

# From Partners to Competitors



February 2, 2014

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<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” .... <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> “At last!” the man exclaimed. “This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from ‘man.’” <sup>24</sup> This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. <sup>25</sup> Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame. Genesis 2:18, 21-25 (NLT)

## The Original Design for Marriage

1. They were \_\_\_\_\_ for each other

“I will make a helper who is just right for him.” (Vs. 18b)

2. They were \_\_\_\_\_

“This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife and the two are united into one.”

3. They were given \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” Genesis 1:28 (NLT)

## A Broken Relationship

<sup>6</sup> .... So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. <sup>7</sup> At that moment

their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. <sup>8</sup> When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.” <sup>11</sup> “Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup> The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.” <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What have you done?” “The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.” Genesis 3:6-13 (NLT)

- They began to \_\_\_\_\_
- They began to \_\_\_\_\_
- They began a struggle for \_\_\_\_\_

“And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.... Then the man – Adam – named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live.”

Genesis 3:16b, 20 (NLT)

<sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NRSV)

## My Next Step Today Is To...

- Experience God new creation work by accepting Jesus as my Savior and Lord and begin walking with Him.
- Ask God to help me so that my marriage/relationships, so far as I am concerned, would be based on His original design rather than after the fall.
- Confess my need, asking God to forgive me for my words and actions which have sought to justify my desire to be in control in my marriage/relationships.
- Meditate on and/or memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17