

# Well Designed

## Genesis 2:15-18

### Dr. Paul Cannings

#### A. The Blueprint (vs. 15-17):

1. Lord - The Lord had set up everything in the Garden the way He wanted (Colossians 1:15-18). God did not ask for any advice from Adam. It is all His, and He is providing access to Adam.
2. God – God is over all divine activity, including creation and salvation, and is ‘sovereign over all the earth.’ He and Christ worked together to organize how marriage is structured—marriage represents Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:32).
3. The Lord God – The ‘Lord God’ is mentioned because ‘the Lord’ (Christ) set everything in place because all things are through Him (Colossians 1:15-18), but God is sovereign over all and controls all that is taking place in the Garden.
4. Took - God, who is over all things, actively summon Adam putting him into a state of being. ‘Put’ here is in the imperfect meaning, Adam's stay in the Garden was to be forever.
  - a) God knew where He wanted Adam and what He needed him to do.
  - b) Marriage is first about God, not the couple involved.
5. Put - God gathered Adam without his permission and left him in the Garden of Eden. Adam did not resist and was very open to God's direction.
  - a) Putting the man in the garden gave him his purpose (Revelation 4:11).
6. Cultivate - Work laboring like a slave as a service to God, who is his master. Adam was compelled to labor in response to God's commands.
7. Cultivate – Adam did not just have to work in paradise; he had to develop it.
8. Keep - Adam was given purpose when he was told that his obligation was to guard with careful attention the Garden of Eden (this is shared with his wife; 1 Tim 5:14 – whatever he

establishes the wife preserves when he goes off to work because this is one of the man's major responsibilities - God did not tell Eve to preserve the Garden He told Adam – Adam let satan in). This word shows up in Psalm 119:9-11 when David said he would preserve God's Word in his heart.

a) satan turned this around because Adam was at the tree but did not fulfill his responsibility to keep it.

· This is why he is Spiritual Leader – Ephesians 5:25-27, 32; 6:3-4 – notice he is the one instructing and correcting the kids – what do the scriptures do, correct, reprove, and train for righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16).

9. Command - God, as Adam's master, demanded Adam's inner commitment to submit to the direction He provided. God must be a man's spiritual leader (1 Corinthians 11:2-3; Ephesians 5:23-25).

10. Command – A man proves his Biblical manhood when God leads him (Genesis 2:7-8; 1 Corinthians 11:2-3). The Word of God must always rule (Ephesians 5:25-27).

11. Eat freely – God told Adam that from any tree, Adam can consume based on God's direction, so it was holy.

12. Tree of the knowledge of good and evil - He must not eat ("tree of the knowledge of good and evil"). The Heb. word here, *yada*, suggests a wide range of ideas. But basic to them is both the capacity to make distinctions and to gain experience. As long as Adam and Eve "knew" only good, they remained innocent, choosing and experiencing only what was right in God's sight. They did not even see opportunities to do wrong! The Fall introduced the capacity to see evil choices and good ones, with it, the desire to try both! How urgently you and I today need to know good. But not to know evil.

a) We can choose good and evil the same way today when we choose to obey God or lean to our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5; Ephesians 4:17-21) or choose to disobey God's Word (John 15:1-5).

13. Tree of the knowledge of good and evil – Submitting to God is a choice in full knowledge.

14. Tree of the knowledge of good and evil – It is obvious how the reality of man knowing good and evil even continues when a person is a believer as they wrestle between the flesh and the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-17).

15. You shall not eat – Adam was given the opportunity to exercise his free will.

a) Man was not told to eat before he was given work to do. Notice Eve was not there yet.

16. You shall not eat – God taught Adam this lesson before he made Eve (Ephesians 5:26; 1 Timothy 2:11-12; 1 Corinthians 14:35-37). Man is supposed to be the spiritual leader (Ephesians 5:25-26).

17. Knowledge - This tree provides them with the 'know-how' and the ability to discern what is good and evil.

a) Adam was a perfect creature, one having never sinned, but he had the ability to sin. God made Adam a king with dominion (1:26ff). But a ruler can only rule others if he can rule himself, so it was necessary for Adam to be tempted. God has always wanted His creatures to love and obey Him of their own free will, not out of compulsion or because of reward.<sup>[1]</sup>

18. Good – Adam and Eve will experience God's work making their lives pleasant because of the practical benefits of the Garden. This is when marriage has the potential to be good. It is when the man is in a good place.

