

Same Sex What?!*

In our first discussion we observed that marriage is a divinely inaugurated institution. It is the evidence of God's sovereign benevolence to his creatures whom he made in his own image for the purpose of demonstrating the diversity of his Triune personhood. Because it was instituted as part of God's creation mandate to man (along with the Sabbath and the privilege of work- all of which demonstrate the reality of man's being made in the *imago Dei*), marriage is therefore unchangeably defined and eternally constituted.

We also noted that the Genesis account of marriage emphasized both the equality and the complementarity of the man and the woman. This principle demands a lengthier discussion. Because they were made by God, Gen 1:26-27- *cf.* Gal 3: 28 which stipulates that they are also equal in Christ- they both equally possess the same dignity, value, worth, and so on. However, the matter of complementarity is introduced by God in his remark concerning the need of man to have a suitable mate for the fulfilling of God's divine purposes. The divine lament that it was not good for man to be alone, 2:18a, underscores the fact that, although pre-fallen man was in a perfect relationship with God, perfect because it was sinless; and that although man enjoyed a direct, unmediated relationship with God in perfect communion, yet, such a blissful relationship was insufficient and unacceptable. In fact, it was simply *not good*. This negative assessment breaks the consistent pattern of the divine appraisal and benediction in 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, culminating in 31- all of God's creation was good.

Were Adam to be left in this situation, he would be incapable of fulfilling his God-given purposes. However, the Lord God does not leave man in this estate of loneliness, insufficiency and incompleteness but comes to his rescue by benevolently declaring "I will make him a helper fit for him." 18b. This now begs the question, a helper to what end? To fulfilling the divine mandate of being fruitful, multiplying, filling the earth and exercising dominion over it, 1:28; 9:1, 7. How did God create man's helper? In contrast to his forming the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven from the ground in a way that was very similar to that by which he made Adam, *cf.* 2:19a with v. 7, "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. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man." vv. 21-22. Here we have the essential principle of the complementarity of man and woman in marriage.

For **marriage** to exist, they must be a bonding of two persons, equal in substance and dignity but different in physical constitution and roles. This very Adam who had supervised the muster parade of the animals and who had noted their sameness as well as their difference in sexuality, vv. 19-20, was delighted that his helper was not an animal or not another like him. These truths are forcibly and plainly seen in Adam's wedding song, "...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." v. 23. In this context, complementarity signifies the presence of two equal but different persons who come together to constitute a radically new and organic entity in order to fulfill the cultural mandate of God and in which, one of whom had to have her origin in being taken from the man. "Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God." 1 Cor 11:11-12. Eve was Adam's helper not simply as some modern revisionists ignorantly contend because he was alone but more importantly, because he was incomplete. Yes, she would provide him companionship and would serve to meet his physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs but she was his helper most importantly because she would assist him in obeying God's Word in fulfilling the creation mandate. It is a position that is rooted in creation and is therefore binding throughout history. In establishing a complementary helper for Adam, God was in fact saying now I will more fully demonstrate what it means to be made in the image of God.