

Genesis 2:18-25
"It is Not Good to be Alone"
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 7, 2018
First Lutheran Church, Glencoe, Minn.
Pastor Peter Adelsen

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

[Intro]

It's better to marry than to stay single.

This was a finding of a study of men done in 2006 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

About 66 percent of men agreed that: "It is better to get married than go through life single."

Relationship expert Neil Chethik said the data mirrors his own research, in which 90 percent of married men say that they would marry the same woman if given a chance to do it again.¹

[Not Good]

This statistic is as old as time itself. Well, at least as old as the sixth day of creation.

You see, in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God called everything He created "good," then there was evening and morning.

But, then we get to today's Old Testament lesson. Here, we learn more about how we – humans – were created.

We received a glimpse of this earlier in Genesis chapter one, when God said, "***Let us make man in our image, after our likeness***" (Genesis 1:26)... "***So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them***" (Genesis 1:27).

¹ *1001 Illustrations That Connect* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008), 255-256.

As we look at today's in depth account of the creation of man, we see something different. Yes, the creation of man was good, but this is also the first time God says this phrase: "It is not good."

So, how could the creation of man be both good and not good?

Well, when God created Adam, he was the only human.

Adam seemed to enjoy naming every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens, but there was something missing. As Adam named every living creature, he may have noticed that every other creature had a mate. He likely noticed that they were male and female.

Adam was all alone. He was a male without a mate.

Then the LORD God said, "***It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him***" (Genesis 2:18).

Now, do not be mistaken, this was God's plan for creation all along. He didn't make any mistake.

So, when God says: "***It is not good that man should be alone,***" what is He saying?

Well, here is Martin Luther's take on this:

"My answer is that God is not speaking of the common good or that of the species, not of personal good. The personal good is the fact that Adam had innocence. But he was not yet in possession of the common good which the rest of the living beings who propagated their kind through procreation had...

"Hence the meaning is that Adam as the most beautiful creature is well provided for so far as his own person is concerned but still lacks something, namely, the gift of the increase and the blessing – because he is alone."²

² Martin Luther, *Luther's Works Volume One: Lectures on Genesis, Chapters 1-5* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1958), 115.

I also agree with Luther. It is not good, because Adam cannot increase the human race, because he is in fact – alone.

Every other animal, fish and bird could increase, except for Adam.

Now, before any of us to feel sorry for Adam, it is likely that he didn't care. It is likely that he didn't even notice. After all, sin had not entered the world as of yet.

The one who cared was God Himself. God is the one doing all the talking. He is the one creating life where there once was no life.

It was God who said, ***“It is not good that the man should be alone.”*** Then He created out of His love for Adam a helper fit for him.

Then God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and while he slept, God took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. From that rib, God created woman.

In doing so, God instituted marriage to be the one-flesh union between man and woman, because it is not good for a man and woman to be alone.

This is God's order of creation. Now, not all of us will marry, like the Apostle Paul who said, ***“To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am,”*** (1 Corinthians 7:8).

But as Paul admits, marriage is a gift from God in which the man and wife help and support each other.

[Sin Corrupts]

Today, this one-flesh union between man and woman has been corrupted. It is corrupted, because of the sin that entered the world when Adam and Eve ate of that forbidden fruit.

From that time, sin has run rampant upon the good that God created.

You see, sin wants us to think of good being bad and bad being good. Sin wants its own way.

One example of this was asked by the Pharisees: ***“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”*** (Mark 10:2)

Jesus responds saying, *“From the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife... What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate”* (Mark 10:6-7, 9).

As Christians, we should never rush into divorce, because God has ordained marriage as the union of man and wife. If divorce is necessary, it should always be the last option.

Another example of this sinful corruption is the confusion that some have when it comes to gender identity and gender roles.

Today there are weddings performed not with God’s blessing. For God ordained marriage to be the union of man and woman.

We also have the idea that there is no difference between a man and a woman. Many of us have been told this for decades.

We hear it said: “Anything a man can do a woman can do.”

Now, this may be the case with some things, but this is not the norm.

You see, God created man and woman differently. Men have a natural tendency to provide and protect. Women have a natural tendency to nurture.

Men also have increased muscle and bone mass than do women.

We are different and this is why God created Adam as the head of the family and Eve as his helper.

Now, this is not to say that Adam has total control over Eve, because she is equal to Adam. But, Adam is to protect Eve as the head of the family. Likewise, Eve is to assist Adam.

[“My Truth”]

Also, since sin entered the world, the culture has become confused. Instead of knowing truth, the culture – through Satan’s lies – has turned feeling and opinion into becoming “my personal truth.”

On October 1st, Minnesota joined Oregon and Washington, D.C. in offering its citizens a third gender option on drivers' licenses.

According to KMSP Fox 9, one Minnesotan has been fighting for this change for a long time. This person was born a male, later identified as a female, but lately he feels more "in-between."

He said, "I think this is one more step in recognizing trans people to be who they are and that we're legitimate."³

As Christians, we are to love everyone equally. We are to love those who are confused with their gender. We love by offering help.

Since God sees every sin equally. We, too, should see sin in the same way.

"For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:22b-23).

None of us are perfect, since we have all sinned and have fallen short of what God desires for us.

But since God desires all of us to be saved through His Son Jesus Christ, we know that when we repent and confess our sins to God, we are forgiven.

God gives us the medicine to restore us as righteous, through baptism, confession and absolution, and in the Lord's Supper.

Likewise, is it normal to be walking around on a broken leg without any medical attention?

Is that good? No, it is not good.

For those suffering alcohol addiction, there is Alcoholics Anonymous for help. For those suffering gambling addiction, there is Gamblers Anonymous.

But for those suffering mental illness, there is little help out there. And, why is that?

³ <http://www.fox9.com/news/minnesotan-receives-first-non-binary-driver-s-license>

Today, many mental illnesses and disorders are being considered normal. So, instead of helping those people who are suffering, they are being neglected and are being denied medical services, because the American Psychiatric Association has voted to make it normal without any study supporting it.

Pretty soon, every mental illness may be made normal and every sin and vice will become approved, because it is fallen man making the rules, not God.

[The Medicine]

So, if you are suffering from a mental illness, what can you do? Or if you know of someone suffering from a mental illness, what can you do for them?

Well, there are many Christian counselors across the country who are ready and willing to help. They are there to help those injured by mental illness and sin to get back to health.

These Christian counselors are there in the stead of Christ to heal many and various issues.

Likewise, Pastor Welch and I are here to offer God's forgiveness when we repent of all our sins of thought, word, and deed.

When we receive God's forgiveness, think of Jesus saying: "***From now on sin no more***" (John 8:11b).

Our sin is forgiven and our faith is strengthened when we receive the gift of Christ's true body and His true blood at this altar.

As our eternal helper, Christ shed His life for us, so that we would become righteous – perfect in God's eye. Christ rose from the dead to prove that His death destroyed the power of death and the power of the devil from all who believe and trust in Him.

So through Christ, we are perfect.

Through Christ, the marriages of man and wife are strengthened.

[One Flesh]

So, for all husbands and wives here this morning, remember that you are no longer two, but one flesh.

God created man and woman to complement each other, for it is not good to be alone. Yes, you have had or will have some ups and downs in marriage, but as long as Christ is the foundation in your marriage, you will be fine.

We remember that Christ came to serve and not to be served and so, we serve each other. Amen.

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