

“We ALL Need Family”

**<sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."**

**<sup>19</sup> Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.**

**But for Adam 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.**

It has been said that dog is human's best friend. Cat lovers would disagree with that. God would also disagree with that. In our sermon lesson you will notice that on Day 6 of creation God allowed Adam to name the animals. I'm sure this brought him great personal satisfaction to fulfill such a responsibility. However, among the animals, **“for Adam no suitable helper was found”** (Genesis 2:20). God then created another human, Eve, to be that suitable helper for Adam. We don't know a ton of details about the week God created universe, but one of the details that God chose to share with us is how he created the first marriage and first family. By putting the spotlight on this event God is trying to teach us something very important – marriage and family is a foundational relationship upon which society is built. The intent of this sermon is not to give the impression that being married is more God pleasing than being unmarried. That is certainly not the case as the Apostle Paul reminded us in our Scripture lesson from 1 Corinthians 7:7,14, 32-35, today. The intent of this sermon is help each of us, both the married and the unmarried, understand that not only is marriage and family a foundational relationship upon which society is built, but we ALL need family just as Adam needed a human companion more than he needed a pet. Some people are single by choice. Some people are single because of God's choice. Some aren't old enough for marriage. That doesn't change the fact that every single human, both married and unmarried, have been impacted by the foundational relationship of family, one man and one woman, that God created on Day 6 of creation week. Even the Apostle Paul, who wished more people had his gift of contentedness in single life for the purpose of being more devoted to the Lord's work, had parents and a family into which he was born. And when you read Paul's letters it comes out loud and clear that he wasn't a loner, but he was thankful and needed his church family.

We ALL need family, but over the history of the world sinful humans, both married and unmarried, have done their best to harm, disrespect, and limit the blessings that God intends to give through marriage and the family - this foundational relationship upon which society is built. Our Gospel lesson for

today mentions two examples of this - adultery and divorce. Scripture mentions others – sex outside of marriage, children out of wedlock, living together outside of marriage, homosexuality, pornography, prostitution, verbal abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse. In God’s courtroom these sins are no worse than other sins in this realm that Scripture mentions – lust, inappropriate jokes about marriage and family, inappropriate comments to others, having a negative attitude about marriage or children, speaking poorly about my spouse or my parents or my kids or other family members, disrespect of my family members, anger, grudges, selfishness, unwillingness to support my family, taking my family for granted, unappreciative of my family. The dirty laundry list could continue. Society has suffered because of this. In varying degrees each of us has been negatively impacted because of this. Each of us is guilty in some capacity of harming, disrespecting, and limiting the blessings of marriage and the family. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. And just like Jesus said to the repentant adulterous woman he says to the repentant among us. **“Then neither do I condemn you, ...Go now and leave your life of sin” (John 8:11).**

Forgiven in Christ, let’s rise above the harm, disrespect, and limitations and start fresh today, both married and unmarried alike, protecting, respecting, and celebrating the blessings of marriage and the family. We ALL need family. And let’s remember that in a spiritual sense each of us as Christians is married and part of a family. Christ is our husband and we, the Church, are his bride. We are one family under Christ and we ALL need our church family for support and security. Genesis 2:18-24 mentions two main LIFELONG blessings that God intends to give through marriage and the family – help (support) and security. Let’s talk briefly about each. Pets are wonderful, but God intended that each of us needs a human help and support system. Give some thought this week to specific ways with your words and actions that you can be a help and support system to your family and your church family. Give special attention to those family members that might especially benefit from your help and support. Security is another blessing of marriage and the family. God wants each of us to have people in our life that we can safely and securely confide in as we deal with life’s joys and challenges. God also intended within the security of marriage and family for children to be born so that they can enjoy security as they grow into adulthood. Give some thought this week to specific ways with your words and actions that you can be a source of security to your family and your church family. Again, give special attention to those in your family that need an extra measure of this security.

By the grace of God, even in its harmed, disrespected, and limited state – marriage and the family has been a blessing to each of us. Just think, though, how God will bless you personally, your family, your church family, and also society if you focus more of your time and energy into protecting, respecting, and celebrating the blessings of marriage and the family. Amen.