

↪ **Malachi 2:11-16**; This brings up a topic that really hasn't been addressed since Genesis, which is marriage. Marriage is a global topic; but before it was ever that, it was a biblical topic, a God topic! It only works according to the rules of its Creator.

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**1. Context can be everything, and when we remove marriage out of the context of its Creator, it becomes something it was not intended to be.**

- ✓ **Verse 15**; Didn't He make them one? You can't separate what God has joined together, **Genesis 2:18-23**. God created Eve and makes a statement about a universal need, companionship.
- ✓ Created in the image of God, has very little if anything to do with our physicality, and most everything to do with our spirit and nature. God is triune in nature, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He has been eternally existing in fellowship and community, but His first stage of creating humanity was singularity, so on to the next stage.
- ✓ "Helper" is not a statement of inferiority or a derogatory term at all; it is a statement of equality or even superiority. She is indeed superior to him in the areas he needs help. Helper is a title God gives Himself with regards to us, **Psalms 46:1**. A helper is someone who supplies what's lacking in another; so, Eve was Adam's helper and Adam was Eve's helper.
- ✓ Think about it, Adam lived in a sinless perfect state; he was the ruler of all the creation, yet he was incomplete without Eve!

**2. He needed companionship and completion, verses 21-23.**

- ✓ God creates Eve from living flesh, the only thing created from something living. Notice he doesn't submit a work order with what he was looking for; he left it all up to God.
- ✓ Notice God doesn't send him on a scavenger hunt; He brings her to him =biblical pattern = God brings your mate to you; you don't find them. Adam speaks the first poem in creation: "Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh."

**3. 2 major, overarching statements from this passage:**

- 1) God planned the human heart for love and companionship.
- 2) The primary means of that originally was to be found in the institution of marriage.

**4. Marriage is accomplished by leaving, cleaving and weaving, verses 24-25.**

- ✓ Leaving: the Hebrew here is very strong. It literally means to cut off or abandon; it doesn't mean you disown them, but it does mean you shift your allegiance. Your spouse becomes your priority even over your parents. This is crucial; don't break this rule or you may break a marriage.
- ✓ Your loyalty now belongs to your spouse; your spouse should never have to compete with your parents (or friends), Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.

**God gave humanity strength and stability in the institution of marriage!!**

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