

**A Story of Family: The Purpose of Family**  
**Pastor Dennis Rouse**  
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**GENESIS 1:26-28 MSG**

*God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."*

**GENESIS 2:18-24 CEV**

*The Lord God said, "It isn't good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him." So the Lord took some soil and made animals and birds. He brought them to the man to see what names he would give each of them. Then the man named the tame animals and the birds and the wild animals. That's how they got their names. NONE OF THESE WAS THE RIGHT KIND OF PARTNER FOR THE MAN. So the Lord God made him fall into a deep sleep, and he took out one of the man's ribs. Then after closing the man's side, the Lord made a woman out of the rib. The Lord God brought her to the man, and the man exclaimed, "HERE IS SOMEONE LIKE ME! SHE IS PART OF MY BODY, MY OWN FLESH AND BONES. SHE CAME FROM ME, A MAN. SO I WILL NAME HER WOMAN!" That's why a man will leave his own father and mother. He marries a woman, and the two of them become like one person.*

Every successful family begins with the image of "two becoming one."

**MATTHEW 19:4-6 MSG**

*He answered, "Haven't you read in your Bible that the Creator originally made man and woman for each other, male and female? And because of this, a man leaves father and mother and is firmly bonded to his wife, becoming ONE FLESH—no longer TWO bodies*

*but ONE. Because God created this organic union of the two sexes, no one should desecrate his art by cutting them apart.”*

### **The Purpose of Family:**

1. To be a reflection of His nature

#### **GENESIS 1:26-27 NLT**

*Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” So God created human beings in his own image. IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED THEM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM.*

The relationship between a man and a woman was designed to be the closest thing to reflect our relationship with God.

2. To be an extension of His authority

#### **GENESIS 1:28 NKJV**

*Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

#### **ROMANS 1:21-27 NLT**

*Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. That is why God abandoned*

*them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.*

### **1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-5 NKJV**

*Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

3. To preserve the culture of His kingdom

### **GENESIS 1:28 NKJV**

*Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY; FILL THE EARTH AND SUBDUE IT ..."*