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| **Created And Built for Community**  *Promise: by faith we are adopted into God’s family* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Genesis 2:18-25; Psalm 128; Hebrews 2:1-13; Mark 10:2-16 (20th Sunday after Pentecost, Pr. 22), 10/6/24)  *Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”*– v. 18  **Lead In –** In our increasingly polarized society, we are presented with a false dichotomy. The seeming two choices are, either you are a socialist or you are an individualist. And if you loathe communism and socialism, as do I, you might falsely believe your only other option is individualism. But the Biblical option values the individual, each and every one of them, with the understanding that the individual has been designed to live in community. Being created in the image of God, in part, means that we are social beings that can only flourish living in fellowship with others…   1. **It Is Not Good that the Man Should Be Alone**    1. And God saw it was good, in fact, it was very good!    2. Man in the image of God as male and female…    3. The first encounter with the words, It is not good… 2. **The Need for A Well-Suited Companion for the Man**    1. Differing levels of companionship…    2. Only a creature of equal dignity will do…    3. How do you get from an individual human to more? 3. **The Making of A Woman**    1. God does not speak the first woman into existence…    2. Now there is a helper fit for him…    3. This is the greatest of the creaturely companionships...   **Final Word –** Human community is special. But communion with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is living in community at the deepest and most fulfilling level. In fact, the community of baptized believers, that is, the communion of saints, is called in the New Testament the Bride of Christ! This level of intimacy and belonging is made possible by Christ, the Bridegroom’s sacrificial death on the Cross. There He conquered sin, death, and the devil. By His shed blood applied to us in the waters of baptism and renewed in Holy Communion, we have been cleansed and purified as a Bride without blemish or spot. What we have to look forward to now is alluded to in Scripture as the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. And we have indeed, been created, built, and redeemed for this most glorious community of feasting and celebrating!  **Ge 1:31** And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.  **Ge 1:27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.  **Ge 1:14** And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years.”  **Ge 1:16** And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night.  **Ge 1:28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” | **Genesis 2:18-25 ESV**  *The Creation of Man and Woman*  18Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” 19Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21So 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. 22And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23Then the man said,  “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.”  24Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.  **The Hebrew word *ezer*** (helper) is not a diminishment of status, as in “the woman is merely a helper”. Rather, the term is used repeatedly of God as a reliable helper to us. He certainly is not at our beck and call but is mighty to save. He is our rock and our salvation!  **Ep 5:31-32** “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.  **Re 21:9-11** Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 10And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.  **Re 19:6-9** Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” |