19. Evil - Inability to come up to good, beneficial standards, which depicts a very narrow inner attitude towards God.

20. Surely die – God told Adam He shall surely die. No questions, no possibility for it not happening. No reversal. This will take place the very day he eats.

21. Surely die – The man brought death into the world (Genesis 3:6-7). Notice it is when the man ate the fruit 'then' their eyes were open (Romans 5:12-15). God taught Adam about the tree before he gave him Eve.

a) God told Adam He shall surely die. No questions, no possibility for it not happening. No reversal. This will take place the very day he eats.

22. Surely die – Disobedience to God is sin, and sin is death (Romans 6:23).

23. Surely die – God is life; everything outside of God is therefore death (Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:16-17).

## B. It is Good (v. 18):

1. Lord - God had set up everything in the Garden as He wanted. He is the one who has all authority and rewards obedience and punishes disobedience, and desires a relationship with Adam.
2. God – God is over all divine activity, including creation, salvation, and is ‘sovereign over all the earth.’
3. The Lord God said – Again, success depends on submitting to God’s plan.
4. The Lord God said – Marriage must come under God’s authority. It is a non-bias plan that blesses both individuals.
5. Saying - God communicated the spoken word (not a vision or dream), assigning or appointing Adam to a new structure with a specific task.
6. Good – In order for Adam to experience God’s pleasant, **practical benefits** that would be advantageous to accomplishing God’s purposes, God states (continues to direct and guide each step without input from Adam), Adam must have a helper.
7. Good – A woman makes a man stronger and more productive for God (Proverbs 18:22). By finding a wife, a man obtains favor from God and mistreats a wife; a man's prayer is blocked (1 Peter 3:7), and can suffer financial consequences.
  - a) Adam was alone, and that was not good; all else in Creation was good ([cf. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25](#)).
  - b) He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD. (Prov 18:22; NASU)
8. Good – The woman gives Adams life more practical benefits (“Favor” – Proverbs 18:22).
9. Alone – This is for a person to be by themselves as a single unit, separated and **isolated from everyone**.

a) Even though God came to Adam in the cool of the evening, Adam, as a man, was still alone (Genesis 3:8).

10. To be alone – The man would endlessly be alone because he cannot make kids (1 Corinthians 11:11-12).

a) Not good...to be alone: Without female companionship and a partner in reproduction, the man could not fully realize his humanity.

11. To be alone – The man would not be as productive based on God's original intent (Genesis 1:26-28).

a) "Two are better than one ... for if they fall one will lift up his fellow" (Eccl 4:9-10; cf. Prov 31:10-31).

12. Make - God decided without any input from man that he would commit to work to create the fashioning of Eve (1 Corinthians 11:8-12). This is all dependent and directed by God. God does this with a sense of obligation.

a) This is why the wedding bed is viewed as holy (Hebrews 13:3). It is taking place in God's Garden.

b) God designed the woman to complement the man for the making of children so that every child is a gift from God. This is why homosexuality is not of God.

13. Make – God is sovereign and decides that woman is who man needs.

a) Without God's intervention, man could not do anything about his problem.

b) Adam's rib. A lovely Jewish tradition notes that God did not take Eve from Adam's foot, lest he tries to dominate her, or from his head, lest she sees herself

above him. Instead, God took Eve from Adam's rib, that the two might go through life side by side.<sup>[2]</sup>

14. Make – The fashioning of the woman is all based on God's creative order (1 Corinthians 11:8-10).

15. Make – Eve as a wife comes from the man's side, not his feet. This is why submission is not obedience.

a) Adam had no human, person-to-person relationships, so God made a "companion who will help him" (2:18), one who was nearly a mirror image of him. The female was not inferior; she was, literally, "one corresponding to him"—like an image in a mirror. Adam discerned her character by saying, "she will be called 'woman' " (2:23). Of everything created, only woman was qualified to be called by a term related to the Hebrew word for man, *ish*. The word "woman" is formed simply by adding the feminine ending *ah*, thus making *ishah*, or "woman."<sup>[3]</sup>

16. Make – Decision on how to marry is best decided by God – Helper suitable.

17. Make – The fashioning of the woman is all based on God's creative order (1 Corinthians 11:8-10).

18. Make – When God shapes our purposes, we are set for life.

19. Make – Adam lived for 930 years, had other children, and never saw a divorce court (Genesis 5:3-5).

20. Suitable – Where God said He would make Adam "a help meet for him," or someone to correspond to him, just as the males and females of the animals corresponded to (matched) one another - the phrase "before one's face" is paralleled to "in one's own eyes" (Isa 5:21; cf. Ps 90:8), and is opposite to "secretly" (2 Sam 12:12; cf. Ps 38:9 [H 10]).

