

## Session 2 – Comprehensive Oneness – “One-Flesh”

### A. Biblical Calling to Companionship

#### 1) Companionship Reflects Creation

- i. Genesis 2:18 – *Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”*

Helper – (Heb, *ezer*) – meaning ally, aide, and is not normally used of a subordinate (Ex 18:4, Deut 33:29, Hos 13:9, Ps 33:20, 115:11).

Fit For Him – (Heb, *kenegdo*) – “corresponding to” (suitable/comparable, LSB/NKJ) <sup>1</sup>

- ii. This idea is only strengthened by 3 “companionship” realities in creation narrative of Gen 1-2.
  - a. Gen 1:27, 2:21-23 – Created as Male/Female
  - b. Gen 2:23 – Adam’s Response to Eve
  - c. Gen 2:24 – Command of Marriage <sup>2</sup>

#### 2) Companionship Represents Christ – Eph 5:32 / 1 Cor 6:15-17 <sup>3</sup>

IF... being “one spirit” with Christ (which means close relationship at the deepest level of our being, such that even his own Spirit resides undiscernibly within the believer), and THAT kind of closeness and covenant relationship is pictured by human marriages,

THEN... being “one-flesh” with your spouse implies a deeply intense and comprehensive oneness in companionship that is not replicated in any other human relationship, except perhaps your own relationship with yourself (Eph 5:28-30).

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<sup>1</sup> The original KJV Bible translates this phrase as “help meet for him.” From which comes the archaic expression of a wife as – “help-meet.” Unfortunately most moderns hear this verbally as “help-meet” – somewhat awkward. Since the term “meet” has long since fallen out of use as a noun to signify something that gives you an adequate supply, it is best to just let this Christian term for a wife fade into history.

<sup>2</sup> Heb *dabaq*, like the parched tongue that sticks to the roof of the mouth or the sword hilt that sticks to the blistered and bloodied palm of a warrior, or like the dust of a dirt clod, or like a belt to the waist, or the scales of an alligator with no space separating them, or like one about to drown in a raging river clings to their rescuer).

<sup>3</sup> This entire point 2) is taken from ch. 2 of John Piper’s *This Momentary Marriage*, p. 30-31.

### 3) Companionship Pleases Spouse – 1 Cor 7:32-35

While agreeing that by singleness a Christian might be “free from (marital) cares” and have “undivided devotion to the Lord,” Paul states that if your condition is “married,” your devotion to the Lord will need to include giving attention to proper “cares about worldly things, how to please wife/husband.”

This is not stated as a lesser or evil condition, but rather as a necessary fact for those married. <sup>4</sup>

“Please” (Gr, *aresko*) – “accommodate oneself to the desires / pleasures of another.”

### B. Companionship Benefits – Phil 2:1-11

1) v. 1-2

2) v. 3-4

3) v. 9-11

### Two Immediate Objections

- 1) Does this not open up marriage to abuse by bad actors, who would take advantage of those who seek to worshipfully embrace God’s design in this calling to please / serve spouse...?
- 2) But I have a selfish heart – I don’t want to serve my spouse, but I want to be served.

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<sup>4</sup> The explanation of the Christian mindset of living in the last days in 1 Cor 7:29-31, including the statement that “let those who have wives live as though they have none” is not a call to disregard one’s marriage (any more than you disregard “buying goods”). Paul’s point is that now a new order of things has come – the King has come and given us a mission, and thus those “normal life” things should now all be integrated into our accomplishing our mission for Him. Such things as marrying, buying, rejoicing, etc. are no longer our “God-given right” to simply enjoy as we have been doing since the foundation of the world. Christians should now utilize, leverage, and take on such things to the degree that they assist (or at least cause no harm to) our mission. So, essentially saying, “fulfill your marriage responsibilities AS you fulfill your Kingdom responsibilities.” This may lead to extra anxieties on you over what a single Christian will have, but also comes with many joys / benefits as well.