women in the body of Christ? (Reconsider Exodus 18:4; Psalm 10:14; Psalm 121:1-2; Isaiah 41:13)
 - Read Matt 22:30. Marriage in this life is temporary, but relationship to Jesus and His Church is timeless. With this being the case, how might a single person's life uniquely convey the gospel and the reality of eternal life?
4. God designs singleness to depend on His grace to guard against unholy sexual and selfish desires.
 - Read 1 Cor 6:18-20 and 7:1-2, 7-9. What was Paul's admonition to the believers regarding sexual immorality? What reasons did he give for his admonishment (1 Cor 6:19-20)?
 - Read 1 Cor 7:32-35. What was Paul's desire for these believers (1 Cor 7:32a)? What was his encouragement to them regarding singleness?
5. God designs singleness for the spread of His glory.
 - Read 1 Cor 7:26-27, 29a, 31b. What reasons did Paul give for his view that it was good for a person to remain as they are (i.e., single or married)?
 - Read Gen 1:28 and Matt 28:18-20. What do these passages, taken together, communicate about the believer's core purpose?
6. What stands out to you most as you read and consider today's passage?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. God designs singleness as a good gift.
 - If you are single, how has God used your singleness for good in your life and the life of others? In what ways might God continue to do that in the future?
 - If you are married, what good have you seen through singles in your life (e.g., friends and family)?
2. God designs singleness as a powerful picture of the gospel.
 - If you are single, how might God be calling you today to better reflect Christ and the Church to the world through your singleness?
 - If you are married, how might you encourage single friends toward Christ-centered singleness?
3. God designs singleness to depend on His grace. As a single man or woman—
 - What attitudes/patterns of sexual sin might hinder the reflection of God's good design in you or the singles around you?
 - What selfish desires might hinder the reflection of God's good design in you or the singles around you?
4. God designs singleness for the spread of His glory.
 - How would you describe the times we are living in? How might your interpretation of these times shape your stewardship of singleness, either in your life or the lives of those around you?
 - If you are single, how might your singleness and your understanding of the times in which we live stir your affection for and deepen your devotion to the Lord and His kingdom purposes?
5. Consider the stewardship of singleness in terms of the following:
 - If you are single, what specific steps might you take to steward your singleness more faithfully for God's glory?

- If you are married, what specific steps might you take this week to serve or encourage single brothers and sisters in Christ for God's glory?
- How is God calling you to trust His good design for your life? Pause before Him and meditate on His trustworthiness as you lay down every facet of your life before Him.

LEADER NOTES

2025 MINISTRY REPORT | The 2025 Ministry Report is now available! The stories, the numbers, the testimonies—they all represent real people whose lives have been transformed by the Gospel. Let's take a moment to celebrate what God has done, thank Him for His faithfulness, and look ahead with expectancy for what's to come! You can view the report here: mcleanbible.org/ministryreport.

CHURCH FAMILY MEETING | Please join us for our next Church Family Meeting at 7 pm on December 10 online. We will be voting on new members and on the 2026 budget at this meeting. Copies of the proposed 2026 budget will be available at all of our locations beginning on November 30.

