

“I promise, from this day forward...”

Genesis 2:24

“There is no other single force causing as much measurable hardship and human misery in this country as the collapse of marriage. For example, it hurts children, it reduces mothers’ financial security, and it has landed with particular devastation on those who can bear it least: the nation’s underclass.”

- “As for children, on every single significant outcome related to short-term well-being and long-term success, children from intact, two-parent families outperform those from single-parent households...this impact holds true across the racial and economic spectrum.” [Caitlin Flanagan, “Is there hope for the American marriage?”, Time]

1. Background and context – Genesis 1-2:23

“God steps creatively into the primordial abyss and darkness to transform it into a magnificent, ordered, and balanced universe. Those who submit themselves to the Creator’s rule are assured that their history will not end in tragic darkness and chaos but will continue in triumphant light and order.” [Bruce Waltke, “Genesis”]

A. Humanity [1:26-28]

- God made human beings in His image.
- God made us male and female.
- God called us to rule the earth, together, in His stead.

B. Adam and Eve [2:15-23]

- God made man, Adam, and it was not good for him to be alone.
- God waited for Adam to look for an equal partner amongst all creation, and find none.
- God made for Adam a fully equal partner – woman.

“The woman is not made out of his head to top him, not out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.” [Matthew Henry]

2. The marriage covenant [2:24]

A. Leave –

B. Cleave –

C. One flesh –

“The current generation of children, the one watching commitments between adults snap like dry twigs and observing parents who simply can’t be bothered to marry each other and who hence drift in and out of their children’s lives – that’s the generation who will be taking care of us when we are old.” [Flanagan, “Is there hope...”]

“We should assume Adam and Eve to be historical, since the narrator makes no distinction between the narratives of Adam and Eve and the patriarchs. Adam is connected to Abraham by a royal genealogy that extends to David in the book of Ruth and to Jesus in the New Testament. The Chronicler [I Chronicles 1] and the New Testament [Matt. 19:4-5; Luke 3:23-38; Rom. 5:12-19; I Cor. 15:21-22; I Tim. 2:13-14] assume the historicity of Adam and Eve.”

[Bruce Waltke, “Genesis”]