21. Suitable – Eve is suitable because she corresponds to Adam and will be in his presence to assist in carrying out God's plans. Their relationship will be one where they will continually be in each other's presence.

a) The description of her as "corresponding to him" basically means that what was said about him in Genesis 2:7 was also true of her. They both had the same nature. But what man lacked (his aloneness was not good) she supplied, and what she lacked he supplied (1 Corinthians 11:8-12).

b) Since Adam and Eve were a spiritual unity, living in integrity without sin, there was no need for instruction here on headship (Ephesians 5:21). Paul later discussed that in relationship to the order of Creation (1 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:13). It is not until sin came into the world did God make man over the woman (Genesis 3:16) because the nature of the sin nature is that it is rebellious and divisive (Ephesians 2:1-2; Galatians 5:16-19). This is the only way the home can remain orderly for God's purposes (1 Corinthians 11:1-3). When a man and woman come under the spiritual direction of God, they submit to one another (Ephesians 5:15-21)

22. Helper - A designated assistant who will be a source of help providing divine aid both physically and spiritually (1 Timothy 5:9-10).

a) She is equal to him (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:23) but functionally subordinate to him (Genesis 3:16; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:1-2).

b) God intended husband and wife to be a spiritual, functional unity, walking in integrity, serving God, and keeping His commandments together. When this harmony is operative, society prospers under God's hand.

23. Helper - A helper has to be as strong as the one being helped (Genesis 1:26-28; HS to Christ – John 14:16).

a) Rib means life or clay. It protects the lungs – God breathed into man, and Eve keeps it (1 Timothy 5:14).

b) "God breathed into man" – the life of the marriage begins with the man – (1 Corinthians 11:8-12) "wash his wife with the word" (Ephesians 5:26-27) – it is a "word of life" – Phil. 2:15; 1 John 1:1.

24. Helper – A helper is the opposite but matches the one being helped (Genesis 2:23).

25. Helper – God's design for the helper is to carry out His purposes.

a) He manages his house – did say his wife (the wife, same writer is outlined in Ephesians 5:21-32)– 5:8 – he must be responsible for paying the bills. Do not set up a house when the children are small where the wife has to work – the woman must keep (preserve what has been set up, does not totally mean clean the house) the house (5:14).

b) Keeping his children under control (he preserves them from evil – Ephes. 6:2-4; Hebrews 12:7-8); the wife complements this by sharing in having them (5:14) and

bringing them up (5:10). They are not going to act right all the time, but they must not be out of control.

26. For him – The woman is a helper to only her husband. If she is not married to a man and is only dating him, she does not have to practice submission (Ephesians 5:22 – “as to the Lord.”). While single, her submission is to God (1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Ephesians 5:22 – “as to the Lord”). This also leads to a widow being honored (1 Timothy 5:9-10).

27. For him – Even though equal, she is led by her husband (Genesis 3:16; 1 Corinthians 11:2-3).

28. For him – Her marriage role is only to her husband. God will shape each individual to work together succinctly when they are first under His authority.

**WHEN IT COMES TO MARRIAGE MAN’S WILL IS NOT A PART OF THE PICTURE. When it comes to whether or not a person follows God’s will, they have a free will but NOT on HOW MARRIAGE WORKS.**

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<sup>[1]</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). [\*Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament\*](#) (Ge 2:15–17). Victor Books.

cf. *confer*, compare

<sup>[2]</sup> Richards, L. O. (1991; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996). *The Bible readers companion* (electronic ed.) (26). Wheaton: Victor Books.

<sup>[3]</sup> Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). [\*Tyndale concise Bible commentary\*](#) (p. 11). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.