

### Taking it Home:

- Since man and woman are created in God's image, with some of God's communicable attributes. i.e., intelligence, wisdom, knowledge of right and wrong, conscience, morals, purity, ethics, values, principles, love, will, emotions, and others; does mankind have the right to deviate from God's creative order, plan and structure?
- What are the obvious "take-aways" (applications) you can apply to your personal life from this powerful message today about God's creation and the role of a man, woman, marriage and sex?
- The closest community that a man and woman can experience is through the sacred covenant of marriage, which is the union of a man and woman considered Scriptural as "one flesh;" this has a sexual connotation as well. When mankind is obedient to God's creative design there is safety. Meaning. Value. Purpose. Missional Life. Security. Protection. Selflessness. Joy. Empowering.

### Related Resources:

- *Authentic Human Sexuality*, Balswick & Balswick, Intervarsity Press
- For further resources see [www.pastormatthew.net](http://www.pastormatthew.net) and follow the "Write This Down" tab at the top of the page.

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit [pastormatthew.net](http://pastormatthew.net) and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

## Created to Complete

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit [www.bethelfc.com](http://www.bethelfc.com).

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 1, 2011

Genesis 1 & 2

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**Quick Review:** We were created, male and female, in the image of God (Gen. 1:27); something unique only to humans (2:7). Being in God's image means that humans share, though imperfectly and finitely, in God's nature, that is, in His communicable attributes, i.e., life, personality, truth, wisdom, love, holiness, justice and relationship; and so have the capacity for spiritual fellowship with Him. In His creation, God intended husband and wife to be a spiritual, functional unity, walking in integrity, serving God, and keeping His commandments together. Adam and Eve complemented each other; what man lacked (2:18) the woman supplied, and what she lacked he supplied. This ultimate expression of this relationship is "one flesh," the complete unity of one man and one woman in marriage. This exclusive and safe oneness of flesh highlights the significance of sex and sexuality within the context of marriage. Sex and sexuality is a precious gift, provided for from the very beginning of creation.

## My Story:

- Secular humanists believe that since man is nothing more than a higher evolutionary life-form, in other words, a higher form of evolving species of animal, then there are no limitations for sexual activity. Contrary to the secular humanist who sees man simply as a biological being, the Biblicist sees man as created in the image of God. The image of God is spiritual, not physical (Cf. Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10). Man is not simply a physical being, but also a moral being. If man were just a higher form of an animal, why does a human being have superior intellect, emotion, will, morals, ethics, values, principles, a conscience, thoughts of justice, knowledge of right & wrong and an awareness of God? **What do you believe?** Discuss.
- Intellectuals tell us that a person's behavior is based on what he or she believes; his or her worldview. What are the core foundational beliefs about men and women, marriage and sex: By an atheist? By a secular humanist? By a Christian? Should Christians be able to defend their positions on the role of a man and woman, and marriage and sex using the Bible? Discuss

## Growing Deeper:

- Using Genesis chapters 1 and 2, recap the narrative of creation. To whom did God give dominion over of ALL creation? What did God create man from? Woman from? Why was it necessary for God to create woman from man? In what ways are the first man, Adam and the first woman, Eve, unique? How do a man and woman compliment each other? Discuss.
- Pastor Matthew mentioned that the Godhead (Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), stated "Let Us make man in our image, according to our likeness." What are the communicable attributes of God that God imparted to man to make man in God's image?
- Did God intend man to be autonomous; alone? Or did God create man for community? Please explain. Pastor Matthew stated that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are mutually exclusive Persons (identity and role) of the God-head that are entirely DEPENDANT on each other. In what ways did Pastor Matthew explain the marriage between a man and woman is similar to the Trinity?
- **READ Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; & Ephesians 5:30-31.** What are the similarities of these passages of Scripture? Does Jesus Christ verify and affirm Genesis 2:24-5? Does the Apostle Paul verify and affirm Genesis 2:24-25 and Jesus Christ's statement in Matthew 19:4-5? Is there continuity between the OT and the NT regarding the roles of man and woman in marriage?
- Pastor Matthew mentioned in his message that it is crucial for us to know why the marriage covenant between a man and woman is so important (cf. Gen. 2:24-25). What are those reasons?