

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Made to Order

Speaker:

Steve Heitland

Date:

June 11, 2023

Scriptures:

Genesis 2:4-25

Theme: Celebrate God's good design for man so you can flourish amid the chaos.

Introduction: In Genesis 2, God gives us greater insight into the events of the creation week, and especially of the sixth day. We are given more detail on why and how God created the man and the woman and of how we fit in his world. In a day of great confusion and destruction, this message is especially needed and helpful for those who want to flourish in his world.

We can study these developments under 3 headings:

1. The place for man (4-14)

Verse 4 focuses our intention on the earth, and on the covenantal God: *YHWH Elohim* ("the LORD God"). We will learn why God created man.

The Lord created man to work the ground as part of his exercise of dominion on the earth (v. 7). He was to extend the garden's order throughout the earth.

Man is not just to steward, but to exercise dominion over the earth. And even today we recognize this God-given drive.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represents the attempt at moral autonomy: to define life on our own terms and to reject God.

2. The mission of man (15-17)

The Lord gives the man a clear commission on the earth: to work it and keep it (v. 15). He is to rule as the Priest-King and thus to serve the Lord.

The man is commissioned before the woman is created. It is important to recognize that order in order to understand the woman as a helper fit for him.

Patriarchy means *father rule*, and it refers to the historic understanding that God has created men to lead institutionally in society.

The world around us is embracing pagan androgyny, seeking to obliterate the distinctions between the sexes. Thus Christian clarity is even more necessary and helpful in our day.

3. The woman for man (18-24)

The Lord pronounces the verdict of "not good" on man's alone-ness; and he then sets in motion an elaborate process that leads to the creation of the woman.

Adam's role as firstborn and federal head, and his role in naming the woman, both point to his authority over her. And her creation from his side and being given by God as his helper points to the wonderful communion they enjoy together.

Adam breaks into poetry when he sees the woman—he is thoroughly delighted in her.

Questions:

1. How has the Lord called and gifted you to exercise dominion you on the earth?
2. Do you have a positive vision and understanding of both masculinity and femininity?
3. How would you like to grow to be more masculine (as men) or feminine (as women)?