



May 2 and 3, 2009

“Beginnings”
A New Marriage – Part 3
Genesis 1 and 2
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Three key skills necessary for healthy relationships and marriage that I must learn:

1. Genesis 1:27, pg 1

To treat all people as created **in the image of God**.

- All people are made for relationship with God and people.
- All relationships require respect, dignity, and value. See Genesis 9:5-6; James 3:9-10; Colossians 3:8-11.
- I can sense it when I am disrespected, devalued – so can my spouse.

2. Genesis 2:18-23

To allow my spouse to be my “**helper**”

- Is not inferior – the word normally refers to God.
- “Completes what is lacking” and I lack more than Adam and Eve. See Colossians 3:12-14; Galatians 5:22-23.
- My helper won’t do it all right, and I won’t either.
- I must learn not to resist but to welcome God speaking to me through my spouse or friend. Remember the 3% rule!

3. Genesis 2:24

To be united (glued) with the kind of **love** that will **keep us** together.

Eros – loves with my **hormones** because of who **he/she** is on the **outside**.

Philé – loves with my **emotions** because of who **he/she** is on the **inside**.

Agapé – loves with my **will** because of who **I am** on the **inside**.

Agapé is a choice to do what is best (God’s will) for another person.

How do I know when I have the right kind of love to be married?

When I:

- Consistently treat others with respect, value, dignity.
- Receive correction as God attempting to complete what is lacking in me.
- Keep commitments and put the needs of others before my own.

Study Questions for Next Week
A New Marriage – Part 4
Genesis 3

1. Gen 3 *Why, how, and what was the result of Satan’s influencing them to sin?*
2. Think carefully about the principles in each of these passages: Proverbs 15:4; 18:21; James 3:2-12; Matthew 12:34; Ephesians 4:15; 1 Peter 3:10; James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13; 29:20; 15:1; 25:15; 17:14; Ephesians 4:29.