

**ROOTS: We Are Family**  
*“Family” takes many forms.*

Today we are talking about **COUPLES**

**Getting to the root of the matter: God’s design**

Genesis 1 & 2:

**Not so much about material origins as functions in our world of experience** [computer]

How does it all work together and relate to us?

Therefore you don’t have to choose between your brains and your faith

**God’s design as applied to couples:**

**1. FUNCTION** Genesis 2: 20-25

But for the man no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man said,  
"This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called 'woman, '  
for she was taken out of man."

<sup>24</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

- Companionship for each other** [Siamese cat]
- Completeness from each other** [*“ha’adam becomes ish & ishah”*]
- Commitment to each other**
- Closeness with each other** [cartoon of Adam & Eve]

**2. MALFUNCTION** Genesis 3: 1-19

<sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- Fear** [person hiding behind a tree]
- Shame**
- Blame**
- Brokenness** [broken dish or pitcher]
- Frustration** [laborer sweating]

**3. FIXED FUNCTION** Ephesians 5: 21-31

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord...He is the Savior... <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy... <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.

**In the light of what Christ has done subject yourselves to each other—to each other’s needs and interests**

- Fear fixed by love** [quotation: 1 John 4:18]
- Shame negated by forgiveness** [Jesus on cross]
- Blame replaced with acceptance** [couple embracing]
- Brokenness remedied by healing**
- Frustration overcome by fulfillment** [couple holding hands and smiling]

**So....?**

*For couples: the fix is yours, take it for yourselves*

*For others: Encourage couples and thank God for the gift of this expression of “family”.*