



Beginning #6

2/13/22

Genesis 2:18-25

1. Drew mentioned that having strong relationships is a huge factor that contributes to length of life. He shared this quote: “Loneliness acts as a fertilizer for other diseases.”

**Describe your relationship with relationships: do you like to have many friends or a few friends?

**Have you experienced bouts of loneliness in your life (or are you experiencing loneliness right now)?

**If you have felt lonely before, please share your experience with the group, and what your relationship with God was like during that time.

For further discussion: Jesus had circles of disciples/friends/relationships. He had a large group of maybe 70 or 120 (depending on the story), the main group of 12, and an “inner circle” of 3. Consider this model for your own capacity for relationships.

**In your experience, is it possible to have many friends that you consider your close confidants?

**Regardless of the number of people you qualify as friends, do you have a smaller group of close friends like Jesus did?

2. Genesis 2:18, 21-22 (Darren’s translation - listen to the podcast for more information):

¹⁸Then Yahweh God said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make for him a counterpart (a helper to his opposite).

²¹Then Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, so he slept. Then, he took one of his sides and closed the flesh around it. ²²Next, Yahweh God built the side that he took from the man into a woman, and he brought her to the man.

**What stands out to you in this translation?

For further discussion: Traditional translations of this verse have been abused to make an argument that women are subordinate to men. But the real sense is that the two are equal halves of humanity and are able to compliment each other to accomplish God’s call to rule the earth and fill it with more humans.

**If you are willing to have a healthy discussion on a potentially controversial topic, share your experience with the role of women and men in the church.

3. Drew shared a spectrum of relationships, from being married or divorced, to being single or desiring to be married, and from losing your spouse to being single and totally fine with it.

**If you are willing, be bold and share your story - where are you on this spectrum, and what are the blessings and challenges that you face in your situation?

4. Drew spent a lot of time talking about marriage, and how it has been misconceived by our culture in three ways:

Misconception 1: Marriage is an agreement (I'll do this if you do that)

Truth: Marriage is a covenant (I'll do this no matter what)

Misconception 2: I will have a great marriage if I can find the right person.

Truth: You will have a great marriage when you become the right person.

Misconception 3: Marriage is meant to make me happy.

Truth: Marriage is meant to make you holy.

**Regardless of whether or not you are, have been, want to, or don't want to be married, which of these misconceptions have you believed the most?

**How will these truths change the way you relate to others (not just your spouse, if you have one)?